



## 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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# Down to Earth

FEBRUARY UPDATE

G'day from *Down to Earth*,

Whoa there! The calendar is filling - so many fabulous events and workshops to choose and learn from: First Aid, Where Song Began, grain updates, movie night on the lake, bus trips and expo's to name a few. Project Platypus have a few events we are supporting via bus trips and would love to have you come along.



Cheers,  
Project Platypus team

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## Events at a glance

### FEBRUARY

**Fri. 2 World Wetlands Day** - celebrated this [day](#) every year

**Mon. 5** Elmhurst meeting

**Wed. 7** Moyston Landcare meeting

**Tues. 13** Stawell Urban Landcare meeting

**Wed. 14** Jallukar Landcare meeting

**Thurs. 15** Crowlands AGM

**Fri. 16 GRDC Farm Business Update**, Lake Bolac

**Wed. 21 Future Farming Expo**, Donald Stadium, North Central & Wimmera CMAs

*\* Project Platypus will run a bus to Future Farming Expo if there is interest*

**Wed. 21 Grampians Food Forum**, Grampians Food Alliance (save the date)

**Sun. 25 Winter farm tour in summer** [Perennial Pasture Systems](#)

### MARCH

**Thurs. 1** [Celebrating Women in Conservation](#), 7am Breakfast at Federation Square, Melbourne

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

**Wed. 28 Rabbit Control Workshop**, Hopetoun

**Wed. 21 Celebrating Landcare & National Harmony Day with Tim Lowe**, Horsham

**Fri. 23 Lake Albercutya movie night** staged on the lake bed with stories recorded from the past.

\*Project Platypus will run a bus if there is interest

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## Landcare groups update

**Project Platypus** have several workshops and events coming up:

1. **BUS TRIP - Project Platypus will run a bus to the FUTURE FARMING EXPO 21st Feb (Stawell to Donald) if there is interest.** Contact Loki ph 5358 4410 or 0427 881 021
2. **FIRST AID TRAINING** March/April (date to be confirmed). Roger Murray is the trainer and Project Platypus have 20 places. First Aid is a certificate course that is highly subsidised at \$25 per head. We will be offering firstly to Landcare group members. Expression of interest contact office ph 5358 4410
3. **SOCIAL MEDIA TRAINING** with **Aubrey & Areegra**. Learn how to use your mobile phone for emails, social media, upload photos and more. 2 hours of your time and you are guaranteed to come away a pro! **Possible dates March 19th or 26th**
4. **BUS TRIP March 23** - Imagine relaxing in the warm night air, stars shining, watching a film in the middle of a dry lake bed. Wimmera CMA and Friends of **Lake Albucutya are hosting evening movie on the West beach of the Lake**. CMA filmed fantastic community stories. Lake Albercutya is the largest Victorian RAMSAR site, dry for over 30 years yet still has spectacular bird life and records 80,000 visitors per year. BBQ dinner supplied. **Project Platypus has funding for a bus if there is enough interest. Contact the office 03 5358 4410 ps(Ramsar youtube below)**
5. **LEADERSHIP TRAINING FOR RURAL WOMEN** - Save the date. Not to be missed for the best fun and learning you can have in a workshop/s. [Wild Wacky Women](#) & [Universally Speaking](#) will be coming to Project Platypus in June.

**Elmhurst Landcare** meeting - Monday 5th February

**Elmhurst Golf Club**

**7.30 pm**

Guest speaker: John Matthews of DETJR will be chatting about rabbit eradication, especially in town.

He will be delivering the calicivirus to be released locally.

The meeting will also include organizing of the 1080 campaign for March. All welcome.

**Moyston Landcare** meeting tour Tuesday 7th February.

**Meet at Moyston shop 5.45 pm**

Landcare tour of Jim and Lorraine Hall's property and BBQ at their recently renovated 1890's cottage..

Discussion on revegetation, rabbit harbour destruction

**Jallukar Landcare** meeting - Wednesday 14th February

**681 Bunjil's Cave Rd**

**Meeting 5.30 pm**

Dinner at 6.30 pm. 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

**Crowlands Landcare** Annual General Meeting - Thursday 15th February,

**Crowlands Hall**

**6.30 pm**

Bbq dinner, followed by AGM and guest speaker Project Platypus manager, John Pye.

