



Project Platypus Upper Wimmera Landcare

MISSION

Support and empower community.
Improve environmental health of Upper
Wimmera Catchment.
Maintain and improve productivity.



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Contact us:

11 a Ararat Rd Stawell, Victoria
PO Box 838 Stawell 3380
ph 03 5358 4410

Down to Earth

MAY UPDATE

Welcome ***Down to Earth***,

I've tried to make the newsletter short and sweet, but the workshops, grants and events keep rolling in. I hope you have a chance to participate in a workshop or two - I particularly like the idea of building a nest box.

Cheers Andrea

MAY

- 12 Sun Trees for Mum - Stawell Urban Landcare
- 14 Tue Derrek Sandow Stawell Urban Landcare [meeting](#)
- 19 Sun [Clean Up](#) Australia Day - Grampians National Park
- 28 Tue Good [Governance](#) for Women - Stawell
- 23 Thurs World Turtle Day & Wimmera Partnerships meeting
- 24 Fri Bolstering the Refuges - [Biolinks](#) Alliance
- 29 Landcare Victoria Inc. AGM

JUNE

- 4 June Good [Governance](#) for Women - Stawell
- 12 Wed Fungi of the Wimmera [ID training](#) Dimboola
- 13 Thurs Environmental Photography, Dimboola
- 16 Sunday [Nest box](#) workshop - Stawell Urban Landcare
- 20 Crowlands - Warrak Landcare meeting - Rural Theft at Crowlands hall

GRANTS

Victorian Landcare [Grants](#) program is open for 2019 -20 [Wimmera Grants](#)
FRRR [Strengthening rural communities](#)

AWARDS

Regional [finalists](#)

AROUND THE TRAPS

Primary Producers Fire Preparedness & Prevention Expenses [ATO factsheet](#) - entitlement to claim fire emergency preparedness and prevention assets and activities on your land.

TAX REBATES for FARMERS - on Basalt to Bay Landcare Network's [website](#). Shelter

belts, Fire Preparedness and Prevention, Tree Farming and Forestry, Landcare and similar expenses.

Saving time and pastures with stock containment areas - [CASE STUDY](#)

[State of the Environment report](#) - tells Victorians about the health of our environment – land, water, air, and ecosystems.

[Global Assessment](#) UN's Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services released a summary of an upcoming 1,500-page report. Nature's Dangerous Decline 'Unprecedented'; Species Extinction Rates 'Accelerating'

[Climate Council](#) Climate policies of major Australian political parties



2019 VOLUNTEERING RECOGNITION AWARDS FINALISTS drum roll please.....

John Pye - Project Platypus

Margo Sietsma - Friends of Grampians/Gariwerd

Harvey Champness - Kaniva Landcare

2019 LOCAL LANDCARE GROUP AWARD Finalists:

Jallukar Native Grasslands Project (Jallukar Landcare Group)

Rainbow Landcare

Horsham Urban Landcare

Awards night is Friday May 17, no doubt worthy nominations and finalists and we wish them all well.

Good Governance for Women

2 day professional and personal development

Tues 28th May & Tues 4th June

9.30 am - 3.30 pm

Stawell Community Health, 8-22 Patrick St

Project Platypus with funding from the **Wimmera CMA** will be hosting a two day governance workshop in Stawell. Training will be provided by the **Centre for Participation**.

The purpose of the workshops is to learn about good governance and how it fits into personal and professional development goals for participants.

AIMS:

- build confidence regarding the core knowledge needed to be on a Board
- develop skills to enable members to contribute to a Board
- build understanding about the components of strategic planning
- develop a Good Governance action plan for the Board

GOALS:

1. What it means to be on a Board or committee – the **4 Rs** :Responsibilities, Roles, Risk, Rules
2. Being an effective Board or committee member – the **BUSH guide**; purposeful and strategic; using evaluation, showing leadership; right structure and processes
3. Planning for the future; what is planning?; scanning the environment; **SWOT**; developing your plan; communicating your plan
4. Making a difference; developing a plan for your Board

Further info contact Andrea

ph 5358 4410 or llf@platypus.org.au or mob. 0419 841 834

Clean Up Australia Day- Grampians National Park

Sunday 19th May

8.30 am - 1 pm followed by free BBQ lunch

Halls Gap Park (near the pool)

Bring: gloves, hat, water etc

Many hands make light work. Why not spend a morning to help create a better park and

none more special than Grampians National Park. The clean up day will be a great way to connect with like minded people and do your bit for the environment.

