



## Project Platypus Upper Wimmera Landcare

### MISSION

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

### Find us:

 [FOLLOW on FACEBOOK](#)

 [VISIT our WEBSITE](#)

 [EMAIL](#)

### Contact us:

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

## Down to Earth

JANUARY UPDATE

Happy New Year 2018 from *Down to Earth*,  
Landcare brings people together across the Upper Wimmera, Victoria, Australia and  
Earth -all working to look after the planet in their own local way.

COMING TOGETHER IS A BEGINNING;  
KEEPING TOGETHER IS PROGRESS;  
WORKING TOGETHER IS SUCCESS.

anonymous

Looking forward to a ridiculously fabulous 2018 year ahead with landcare groups,  
landcarers and other wonderful volunteers.

Project Platypus team

---

### Events at a glance

**2nd Feb 2018 World Wetlands Day** - celebrated this [day](#) every year

**7th Feb 2018 Moyston Landcare meeting**

**14th Feb 2018 Jallukar Landcare meeting**

**21st Feb 2018 Future Farming Expo**, Donald Stadium, North Central CMA

**21st Feb 2018 Grampians Food Forum**, Grampians Food Alliance (save the date)

**25th Feb 2018 Winter farm tour in summer** [Perennial Pasture Systems](#)

**1st March** [Celebrating Women in Conservation](#), Breakfast at Federation Square, Melbourne

**16 - 18th March 2018** [Women on Farms Gathering](#), Rosebud, Victoria

---

## Landcare groups update

**Jallukar Landcare** meeting on Wednesday 14th February, 681 Bunjil's Cave Rd, meeting 5.30pm, dinner at 6.30pm. BYO meats and salads to share. Jallukar will be discussing landscape connectivity, especially building on revegetation of areas between Black Range, Jallukar Forest, Grampians National Park and Mt William Creek

**Moyston Landcare** have a meeting tour planned for Tuesday 7th February. More information in next issue.

**Project Platypus** have some fabulous workshops planned in the coming months - more information in the next newsletter.

**WHOOPS! Landmate** had been out and about in Hall's Gap spraying **Kunzea ericoides** (not *Kunzea ericifolia* reported in the last newsletter) which has naturalised in the Grampians and become a problem weed.

[platypusSPOT](#) We have had one sighting of a platypus in Alstonville, Northern NSW by an e-newsletter reader Barry Curtis. Would love to hear of a sighting closer to home or Project Platypus may have to change its name, "Project Rat", after the Rakali water rat that abounds locally!

**Remember to report sightings at [platypusSpot](#) too.**

---

## Bring your Landcare story to life

Would your Landcare group like a free, professional video to raise awareness of the fantastic work you're doing to educate our next generation of Landcarers? Landcare Australia introduces [Landcare Video Storytellers](#). Just follow the quick and simple guide to upload pictures and video, and they'll do the rest! They will create a free 40 second professional video clip to tell your very own Landcare story which can easily be shared on social media platforms.

---

## Weed watch - of course its gorse

**GORSE** *Ulex europaeus L.* is one of Australia's worst weeds. It infests valuable pastoral land and significantly reduces land values. It's a haven for rabbits, foxes and feral cats, it clogs waterways and damages natural environments. A mature infestation of gorse can

produce up to 6 million seeds per hectare each year. Under the law, private landowners must control gorse on their property. Tackling gorse takes effort. [Victorian Gorse Taskforce \(VGT\)](#) supports land managers and communities in leading an integrated approach to reducing gorse across private and public land. They source funding from government for community-led activities to reduce gorse in local areas. These groups provide information, financial and practical support to landowners managing gorse and are helping reduce gorse across the Victorian landscape.



**Infestation of gorse, Vic.**

---

## Scholarships and Awards

**Rural Bank** will be awarding 15 [scholarships](#) to first-time undergraduate university students enrolled in studies that will enable them to contribute to the Australian agricultural industry. The scholarship will provide each successful student with funding up to the value of \$5,000 to assist with tertiary studies. Application closing date January 29th 2018.

