



## 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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PO Box 838 Stawell 3380  
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## Down to Earth

JUNE UPDATE

Welcome to our newsletter *Down to Earth*,

Two words for this month PLANTING and GRANTING, neither happen without your help: PLANTING, we are are looking for volunteers to make our Sundays in July great; GRANTING, the Wimmera CMA Landcare grant applications are due next Wednesday. They are the best opportunity for funding Landcare groups with on-ground works, capacity building activities and

community education and engagement.

Plenty to read this month - I can highly recommend New York Times Magazine article on [feral cats](#) in Australia.

Cheers Andrea

Local Landcare Facilitator

## JUNE

Tues 4 Governance for Women, Stawell

Wed 12 General meeting, Jallukar Landcare

Fri 14 Biodiversity Across the Borders Conference, Mt Helen Campus, [Federation University](#), Ballarat

13 Premier's [Sustainability Awards](#) due 13 June

Sun 16 [Nest box](#) workshop, Stawell Urban Landcare

Thurs 20 Crowlands - Warrak Landcare meeting

JULY - [plant out month](#) - donate yourself

July 1 & 31 Nuts & Bolts grazing management, Ararat. [Bookings](#)

Sun July 7 Nominations close - [State & territories Landcare Awards](#)  
[Plant outs](#)

Sun 7th July Plant out, Pomonal

Sun 14th July Plant out, Halls Gap

Sun 21st July Plant out, Jallukar

Sun 28th July Plant out, Elmhurst & NATIONAL TREE DAY

Plastic Free July [Choose to refuse](#)

22-24 GRDC's [Innovation Generation](#) (for 18 -40 yr olds)

## SEPTEMBER

2-8 Landcare week

5 Thurs 22 Wimmera Biodiversity [Seminar](#), *A Climate for Change*

11 Wed Perennial Pasture Systems 11th Annual Conference

Week of 16th Ironbarks walk, Stawell Urban Landcare

## GRANTS

[Stella Young Award 2019, \\$3,000 Grant](#)

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

FRRR [Strengthening rural communities](#)

2019 Victorian Junior Landcare and Biodiversity [\\$5000 Grant](#) due 21 June

#### FARMING

MLA's Carbon neutral 2030, Dunkeld case study [YouTube](#)

Farm succession was never discussed - [a personal account](#)

[Inspiring women of the Wimmera](#) - Leanne Jackman

Landcare among [Hawke's](#) legacies

Open letter Controlling [Deer](#) in Victoria

Australia Is Deadly Serious About Killing Millions of [Cats](#), New York Times

#### RECIPE

[Meeting soup](#) (guaranteed to bring more people to your next Landcare meeting).

## Plant out July 2019

Preparations are underway for planting - which **Sunday in July** would you like to "donate yourself"?

**10 AM** starts

### Morning tea and lunch provided

Bring gloves, water and beanie and appropriate clothing

Ticketebo booking site <https://www.ticketebo.com.au/project-platypus-association-inc>

July 7th, 83 Trajul Rd, Halls Gap. [Register](#)

July 21, 681 Bunjils Cave Rd [Register](#)

July 28, 116 Sandy Lane, Elmhurst [Register](#)

July 14, 58 Pioneer Lane, Halls Gap. [Register](#)

**For more information call the office 03 5358 4410**



### **Inspiring Women of the Wimmera - Leanne Jackman**

Final story published, in the summer edition of Victorian Landcare and Catchment Management magazine, of our amazing Landcare women.

Leanne was brought up in outback Australia and has always had a love for nature, but she credits Landcare with shaping her understanding of the impact of humans on the environment. “If we want to have a beautiful environment for the next generation we need to look after what we have,” she said.

Leanne runs a biodynamic farm with her husband Peter at Dadswells Bridge, on the edge of the Grampians. She believes the philosophies behind biodynamics and Landcare are closely aligned, for example a focus on healthy soils, encouraging biodiversity and a natural balance in the environment.

Native grasses have been allowed to thrive on Leanne and Peter’s farm and tree corridors and plantations have been incorporated to increase biodiversity.

Leanne started her Landcare journey at plant outs for Project Platypus (Upper Wimmera Landcare Network). Her gentle nature, ability to bring people together and solve problems has made her an asset to the Landcare community. She is a passionate Landcare advocate, keen to share her views on the environment. She works in a voluntary capacity for Landcare locally, regionally and at a state level.

