



Project Platypus Upper Wimmera Landcare

MISSION

To work in partnership with the Landcare community to improve the environmental health of the Upper Wimmera Catchment while maintaining and improving

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Down to Earth

FEBRUARY 2020 UPDATE

Welcome to the first newsletter for 2020 ***Down to Earth***,

We've all had front row seats to 2020 and whoa what a ride thus far! Bushfires that defy imagination, dust storms colouring the clouds outback orange and storms raining mud...not to mention Coronavirus. It can seem overwhelming at times and it is why I have decided on a different story for this newsletter.

In this newsletter we have good news stories, new stories and you-can-do stories.

Enjoy

Andrea

Local Landcare Facilitator

Ps Image above is of Tucker's farm in Maroona, mid Jan 2020 (thank you Rosie Nater)

FEBRUARY

Tues 4 Ag Vic **webinar** [Climate change projections](#) - must register

Fri 7 The importance of insects with Denis Crawford, 6 PM, Brambuk, Halls Gap. Friends of Grampians Gariwerd. RSVP 0428 399 441

Wed 13 Jallukar LC meeting. Guest speaker 'Anthea in Antarctica' 6 PM, meal to share at the Kings

14 & 15 [National Climate Emergency Summit](#), Melbourne town hall

19 Soil pH [workshop](#), Perennial Pasture Systems, Joel Joel hall

Sun 23 Dare to Change [Smart Building & Living Expo](#), Buninyong

MARCH

3,4,5 March Wimmera [Field Days](#)

Wed 11 Ag Vic [webinar](#) Weather forecasts, seasonal outlooks and climate change projections

Fri 13 Marnoo Agricultural [community event](#), Northern Grampians Shire

Fri 27 Backyard Landcare - [Living in Harmony](#), Horsham

APRIL

Mon 20 An introduction to Biodynamic growing, Dadswell Bridge, Northern Grampians Landcare

Thurs 30 Landcare Victoria Inc AGM

GRANTS

[Community Conservation grants](#) Foundation for National Parks & Wildlife. The conservation of habitat, threatened species, and cultural heritage are priorities, as are accessible National Parks and environmental education. Up to \$10 K.

Grant closes 14 Feb 2020

[Macpac Fund for Good](#) \$2,000 -10,000 environmental projects, working on environmental and social causes related to the outdoors

Grant closes 30 April 2020

GOOD READING

[Landcare magazine](#) summer 2020 - features Landcare and community engagement (see Project Platypus contribution)

[Healthy Hectares](#) - brilliant guide for small landholders who would like to create a productive and environmentally sustainable property

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99 good news stories you probs didn't hear in 2019

Let's change our environmental story
by challenging the stories we tell ourselves.

The challenges facing humanity right now are big and scary and sometimes seem insurmountable.

However, stories are powerful, and the ones that matter are getting lost in the noise. Future Crunch has provided a list of 99 beauties of which I particularly like 90 - 93, with 100 the most beautiful.

Go on have a peek [99 GOOD ONES](#)



GLOBAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Have you even heard of Sustainable Development Goals? What are they and how do they fit with Australia, Landcare, community or you as an individual?

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was agreed by 193 Member States at the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit in New York in 2015, including Australia, and culminated in the 17 clear goals to reach by 2030. The goals apply equally to Australia and Australians as they do internationally.

The goals are big, bold and do-able: [goals](#)

Here's how organisations are doing their part to help Australia meet the [Sustainable Development Goals](#)

What global sustainable goals would you like to see Project Platypus take on, I would love to hear your

thoughts. Email llf@platypus.org.au or pop into the office.

