



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 productivity.



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Down to Earth

NOVEMBER 2020 UPDATE

Welcome to our newsletter *Down to Earth*,

It is lovely to see Landcare taking action on the weed front, Project Platypus has Lachlan McIntyre working hard securing funding and organising weed control work with Dene Marshall on the ground. They are making a huge difference in the Upper Wimmera by all the weeds you can't now see. The Landcare groups themselves have also kept busy through the year by focussing on weed eradication, of note last month were working bees with **Stawell Urban Landcare Group** tackling boneseed and **Northern Grampians Landcare** tackling prickly

pear (which are very prickly as Mary-Anne Jess found out!).

Landcare is about community banding together to identify and tackle environmental issues in their area. Although tree planting is often recognised as the fun stuff, working bees for weeds are also a great way to bring Landcare groups together, solve an issue, be social and also have fun.

I hope everyone has enjoyed this spring, the wildflowers and orchids have been magnificent.

Ciao for now

Andrea

Local Landcare Facilitator

Ps (Mila, the littlest Landcarer pictured above had a great day helping with prickly pear removal, walking through the bush, discovering skinks and other fabulous stuff)

CALENDAR

November

Fri 13 [Seed collection workshop](#) - SULG

December

Sun 13 Elmhurst LC Christmas get together

In this issue

[Elmhurst Landcare AGM](#)

[Orchids in the Wimmera](#)

[Eucalypts videos](#)

[Jallukar Landcare update](#)

[Young best friend award](#)

In the news

[New focus for Black Range Landcare Group](#) With a new executive BRLG have been traversing Black Range area with their membership packs ***The Weekly Advertiser (Oct 7)***

[Crews crucial during pandemic](#) Loki McIntyre about the benefits of work crews to the environment ***The Weekly Advertiser (Oct 28)***

[Victorian Landcare and Catchment Management Magazine](#) A feature on roadsides, rail reserves and trails.

[Walking with scientists 3D YouTube - trippy!](#) Experience fieldwork, as you're transported to stunning landscapes across Victoria. In this immersive 360/VR experience you'll visit wetlands, search for endangered species, trap for burrowing crayfish, survey birds on remote islands and spotlight for Greater Gliders in Victoria's ash forests. ***Arthur Rylah Institute (ARI)***

[Earth's future - increase biodiversity & slow climate change](#) [Very cool data visualisation](#) describing what scientists think will make a better future. **Future Crunch**

[Worse than thought - estimated 14,000,000 tonnes of microplastics on the seafloor](#) -

three-quarters of the rubbish found on Australia's coastlines is plastic. **The**

Conversation

[To Patagonia for rabbit control solutions](#) - Australia's national science agency and Centre for Invasive Species Solutions (CISS) member, CSIRO, is on the hunt for new weapons to use against the nation's most destructive pest: **wild rabbits**.

& farming now and into the future...

[Dung beetles - ecosystem engineers](#). Website with all of the latest **dung beetle** species introduced to Australia. Learn more about the biology and distribution of these amazing beetles. [Which species are in the Wimmera?](#)

[Dung beetles for livestock farmers](#) Video from farmers perspectives describing the benefits of dung beetles and how their presence has impacted soil, pasture and livestock health.

[SOIL- protecting a most valuable asset](#) Hear from Agriculture Victoria's Clem Sturmfels about the impact of sheet and rill erosion and how we can preserve topsoil for future generations. **Agriculture Victoria**

[The world's biggest insect farm](#) How is this for innovation, farming insects on the grandest scale (for protein value) in France. **Fast Company**

[Ending hunger; science must stop neglecting smallholder farmers](#) **Of 570 million farms in the world, more than 475 million are smaller than 2 hectares.**

Research concludes smallholders adopt new approaches, specifically planting climate-resilient crops, when supported through extension services... but there is limited \$\$\$ **Nature**

Native seed collection training workshop -SULG

Friday 13th November

9am to 2pm

Lake Fyans

For more info contact Julie 0407 561 135 or email ironbarkgirl@gmail.com

Native seed collection training workshop

Friday 13th November

9am to 2pm

- identifying native plant species & seed
- methods for collection, treatment and storage of seed
identifying seed structures, timing of collection, permits required,
- learn the basics and more

Bookings essential (10 participants maximum)

mob 0407 561 135 or email ironbarkgirl@gmail.com

[Orchids unveiled](#) Take a virtual deep dive into the world of these precious threatened species with Cranbourne Gardens orchid expert Dr Noushka Reiter and the Orchid Conservation Program team. Tawny Spider orchid (*Caladenia fulva*) reintroduced into the Wimmera. Noushka mentions Project Platypus as a stakeholder. **YouTube**

[Saving the Brilliant Sun Orchid \(*Thelymitra mackibbinii*\) from extinction](#). This threatened species has less than 60 naturally wild plants remaining in the Wimmera district of Victoria. Read how science and community are saving them. **Australian Network for Plant Conservation**

[Eucalypt](#) - a five-part documentary. The *Eucalypt* series explores these trees' evolution and ecology, their intimate connection with Indigenous Australians, their role in art and craftsmanship, and their future in a changing world. **Remember the Wild** **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED VIEWING**

Jallukar Landcare Group grasslands project update (excerpts taken from Glenda Lewin's AGM chairperson's report)

The *Grassland Project* has continued at Phil William's nursery with ongoing weeding, re-potting and the re-roofing of the poly green house. Over the past few months, lockdown has impeded much progress and working bees are limited to five volunteers. A special thankyou must go to John King, Phil Bennett, and Anthea Nicholls for assisting our wonderful Phil W

through these past months. A recent exciting development is the planting of 350 *Velleia paradoxa* (*Goodeniaceae* family) to John King's property in Pomonal. This is the second mass planting achieved.



Velleia paradoxa is a small, perennial herb in the family Goodeniaceae, endemic to Australia. Short-lived. Moist well-drained soils. May die back to a rootstock by the end of summer and resprout in winter. Resprouts after fire. Needs bare ground where its seeds can germinate. Very sensitive to grazing by introduced animals. Often grows in colonies.

Jallukar Landcare celebrates 25 years

Jallukar is celebrating 25 years this year and in acknowledging this milestone, we plan to start collating an historical narrative of those who were there at the beginning. We have already sadly missed some of these stories including Elizabeth Jackson who passed away suddenly in September 2019. It will be exciting to learn of the how, when and why of those passionate group of people who laid the foundation stones for Jallukar Landcare to thrive and survive into the future.

Elmhurst Landcare AGM was a mix of people meeting together at the Elmhurst Bush Nursing Centre (masked up and socially distanced) and those online, the "**Zoomers**". The meeting format worked remarkably well with Ben Greene re-elected president and Geoff Penna taking on the secretary role. The memberships were set at \$10 for townfolk and \$20 for rural landholders.

They will also be hosting their **Christmas get together** in Elmhurst just off the Wimmera River on **Sunday 13th December** at **4.30pm**.



Anthea Nicholls presenting **Matilda Venn** with an inaugural award for ***Young Best Friend Award 2020*** from the Victorian Friends of the Environment Network. Due to covid restrictions the ceremony was hosted via Zoom on Saturday 3rd October.

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- Specialists in broad-scale and targeted weed and rabbit control
- Provide environmental services such as tree planting
- Offering competitive rates on private and public land
- Insured and licenced.

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