“It concerns me that people take what we have for granted, they think it is always going to be there,” Leanne said.

Leanne is the current secretary of Northern Grampians Landcare Group, a board member of Project Platypus (Upper Wimmera Landcare Network) and the secretary of Landcare Victoria Incorporated.



## **Nest box workshop**

**Sunday June 16th**

**9.00 am - 12.30 pm**

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

Want to build your own Wildlife nesting box?

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

\*Refer to last newsletter for more information

## **Landcare among Hawke's legacies**

**Vale The Hon. Bob Hawke AC.**

"When the earth is spoiled, humanity and all living things are diminished. We have taken too much from the earth and given back too little. It's time to say enough is enough. Today's announcements won't solve everything. But with the right mix of political commitment and community support we can ensure that our country is simply the best in the world. This is our country, our future." - Bob Hawke launching the 'Decade of Landcare', 20 July 1989

A few articles about the Landcare legacy of Bob Hawke:

[Landcare Victoria Inc.](#)

[Landcare Australia](#)

[Australian Farmers](#)

## **Open letter "Controlling Deer in Victoria"**

There is an estimated 1 million feral deer in Victoria, with deer seen as an issue locally, in paddocks, home gardens and the National Parks. Project Platypus, along with over 90 other Landcare organisations, leading ecologists, agricultural and other groups are all signatories to an open letter asking for better deer control in Victoria. [OPEN LETTER](#)

Other articles on the issue:

[THE AGE](#) article "Hunters in helicopters needed to curb deer numbers, lobby group says"

To share via Facebook follow the link: [NATIONAL PARKS ASSOC. OPEN LETTER GIPPSLAND TIMES](#) article "Calls to remove deer protection status"



## **Australia Is Deadly Serious About Killing Millions of Cats, New York Times Magazine**

A must read article about feral cats in Australia written by Jessica Camille Aguirre for the New York Times magazine. Who would have thought that there have been petitions signed by over 160,000 people from overseas to spare the feral cat! But the story is much more than this, it talks about the history of the cat in Australia and what dedicated Australians are doing to eradicate them. Link [Feral Cats](#)



## **Stella Young Award 2019**

**Arts Access Victoria** cherishes the memory of Stella Young (originally from Stawell) and honours her by awarding a young Australian disabled artist each year with \$3,000.

Applications close June 14, 5.00 pm

For more information Arts Access Victoria



**MEETING SOUP** - when gathering the troops for a cold night's Landcare meeting, entice them with hot soup and a bread roll. This recipe came from John Pye, through his ole mate Jamie Oliver

## **Red lentil, sweet potato & coconut soup**

### **Ingredients**

- 750 g sweet potatoes
- 2 red onions
- ½ tablespoon cumin seeds
- 1 teaspoon ground coriander
- olive oil
- 4 cloves of garlic
- 1 fresh red chilli
- ½ a bunch of fresh coriander
- 125 g red lentils
- 1 litre organic vegetable stock
- 1 x 400 g tin of light coconut milk
- 1 lemon

### **Method**

1. Preheat the oven to 180°C.
2. Peel and cut the sweet potatoes into 2 cm chunks, then peel and cut the onions into 2 cm-thick wedges.
3. Place in a roasting tray in an even layer and sprinkle over the cumin seeds, ground coriander and a pinch of sea salt and black pepper. Drizzle with oil, then toss to coat. Pop in the oven for 40 to 45 minutes, or until cooked and golden.
4. Peel and finely slice the garlic, then finely slice the chilli. Pick the coriander leaves and set aside, then finely slice the stalks.
5. Place a large saucepan over a medium-low heat and pour in a lug of oil. Sauté the garlic, chilli and coriander stalks for a minute, until lightly golden.
6. Add the red lentils to the pan. Stir to coat, then pour in the hot stock and coconut milk.
7. Turn up the heat, gently bring it to the boil, then let it come to a simmer. Cook the lentils for 20 minutes, or until they are completely broken down.
8. When the veggies are ready, remove from the oven and carefully spoon into the pan. Add most of the coriander leaves, then blitz the soup with a stick blender until it's creamy but still has a little texture.
9. Squeeze in some lemon juice to taste and adjust the seasoning if need be. Serve the hot soup

topped with the remaining coriander leaves and toasted coconut shavings, if you like.



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