





Project Platypus Upper Wimmera Landcare

DOWN to EARTH newsletter

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Contact us:

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

Down to Earth

27th FEBRUARY UPDATE

Salutations from *Down to Earth*,

Project Platypus are rolling out the red-carpet treatment in training for Landcarers next month so book in quick: 1) [Social media training](#) for late bloomers (and those that have been wondering if computer technology will really take off with mobile phones). 2) [First Aid and CPR](#) - saves lives & it works. This training will be the best \$25 you can invest in for your farm business, your Landcare community, your family and yourself.

Thought this newsletter would be short and sweet but the events keep rolling in...enjoy and let us know what you think.



Ps If you would like to know a little more than Russell Coight on climate try this FREE course [Interpreting Climate Outlooks: An Australian Example](#) - will take about 1 hour of your time

Hooroo Project Platypus team

Events at a glance

MARCH

Sun 3rd March Clean Up Australia Day, Halls Gap

1080 Campaign 2018, Elmhurst

6 - 8 Wimmera Field Days

Fri 16 NLIS (property to property transfers) workshop, Ararat

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

Sun 18 Farms for Wildlife, Tottington Woolshed

Mon 19 Social Media Training, Project Platypus office, Stawell

Tue 20 FIRST AID TRAINING, Project Platypus office, Stawell

Sun 18 Farms for Wildlife - are the two compatible, Tottington Woolshed, Tottington

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**

Tue 27 Coffee morning Girls in Grass Ag, Moyston General Store & Cafe

Tue 27 NLIS (property to property transfers) workshop, Horsham

Wed 28 FIRST AID TRAINING, Project Platypus office, Stawell

Wed. 28 Rabbit Control Workshop, Hopetoun

APRIL

Tue 17th Eucalypt seed collection workshop

Save the dates:

[Wild Wacky Women](#)/Universally Speaking are coming to Stawell to create a riot amongst the women folk with 2 workshops:

June 6 Communication Skills for Leadership 1 day workshop

June 7 The ABC of Communication Success 1/2 day workshop

Landcare groups update

Project Platypus have several workshops and events coming up:

1. **FIRST AID TRAINING** Project Platypus have 20 places. The course will run over 2 nights: **Tuesday 20th March 6.30 -9.30 pm** and **Wednesday 28th March 6.30 - 9.30 pm**. First Aid is a certificate course that is subsidised at **\$25** per head. We will be offering firstly to Landcare group members. Expression of interest contact office ph 5358 4410 or email llf@platypus.org.au
 2. **SOCIAL MEDIA TRAINING** with **Aubrey & Areegra. Monday 19th March 8 am** 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!
 3. **LAKE ALBERCUTYA MOVIE NIGHT** 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 Albu cutya are hosting evening movie on the West beach of the Lake. CMA filmed fantastic community stories. Lake Albu cutya is the largest Victorian RAMSAR site, dry for over 30 years yet still has spectacular bird life and records 80,000 visitors per year. **Friday 23 March BBQ** dinner supplied. **Project Platypus has funding for a bus if there is interest.** Contact the office 03 5358 4410 or email llf@platypus.org.au
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ELMHURST LANDCARE 1080 CAMPAIGN - 2018

Monday 5th March 1 pm FREE FEED

Wednesday 7th March 1 pm FREE FEED

Friday 9th March 3 pm 1080 DAY

Contact: Ben Greene - 0427 504 280 - Doug Keith 03 5354 8233 **by 28th February, 2018** to place carrot order - 20kg free feed bags

RIVER DETECTIVES for info contact Bron Bant bronwyn@platypus.org.au or mob. 0400 593 500
River Detectives in 2018 is a program to support educators in exploring local waterways with students. It is a sustainability program which inspires schools and youth groups to understand, appreciate and care for their local waterway through a variety of engaging, practical, multi-age cross-curricular activities.

