



VEGETABLE GARDENS ON DISPLAY

No. 41 Spring 2013

OPEN kitchen garden DAY

Stawell residents will again have the opportunity to take a sneak peak at some of the most productive vegetable gardens in the region on Saturday November 16th 2013.

Stawell Urban Landcare is hosting an Open Kitchen Garden Day in Stawell and surrounds with a range of workshops and productive gardens on display. The Open Kitchen Garden

weekend is designed to inspire and motivate local residents to grow their own fruit and vegetables and will be showcasing a number of local veggie patches that have used innovative approaches to ensure a bumper supply of fruit and vegetables to feed their families.

There will be a line-up of workshops on offer this time round, which includes : backyard bee keeping, growing olives and making your own sour dough bread

To help cover the costs of running this event, we're asking attendees to pay a \$5 entry fee. For this price, you can visit all of the gardens on display as well as attend as many of the workshops as you like. Entry fees and a map to the gardens will be available at the Project Platypus office, 11a Ararat Rd Stawell, from 9.30am onwards.

For all the Open Kitchen Garden Day details including workshop times, head to the Project Platypus website www.platypus.org.au, or follow Project Platypus on Facebook.

Feature Stories:

Open Kitchen Garden Day
Wimmera Landcare Awards
Project Platypus AGM Report
Grampians Natural Disaster Research
Mt William Creek Nature Trail
Ironbarks Nature Walk Report
Sallow Wattle in the Upper Catchment

Regular Features:

Project Platypus Update
Perennial Pasture Systems Update
On Ground Works - Update
Landcare Groups Update
Grant Information Details
Events Calendar
Committee & Staff Members



ADDRESS 11A ARARAT ROAD STAWELL VICTORIA
POSTAL ADDRESS PO BOX 838 STAWELL VICTORIA 3380
PHONE 03 5358 4410 FAX 03 5358 4441 EMAIL project@platypus.org.au

OPEN kitchen garden DAY



**Saturday 16th November
9.30am - 3.30pm**

Visit food producing gardens in Stawell and surrounds. Take in workshops on baking sour dough bread, growing olives and backyard bee keeping.

Entry to gardens and workshops \$5. Maps can be purchased from the Project Platypus office, 11a Ararat Rd, from 9.30am onwards.

For all the details visit
www.projectplatypus.org.au



like us on facebook!

PROJECT PLATYPUS UPDATE

Leigh Blackmore Manager

Hello Project Platypus Supporters,

Plantout season has again been a great success with over 100,000 plants in the ground. Thank you again to all those involved who make this time of year so rewarding. Volunteers, giving up their time in sometimes treacherous conditions, Landowners putting some land aside for the benefit of the environment and undertaking preparation, other partners and funding organisations involved such as the Landmate Crew, Corporate sponsors, Wimmera CMA, the Federal Government and Landcare Groups hosting the events, enthusiastic and committed Project Platypus staff; somehow it always seems to come off with very few hiccups. If anyone has any feedback or suggestions on how we could improve these activities, then don't hesitate to pick up the phone and give us a call.

Project Platypus is able to continue its Revegetation Program for the next 3 years with a successful application through the Biodiversity Fund, however this is limited to specific areas with the aim of improving ecological connectivity between the Grampians and Pyrenees Ranges, so not all landholders will be eligible. Any landholders interested in revegetation or vegetation protection activities are encouraged to get in touch and we will aim to support your project in some way.

Thanks also to those who attended the 2013 Project Platypus AGM. It was a great night with guest speaker Doug Avery encapsulating the audience with his inspiring presentation. This night saw the end of Leanne Jackman's 3 year term as Chairman of Project Platypus. Those who were in attendance would have heard all the praise that Leanne so deservedly received. Leanne's legacy as Project Platypus Chairman will continue for many years into the future. On behalf of the Project Platypus community I would like to express sincere thanks for her contribution. The completion of Leanne's term saw the opportunity for Phil Hall to step up into this position. Phil has been an active member of the Concongella Landcare Group, and has been in the Vice Chairman role of Project Platypus for a number of years. We look forward to Phil's leadership as Chairman in the coming years.

I would also like to take this opportunity to express a thank you to Brendan Barbetti who has been filling in as the Manager while I have been on leave. Brendan's ability to step into the position was exceptional and we hope to see Brendan around in some capacity into the future.