**ZONTA Women of Achievement Award** is designed to recognise a woman who has demonstrated an outstanding commitment to her community.

Do you have a friend, colleague or family member who "flies under the radar" but through her efforts makes the community a better place? Nominate her for Zonta's Women of Achievement Award. [Applications](#) close 22 Feb 2018

### **BE BOARD READY IN 2018~MELBOURNE COURSE LOCATION**

Happy New Year Chicks!

Many of us will be feeling refreshed, refocused and ready for the year ahead. If you are seeking a personal and professional challenge, this upcoming training opportunity may interest you.

Australian Women in Agriculture is offering board and governance readiness training

through its [AgendHER PLUS](#): Remote, Regional and Ready for Boards governance development program in 2018.

In June 2017, the Australian Institute of Company Directors (AICD) gender diversity report stated that there are 13 ASX 200 companies with no women on their boards, and 64 companies with just one woman on their board. More alarmingly, six companies had not had a female director in the past two years!

Long story short- we need to represent within our industries! If this sparks your interest, check out the AWiA details. Applications close January 21!

## Grants

### **Junior Landcare Grants 2018**

#### **200 x \$1,000 grants for Victorian school, childcare centre or youth group.**

Momentum Energy and Junior Landcare are partnering again next year to fund 200 sustainability or environmental projects. Applications will open in term one and close on 22 March. They're looking for projects that involve young people caring for their natural environment, such as veggie or bush tucker gardens, composting or recycling projects or other sustainable ideas. Project Platypus are happy to help out with [applications](#).

### **Wettenhall Environmental Trust [Small Environmental Grant Scheme](#)**

Looking for projects around:

- **flora and fauna conservation**
- **threatened mammal conservation**
- **landscape restoration and education (Victoria only)**

These projects should involve any of the following:

- **monitoring, recording and sharing data**
  - **delivering community education**
  - **providing community capacity building (e.g. training)**
  - **research and science**
  - 12th December 2017 (funding in February 2018) [OPEN NOW](#)
-

## Climate Outlook Bureau of Meteorology [Jan- March 2018](#)

The end-of-month Climate and Water Outlook video covers rainfall, streamflow and temperature for the January to March. It includes a wrap-up of recent conditions and a look at which drivers are influencing the climate.

---

### **Grampians Food Forum - [Grampians Food Alliance](#)**

Date: **Feb 21st 2018**

Key note speaker; [Lenore Newman](#)

The forum will provide an opportunity to bring all parts of the food system together to discuss how we have been and can work together towards an improved local food system into the future.

### **Future Farming Expo 2018**

#### **Managing Risk by being open to opportunity**

6th annual 2018 future Farming Expo

Date: **Feb 21st 2018**

Time: **8.30am**

Place: **Donald Stadium**

**FREE event including lunch**

RSVP: **ph 0354487124** or [info@nccma.vic.gov.au](mailto:info@nccma.vic.gov.au)

[More information](#) (refer to *Down to Earth 6* newsletter for more information)

### **Winter Whole Farm Tour in Summer - Perennial Pasture Systems.**

Date: **February 25th 2018**

Time: **3.30 pm**

Place: "Titanga" near Lismore

**Conclude with a BBQ in the historic woolshed**

[More info](#) ph Rob Shea 0438 521 357 or [yadin@netconnect.com.au](mailto:yadin@netconnect.com.au)

(refer to *Down to Earth 6* newsletter for more information)

---

and finally **BIG PICTURE THINKING of our world..**

**Warning don't proceed if you are a "flat-earther".**

**Portraits of a planet; [Earth from space](#)**

For centuries, we could glimpse the curvature of Earth from mountain peaks but the only way to 'see' our planet whole was through globes and maps. Then our world view changed. After the end of World War II, scientists began experimenting with captured German V-2 rockets. They replaced the V-2 warheads with cameras and launched the rockets into near-Earth orbit, capturing the first images of Earth from space. These became the first in a series of iconic portraits that changed our relationship with our planet. This [Nature Video](#) celebrates awe-inspiring images, including Earthrise, The Blue Marble, Pale Blue Dot and more.

Let us know what you think