



Project Platypus Upper Wimmera Landcare

MISSION

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

Find us:

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Contact us:

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Down to Earth

November 28th UPDATE

Welcome to our newsletter ***Down to Earth***,

Busy few weeks ahead as we hit summer with acquittals for grants being completed and quite a few grant applications due in December. Check out the following and drop into Project Platypus with your ideas:

[Smart Farm Small Grants](#) - \$5,000 - \$100,000 (close 7th Dec 2017)

[Look over the Farm gate](#) - up to \$1500 for event (close 20th Dec 2017)

[Smart Farming Partnerships](#) - (close 21st Dec 2017)

Events at a Glance

Local:

Wed 6th Dec. Native Grasslands workshop, Illawarra Nature Conservation Reserve

Fri 8th Dec. Christmas BBQ. Project Platypus Board. Crowlands hall

Tue 12th Dec. Christmas BBQ & strategy meeting. Stawell Urban Landcare

Wed 13th Dec. Native Grasslands workshop, Jallukar Nature Conservation Reserve

Fri 15th Dec. Christmas meeting, Jallukar Landcare

WORKSHOPS Jallukar Native Grasslands Plant Project

Native grasslands workshops x 2 - all welcome

Field Collection - learn in-field seed collection techniques

Rarer species - identify rare native grassland species, collect & catalogue for storage, bags provided

Illawarra & Jallukar - explore local nature conservation reserves

Bring: gloves, secateurs, water, lunch, hat & appropriate clothing

10-2 pm Wed 6th Dec, at Illawarra Nature Conservation Reserve "gravel pit", Stawell-Halls Gap Rd (Stawell side of Illawarra Rd).

10-2 pm Wed 13th Dec, at the Jallukar Nature Conservation Reserve, meet at the cnr of Bellellen and Jallukar North roads.

Enquiries: Ange Turrell 0429 521 121

PROJECT UPDATES

Icons of our waterways

On the weekend Josh Griffith aka the 'platypus whisperer' and others set out to capture and release the elusive platypus at McKenzie Creek. As stars of the event, disappointingly, the platypus were a no show to the main event. However very special side-kicks, in the form of endangered species were found:

BLACK FISH (*Gadopsis marmoratus*). Endemic to temperate freshwaters of south-eastern

Australia. Found in NSW, southern Queensland and Victoria - occurs in tributaries of the Murray system and in south-flowing streams; absent from many smaller coastal streams. Found in a range of habitats from clear flowing streams with rock cover, snags and woody debris, to slow-flowing lowland rivers, lakes and reservoirs. River Blackfish are nocturnal. Populations of Blackfish have been affected by increased siltation on streams, de-snagging of rivers, changed stream flows from the construction of dams and weirs, and competition from introduced species such as trout.

Australian River Blackfish

Learn more [Blackfish](#)

GLENELG SPINY FRESHWATER CRAYFISH (*Euastacus bispinosus*) is a large, long-lived freshwater crayfish of the Euastacus genus. The Euastacus crayfish, also commonly known as spiny crayfish, are one of two groups of fully aquatic freshwater crayfish in Australia, the other being the smooth-shelled Cherax crayfish, commonly known as yabbies. Like other Euastacus crayfish, Glenelg spiny freshwater crayfish are robust and their claws and carapace (main body) are covered in spines and bumps. Glenelg spiny freshwater crayfish are commonly olive green in colour, sometimes brown, with splashes of red colouration on the joints of their claws and legs. Their undersides are a pale creamy-beige colour. Individuals are large and grow to at least 130 mm OCL (occipital carapace length: length between eyes and end of main body segment) and 1.1 kg in weight. Learn more [Glenelg crayfish](#)

Grant procured through Wimmera CMA.



Glenelg Spiny Crayfish

Of course if you spot a platypus you can help as a citizen scientist by reporting your sighting on [PlatypusSPOT](#)

Or check these fabulous pics out [Platypus on the Edge](#)

Black Range Landcare weed war

Black Range Landcare have a grant from the Wimmera CMA to tackle weeds such as Gorse, Cape Tulip, St John's wort and Blackberry. They now have Project Platypus spraying. St John's wort is currently flowering and should make for easy pickings with spraying at the moment.

Stawell Urban Landcare... moonlighting

Moonlight Sands walking track in Stawell is currently being cleared of invasive Lucerne trees with the help of Landmate.

Project Platypus Upper Wimmera Landcare

Sad news is Bron Bant has left the role of RLF to pursue teaching and is the new Resource Smart schools Facilitator for the region, but the good news is she will have her office in Project Platypus. So we will still have her excellent presence and expertise around for a while longer :)

Loki McIntyre is now in the role of Regional Landcare Facilitator and he is available most days in the office and would welcome a call, some new ideas or a chat.

Opportunities

FELLOWSHIP...

Look over the Farmgate

Project Platypus is happy to apply for this grant and looking for great ideas. Please contact Andrea 0353584410

'Look over the farm gate' is a series of community-led events which help rural communities to:

- look out for one another
- promote social inclusion
- create awareness about mental health
- reduce the impact isolation can have.

Community groups can apply for grants up to \$1,500 to host an event which supports mental health.

Applications due 20 December 2017 [Look Over the Farmgate](#)

Victorian Landcare and Catchment Management magazine

Issue 70 features the 2017 Victorian Landcare Awards and is now available online. Read the stories on the 14 winners of the 2017 awards. This fabulous magazine available in hard copy too. <https://www.landcarevic.org.au/landcare-magazine/spring-2017/>

MASTER CLASS

Climate-Smart Agriculture Fellowship and Masterclass 2018

Farmers for Climate Action are sponsoring people for a 3 day masterclass in climate change

What is the opportunity for CSA Fellows?

- Understand climate science & related policy & what it means for agriculture & rural communities
- Explore examples of cutting-edge agricultural adaptation strategies
- Learn from/talk directly to leading researchers, thinkers & practitioners, & each other.

- Develop skills in media, communications, advocacy, community, organizing & planning.
- Become part of new mutually supportive Fellowship.

Where: Seymour

When: 19–22 Feb., 2018

Applications due 15 Dec. 2017 (with resume) vic@farmersforclimateaction.org.au

For more information please visit [FCA's](#) website.