THE GLOBAL GOALS

For Sustainable Development



For assets and information mail to: TheGlobalGoals@trollback.com TROLLBACK + COMPANY +1 212 529 1010

Project Platypus Contracting

Time to control gorse, blackberry, sweet briar, spiny rush, boneseed,
horehound and broom species

Project Platypus field crew have been working on various projects around the upper Wimmera:

- Large scale sweet briar project at Glenlofty involving Landmate
- Roadside invasive plant and animal control work for the Northern Grampians Shire
- Work on local windfarms mapping/controlling weeds around service roads, infrastructure and under turbines
- Mapping and hand removal of the emerging weed *Kunzea ericoides* in and around Halls Gap involving Landmate
- Ararat College agricultural block waterway rehabilitation treating spiny rush, gorse and sweet briar

Details and information on treatment options and chemical mix rates can be found on our website at www.platypus.org.au/common-weed-species/

For contract weed spraying and rabbit control ask for Loki ph

5358 4410 or loki@platypus.org.au



Landmate having a crack at *Kunzea ericoides* (cut and paint) along boundary of National Park in Halls Gap

Growing Ideas Festival - Marnoo

Generating ideas - people, technology, farming and food

The Agricultural Community, and related sectors, are encouraged to participate in creating smart strategies for sustainable regional growth. Northern Grampians Shire invite you to come along to the Marnoo Recreation Reserve for Growing Ideas Festival. A day of learning, sharing and growing. The festival encourages people to come together to connect, collaborate and evoke change. An all ages event designed for those in the agricultural industry, technology, education, wellbeing, community development, biodiversity, entrepreneurship and sustainability.

13th March

10.00 - 5.00pm

Marnoo Recreation Reserve

Enquiries ph 03 5358 8700 or email communities@ngshire.vic.gov.au

FREE EVENT

Bookings [Eventbrite](#)



Harmony Day

Backyard Landcare... living in harmony, above & below ground

Wimmera CMA are celebrating Landcare and National Harmony Day

Special guest is [Sophie Thomson](#) passionate presenter on ABC TV's Gardening Australia & bestselling author of Sophie's Patch

Also featuring [Dr Sapphire McMullen Fisher](#), one of Australia's leading mycologists who shares the magic, science and fun of natural fungus

March 27th 2020

5.30 – 8.30pm

Holy Trinity Lutheran College Hall, 25 Trinity Dve, Horsham

More info call Wendy mob 0407 914 498 or Rae mob 0429 868 167

FREE EVENT [RSVP](#)



Dare to Change Smart Building & Living Expo

Showcasing leading solutions to the ecological and social challenges we face

Now in its seventh year, the Smart Building and Living Expo is an established feature of Australia's biggest Sustainable Living Festival.

The Sustainable Living Festival aims to inspire and empower you to live a more sustainable life, by showing how to incorporate small changes to what you do everyday, and provide tools and incentives to change.

February 23rd 2020

10.00 - 3.30pm

1101 Warrenheip St, Royal Park, Bunninyong

[More info](#)



How to win at social media

Every day one in every two Australians use Facebook and one out of three use Instagram.

Exerpt from [Landcare Victoria magazine](#)

Show the finished product – and the journey

'Social media is an easy way of narrating your Landcare story arc, showing the journey from receiving a grant to the final finished project. The [Project Platypus Facebook](#) page provides beautiful updates on projects and events. Their posts enable their audience to develop knowledge of their projects and events and also strengthen understanding for the importance of the network.'

Perrenial Pasture Systems fire response

Many hands lighten the burden for fire affected rural communities

Australia's recent fires galvanised many into action and Perennial Pasture Systems with Project Manager Rob Shea's excellent networking skills have enabled them to step up in the crisis and help. PPS donated four semi-loads of hay to Gippsland fire affected farmers and have another 10 semi-loads in reserve to go upon request. Their members have also sent a truck-load of fence posts to Kangaroo Island to help with the re-building efforts.

Fortuitously PPS's annual study tours, to Gippsland and Kangaroo Island in recent years, have put them in direct contact with fire affected farmers. Additionally, PPS were given financial donations and are considering a few novel ideas to support these farmers into the future. They will consult with members before a decision is made. Great work PPS.



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