Registration for the River Detectives program will provide groups and schools with:

- entry to an interactive website
- updated data for exploration
- access to 'How to' guides
- resources and activities linked to the Victorian Curriculum (Geography, Mathematics, Science, Sustainability and more)

To support the launch, we are offering a number of schools the chance for additional support in 2018, including:

- a water monitoring kit for your group (on loan from March to November)
- two professional development sessions to help you run the activities in the classroom. State Government project piloted in the Wimmera CMA amongst others.



Events

Clean Up Australia Day

3rd March , 8:30 am - 1:00 pm followed by a BBQ in Halls Gap

Help clean up some of the local areas. Water, hat and gloves will need to be supplied by volunteers however we can supply rubbish bags, pick up tongs and disposable gloves for those who don't have gloves. This event is on the Clean Up Australia Day website which you can join by following the below link; <https://cleanupaustraliaday.org.au/register/?Halls+Gap+Park>

Please let us know if there are some keen volunteers so we can organise sites and teams to go out on the day. We look forward to your response 😊. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact me.

Hannah Auld (Summer Ranger – Visitors and Community) E: hannah.auld@parks.vic.gov.au

Grampians/Gariwerd National Park, **Parks Victoria**

Farms for Wildlife - are the two compatible *Kara Kara Conservation Management Network*
Sunday 18th March, 12 noon

Historic Tottington Woolshed, Aarat - St Arnaud Rd, Tottington

If you care about wildlife and farm the land or own a lifestyle this seminar is for you.

Learn about:

Improving biodiversity and agricultural production

Habitat type & importance to different species

How to create & improve wildlife habitat on your patch

FREE entry & lunch

RSVP Deb 0419 550 226, John 0428 160 297 or karakaracmn@gmail.com

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

The event will feature Tim Low, author of the award-winning bestseller "Where Song Began", and nature sound recording specialist Andrew Skeoch. "Where Song Began" describes how Australia provided the world with its songbirds and parrots, the most intelligent of all bird groups".

Bookings: 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.

Sponsored; National Landcare Programme, Barengi Gadjin Land Council, Wimmera CMA, Vic. State Gov.

NLIS (property to property transfers) workshop

Agriculture Victoria are running workshops to help producers and livestock agents with the requirements to record livestock movements on the National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) database. Several dates but closest to Stawell are:

16 March - Ararat

27 March - Horsham

Register online: <https://agriculturevictoriaevents.eventbrite.com.au> or ph 03 5761 164

WOFG 2018

Women on Farms Gathering 29th annual event.

Fri 16 - Sun 18 March

A great way to connect and learn with/from other rural women. Workshops, guest speakers, farm tours, socialising and more. Can be viewed on this link: <http://www.wofg2018.com/>

Mornington Peninsula, Victoria

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. Application close **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](#).

National Landcare Program - Environment small grants (Close March 19th)

Eligible activities: one or more of the following activities

- weed and pest animal control
- fencing
- erosion control
- revegetation
- education activities and raising community awareness/participation
- access management
- Indigenous land & sea country planning (only Indigenous groups can apply)
- recording Indigenous ecological knowledge (only Indigenous groups can apply)
- administration support related to the project.

Guidelines, application forms etc & more: <https://www.business.gov.au/Assistance/National-Landcare-Program-Environment-Small-Grants>

Look Over the Farm Gate Round 2 grants

Applications for the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) Victoria's opened **Monday 19th of February**. **More info** www.lookoverthefarmgate.org.au

Do not hesitate to contact the Look Over the Farm Gate Coordinator for more information, LOTFG@rfdsvic.com.au

Soil - some dirt on the subject

[Getting lime applications on acid soils right](#)

[Soil moisture monitoring February Newsletter](#)

[Soil testing as important for paddocks as oil changes are for engines](#)

[Soil Quality 1: Constraints to Plant Production](#)

[SOIL TALKS](#)...listen to what the soil has to say in this Youtube clip, it has been a hard road in recent times.

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