Finally, a well-deserved congratulations to the winners of the Wimmera Landcare Awards – well done. Enjoy your read and thanks for showing an interest in Upper Wimmera Landcare.



Leigh Blackmore Project Platypus, Manager

WIMMERA LANDCARE AWARDS

Bronwyn Bant

The inaugural Wimmera Landcare Awards were held earlier this year. The awards, organised by Wimmera Catchment Management Authority are an opportunity to raise the profile of the excellent work undertaken by locals and the ongoing role of Landcare in strengthening our region for future generations. Project Platypus was proud to have a number of locals win awards.

Congratulations to Project Platypus Chair Leanne Jackman for winning the Individual Landcare Award. Leanne has chaired the Project Platypus Management Committee, for the last three years, a role she performed with distinction. She is also involved with many Project Platypus sub-committees and represents Project Platypus on the Wimmera Regional Landcare Facilitator steering committee and Wimmera CMA Advisory Committee. Leanne brings strong people skills and experience and thoughtful leadership to Landcare in the Wimmera and she continues to be a wonderful source of enthusiasm for promoting increased group participation and the recruitment of new faces to local Landcare activity. A measure of how she encourages people is not just the sheer number of hours she dedicates to Landcare, but in the quality way in which she goes about it. Leanne is always genuinely interested in others' ideas and abilities, never looks for recognition and is always there to support and provide direction. Leanne's commitment to improving the environment on her own farm, her commitment to her local Northern Grampians Landcare group and her commitment to Project Platypus all provide examples of how Leanne champions Landcare. With the help of her husband Peter and their Landcare group she implements remnant protection and revegetation projects on her own biodynamic property, she actively encourages others to be involved in



Leanne Jackman (Northern Grampians Landcare Group)



Rob Shea (Perennial Pastures Systems)

The Local Group award was taken out by Project Platypus group members Perennial Pasture Systems. The award recognises an outstanding community group that has adopted sound land management practices on public or private land and is working towards sustainable land use. The aim of the Perennial Pasture Systems Group is to push the boundaries of perennial pasture research in our region and to provide locally-based information on productive pasture management to members. The group has made a tremendous contribution to Landcare since it was initiated in 2007 as a result of farmers identifying a specific need for research and extension into productive perennial pastures in the Upper Wimmera. PPS surveys are showing that the rate of perennial pasture establishment by members is over double the average of similar regions in Australia. Attendance at PPS-led engagement

events is consistently strong and participation rates compare very favourably with other group events in the Wimmera region. Over 250 different people have attended PPS events so far. The group has consistently demonstrated an excellent ability to form and maintain partnerships to underpin all that it does. PPS conducts research and demonstration into the establishment and management of various perennial pasture species in a variable climate. This improves the profitability and resilience of the farming business with increased environmental benefits. Perennial pastures are more efficient users of water assisting in lowering water recharge and therefore reducing the risk of salinity. Perennials slow the soil acidification rate by the increase in nitrogen uptake thereby reducing nitrate leaching. Well managed perennial pastures maintain a level of ground cover well in excess of annual grasses reducing the risk of wind and surface water erosion.

The Young Landcarer Award went to Stawell resident Angela Baker. Angela has been particularly pro-active at encouraging others in the community to get involved in landcare. Through her involvement in the Stawell Urban Landcare Group, Angela has taken an



Angela Baker
(Stawell Urban Landcare Group)

active role in educating primary school students about the significance of local remnant vegetation by participating and leading students on the annual SULC Ironbark walk with year three students from various Stawell primary schools. Angela has been involved with the Ironbark walk since returning to her home town just over two years ago.

Furthermore Angela and husband Nathan opened their 3 acre food producing hobby farm on the fringe of Stawell as part of the recent Open Kitchen Garden Weekend organised by Project Platypus and Stawell Urban Landcare. By opening their productive garden, a mixture of fruit and nut trees as well as a large productive veggie patch, Angela was able to share her tips on growing produce. Angela was keen to be part of the weekend as encouraging and inspiring others to start a veggie patch is a great way each of us can reduce our food footprint and reliance on unsustainable food sources. Angela has the unique ability of being able to share her passion and knowledge without being overbearing, preachy or over confident. Instead, Angela's quiet but confident manner makes her approachable and competent leader.