Contact Paul Harrington mob 0438 243 682

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## Bag solutions

**Grain Bag Recycling** Grampians Central West Waste & Resource Recovery Group

Let your imagination run wild, a silo bag could become a chair, table or bollard. Grain Bag Recycling is one solution for farmers with plastic waste generated on farm especially by [grain bags](#). For your nearest [collection point](#) contact mob 0429 327 687 [www.recyclingrevolution.com.au](http://www.recyclingrevolution.com.au)

## Weed solutions

**MANAGING BLACKBERRY** [www.vicblackberrytaskforce.com.au](http://www.vicblackberrytaskforce.com.au) - Controlling blackberry is a long-term and generally cannot be achieved by one-off strategies, particularly for larger infestations. The three main management options available for blackberry include physical control, biological control and herbicides. A control program should be well planned to consider all the available management options and to ensure they are appropriately integrated for maximum control. For further detailed information on each of the control practices, please refer to the [BLACKBERRY CONTROL MANUAL](#) - management and control options for blackberry 'Rubus spp.' in Australia; read the publication - [BEST PRACTICE BLACKBERRY CONTROL: Options for Blackberry Control - Chemical/Physical](#); explore the informative [SIDE PANEL LINKS](#) and visit our [RESOURCE CENTRE](#). Information on a new non-chemical demonstration site, located in North East Victoria, near the township of Towong [can be found here](#).

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## 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](#).

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## EVENTS

### **6th Annual Future Farming Expo - Wednesday Feb 21st 2018**

Hosted by Wimmera CMA & North Central CMA

**Managing Risk by being open to opportunity**

**Donald Stadium, Donald, Vic.**

**8.30 am**

Topics include:

- Where to invest
- Integrated pest management
- Farmer stories
- Virtual herding
- Weather forecasts
- Succession planning
- Business management
- Drones and aerial imagery
- Grain marketing

For farmers, the future is everything. Whether it's the climate, new technology, business planning or predicting what the market will do, most farmers have more than one eye on what lies ahead.

The North Central CMA and Wimmera CMA are joining forces for this presentation. Farmers, scientists and industry experts will be on hand to share their research, experience and ideas on managing risk, but also looking for opportunities to increase profit.

The expo will provide farmers and industry with new ideas and the latest information on farm management through a quality line up of keynote presenters, local farmers and industry experts.

Weather forecasts are always a hot topic with farmers, this year Dr Andrew Watkins from Bureau of Meteorology is a guest speaker. Dr Watkins has been the Manager of Climate Prediction Services since 2012 and is responsible for delivering seasonal climate outlooks and determining current and future ENSO status.

#### **FREE event including lunch**

Places are strictly limited and bookings and RSVPs are essential on (03) 5448 7124 or email [info@nccma.vic.gov.au](mailto:info@nccma.vic.gov.au) by 5 pm Friday 16 February.

[More information](#)

\* Project Platypus will run a bus to Future Farming Expo if there is interest (see above)

## **Winter Whole Farm Tour in Summer - Sunday February 25th 2018**

[www.perennialpasturesystems.com.au](http://www.perennialpasturesystems.com.au)

"Titanga" near Lismore

**3.30 pm**

"Titanga" is a large grazing and cropping enterprise owned by the Lang family and managed by PPS member Stuart Robinson. Members will be able to inspect the 1,500 Ha of phalaris based pasture as well as lucerne, sorghum, fodder rape and tillage radish which provides for Titanga's 17,000 sheep. A large cropping enterprise is also conducted on the property.

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

BYO drinks & chairs

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

## **Grampians Food Forum - [Grampians Food Alliance](#) - Wednesday Feb 21st 2018**

Key note speaker; [Lenore Newman](#) \$20 pp includes morning tea, lunch & afternoon tea

**Pyrenees House, Girdlestone St, Ararat**

**9.30 am - 3.30 pm**

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. More information contact Lauren ph 5352 6204 or [grampiansfoodalliance@gmail.com](mailto:grampiansfoodalliance@gmail.com) OR [Bookings](#)

## **GRDC Farm Business Update - 16th February 2018**

**Lake Bolac** Bush Nursing Centre, 155 Montgomery Street Lake Bolac, VIC

**9:00 am**

The GRDC Farm Business Update provides a unique forum for growers and advisers to learn from and network with leading industry professionals. [For more info.](#)

**Celebrating Landcare & National Landcare** with Tim Lowe author of [Where Song](#)

[Began](#) Wednesday 21st March

**Horsham Town Hall, Horsham Vic**

**5.30 pm - 8.30 pm**

"One of the main achievements of Australian biologist Tim Low in his impressive new book, *Where Song Began*, is to turn the world upside down when it comes to how we regard Australian birds."

Bookings: [www.horshamtownhall.com.au](http://www.horshamtownhall.com.au) or 03 5382 9555

**ps I am going so am have 4 seats available if you would like to hitch a ride! Contact office.**

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**Finally a word on RAMSAR.** Lake Albercutya is listed as a Ramsar site. Ramsar sites of International Importance are spread around the world. These wetland sites are recognized as being of significant value not only for the countries in which they are located, but for humanity as a whole. Check out this [YOUTUBE clip](#).

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