Register [online](#) or at the Halls Gap Visitor Information Centre or on the day

More information call Hannah (Parks Victoria) 03 8427 2787

Fungi of the Wimmera ID Training

Wednesday 12th June

10 am - 4 pm

Dimboola RSL, 113 Lloyd St, Dimboola

Hindmarsh Landcare Network and DELWP

Day includes an interactive morning session handling, examining and identifying various fungi. Participants will also learn to recognise the diagnostic characteristics used to identify fungi in the field. Then head outdoors to search through various local ecosystems for fungi species.

*** 5 places left. I am driving if anyone would like a lift - Andrea 0419 841 834**

Lunch provided. BYO drinking water

RSVP Annie Hobby: annie.hobby@delwp.vic.gov.au or mob. 0436 641 319



Nest box workshop

Sunday June 16th

9.00 am - 12.30 pm

Cost \$30 - take nest box home same day.

Project Platypus office, 11 A Ararat Rd, Stawell

Want to build your own Wildlife nesting box?

Our fauna is particularly reliant on hollows for shelter & breeding. Sadly natural hollows are becoming scarce, as suitable habitat is denuded - **Stawell Urban Landcare** is

running a workshop where you can construct your own Nest Box,
We supply the kit, tools & know-how, you supply the enthusiasm and some simple construction. No prior building experienced required.

Bookings essential

Contact John Pye on 0432 867 387 or Peter Barham on 0427 660 098 so we can prepare a sufficient number of Nest Box kits.



**NESTBOX
WORKSHOP**

Want to build your own
wildlife nesting box?

Sunday 16th June, 2019
9.00am - 12.30pm
Project Platypus Office
Western Hwy, Stawell



Grampians Ark Project

Stawell Urban Landcare Group meeting and guest speaker

Tuesday 14th May

6 PM

Project Platypus office, 11 A Ararat Rd, Stawell

Derek Sandow from Parks Victoria is the Grampians Ark Coordinator will be speaking about the **Grampians Ark Project**. Stawell Urban Landcare are also interested in how they can be more involved with habitat restoration.

RSVP Cath mob 0458 732 636



Victorian Landcare Grants 2019 - 2020

The **Victorian Landcare Grants program is open for 2019 -20 financial year.** Project Platypus can assist groups in writing grant applications and delivering on ground works and final reporting. **Applications close on the 12th June** which gives a little over a month to get projects organised and applications submitted. If groups are keen to apply for a 2020 VLG and already have potential projects could you please get in contact with me asap so we can progress an application.

VLG program is one of the last sources of funding available for on ground works projects and should be fully utilized by all member groups. **Applicable project activities:**

- **On-ground works** such as weed control, pest plant and animal control, protective fencing, revegetation, artificial habitat, soil stabilisation
- **Community capacity building, education and engagement activities** such as property planning courses, field days, education events, demonstration sites, knowledge-gathering (eg. surveys)

[Wimmera Landcare Grants](#)

[Grant guidelines](#)

Contact manager Allistair ph 5358 4410 or mob 0478 628 162



Bolstering the refuges - Biolinks Alliance 2019 Symposium

Friday May 24

9 am - 5 pm

Euroa Football Club, 2 Dunn St Euroa

Restoring health and resilience to remnant ecosystems at a time of climate change

The [Symposium](#) will be a chance to hear from, and talk with, top-notch ecologists – who will be considering the importance of remnant habitats and how to restore their functionality and resilience – with the central Victorian situation in mind.

Visit innovative local ecosystem restoration projects to workshop the practical dimensions of restoring grassland and woodland ecosystem processes and function.

The day will be topped off with a dinner – a chance to continue the discussions.

Key note speakers include:

- Jacqui Stol, CSIRO - Box Gum Woodland restoration and woodland birds. Sharing practical experience in what constitutes, and how to restore, a functioning Box Gum Woodland system.
- A/Prof Euan Richie - Ecosystem restoration and reintroduction of function for, and by, digging mammals.
- Prof Don Driscoll - Insects in fragmented agricultural landscapes.

[Bookings](#)

www.biolinksalliance.org.au

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Our mailing address is:

PO Box 838, Stawell, Victoria 3380

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