Angela is the president of the Stawell Urban Landcare Group, and has already completed her first year as president. Her constant involvement in all facets of landcare, from taking on the role of president, to actively participating in landcare events such as weed removal and tree planting, and her advocacy of landcare through

being a media spokesperson and teaching future generations, and her ability to live Landcare (such as her food producing garden) make her a great example of what Landcare is all about for younger generations.

Victorian Landcare Awards

As winners of Wimmera Landcare Awards, Leanne, Angela and Perennial Pasture Systems were also finalists in the Victorian Landcare Awards held on the 28th of August at Government House.

Perennial Pasture Systems was highly commended in the Victorian Landcarer Innovative Community Group Award category. Project Platypus would like to pass on their congratulations to PPS and Project manager Rob Shea. This is great recognition of the fantastic work PPS undertakes that supports farmers in the region to boost production while at the same time promoting sustainable farming practices through conducting and sharing the results of localised perennial pasture trials.





The Project Platypus AGM was held on Monday October 7th at the Football Clubrooms, Central Park in Stawell.

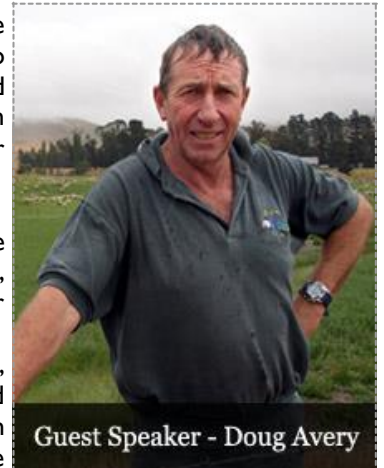
The election of office bearers saw Leanne Jackman from Northern Grampians Landcare Group stand down as Chair after a three year term. Phil Hall from Concongella Landcare Group was elected as the incoming Chair. There were no other changes to Management Committee members, and the election of the remaining office bearers will be determined at the next Management Committee meeting.

Landcare members and the general public were invited to attend the AGM, which featured a special presentation from inspiring New Zealand Farmer Doug Avery.

Doug's farm at Grassmere in Marlborough is in one of the

country's driest zones, with an annual average rainfall of just 500mm. After 15 years of drought, Doug and his family had hit rock bottom financially and emotionally and decided to change their farming practices by working smarter, not harder.

Existing farming methods were degrading land and failing to pay the bills. New plants, animals, systems and thinking were employed in an effort to create better outcomes for both family and farm. Today the Avery family has a completely new experience of life as the farm grows from strength to strength. Changes to Doug's farm management resulted in him being awarded the 2010 South Island Farmer of The Year. Doug is an in demand speaker both in New Zealand and internationally. For further information on Doug's philosophies visit http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BOEqZk_c8Cg



Guest Speaker - Doug Avery



CARING
FOR
OUR
COUNTRY



GRAMPIANS NATURAL DISASTER RESEARCH

In response to the landslide events of January 2011 in the Grampians National Park, the University of Ballarat have been engaged by Northern Grampians Shire to investigate the impacts of the 2011 floods and landslides. You can help by completing a survey & providing your insights. The survey will form the basis of a report outlining the impact of this event. The results of this research may be used to inform appropriate risk and emergency services management strategies to minimise the impact of such events in future. A project website has been established to inform the community about the project. To complete the survey please go to the project website www.gndr.org.au and follow the link:

This research aims to document the outcomes of events from individuals, businesses and community organisations, and representatives from Government and Non-Government organisations (including emergency services organisations closely involved with the disaster management response to the 2011 floods in the Grampians region) to provide insights about the social, economic and environmental impact following the 2011 floods and landslides and to integrate these into a consolidated inventory.

If you also wish to also participate in an interview, or for further information about this research, please contact one of the following University of Ballarat research team members:

Ms Alison Ollerenshaw

E: a.ollerenshaw@ballarat.edu.au

T: (03) 5327 6201

Dr Helen Thompson

E: h.thompson@ballarat.edu.au

T: (03) 5327 9418



MOUNT WILLIAM CREEK NATURE TRAIL OPENING

Bronwyn Bant



On Sunday 23rd June, 2013, the Mount William Creek Nature Trail at Dadswells Bridge was officially opened by the Mayor of Horsham Cr. David Grimble. The Mayor of Northern Grampians Shire, Cr. Wayne Rice was also in attendance.

Local community members and guests walked the trail in the beautiful winter sunshine before the official opening. Guest then enjoyed a country style afternoon tea.

A brochure has been developed to guide walkers and help identify the flora and fauna along the trail. The brochure is available from Stawell and Horsham Information Centres and also brochure boxes outside the Giant Koala and the footbridge near the newly reconstructed tennis courts at Dadswells Bridge.

The nature trail extends from near the Big Koala, crosses Mt William Creek and loops through bushland west of the creek.

A picnic spot has also been developed on the bank of the creek near a

known platypus habitat. The Mount William Creek Nature Trail is a community project completed by local volunteers with the support of Government and local organisations.



IRONBARKS NATURE WALK

Cathy McDermott



The annual Ironbarks Nature Walk conducted with students from Stawell Primary School and Stawell West Primary School continues to be very popular.

Grade three students experienced the wonders of Spring in our local box Ironbark Forest on a guided tour in the Deep Lead Flora and Fauna Reserve.

With the beautiful conditions for walking along the 2km walk they were able to observe various flowers such as native orchids and trees that grow in their local environment. The students learn about the trees and flowers, they also learn to look for signs of human impact and so learn about history and conservation management. They also learn about what animals may live within the Ironbarks and how human activity can have a negative

impact on the environment. The walks are organised and guided by Stawell Urban Landcare Group members and volunteers. The goal of the walks is to engender a stewardship ethic in our local children by understanding and enjoying the many delights of the forests at our backdoor.



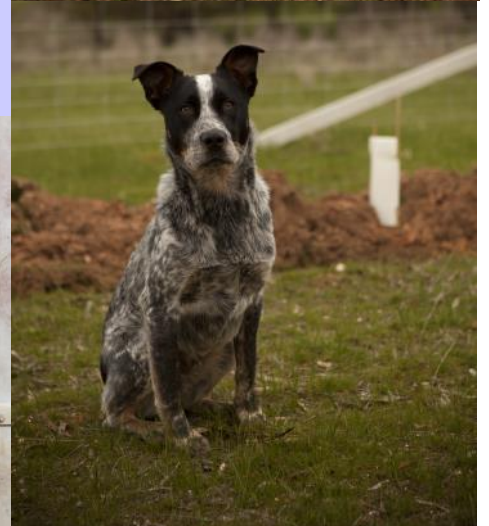


During this winters Plantout season 50,000 indigenous plants were returned to the landscape over 6 community Plantouts with 306 willing and enthusiastic volunteers. We again ran a successful Bushdoof weekend in Navarre, which attracted over 130 energetic volunteers who happily planted in pouring rain, and celebrated their efforts with an outdoor dance party well into the night.

A last minute change from Elmhurst to Paradise was required for one of our Plantouts. Planters still had a fabulous time, and were entertained by Mallee band The Lazy Farmers Sons.

Another major highlight during the Plantout was the local gourmet food supplied by Laharum Groves Deidre Baum for the Deep Lead Plantout.

Project Platypus would like to extend a massive thankyou to each and everyone of the 306 volunteers who braved the winter elements to take part in this years Plantout season.



PLANTOUT 2013



SALLOW WATTLE IN THE UPPER CATCHMENT

Allistair Stephens



Sallow Wattle (*Acacia longifolia*) is native to New South Wales coastal hinterland areas with some natural occurrences in East Gippsland, Victoria. Wide spread planting of Sallow Wattle in early revegetation projects and its popularity as a garden plant has resulted in widespread distribution of the species across most of temperate Australia. The tendency for Sallow Wattle to become an invasive plant in our area is not fully understood but its potential to dominate local ecosystems is evident in the northern part of the Grampians National Park where it dominates large areas of the park completely replacing local species. Sallow Wattle like other native acacias have very resilient and tough seeds that lay dormant in the soil for tens of years and still remain viable. Seed germination is triggered by fire or soil disturbance resulting in mass germination of soil stored seed. These areas of mass germination then develop into impenetrable thickets of plants as seen in the northern part of the Grampians National Park burnt in the 1999 Mt Difficult fire.

Sallow Wattle currently occurs in scattered infestations across the upper catchment with most being found along roadsides and areas of remnant vegetation. It is the primary goal of the project to locate, map and control these satellite infestations before they are permitted to become large in scale. Work is already underway within the Grampians National Park by Parks Victoria and Conservation Volunteers Australia to control satellite infestations with some large scale control work being undertaken by Laharum Landcare Group in the Wartook and Roses Gap areas. In conjunction with the work undertaken by Project Platypus, the combined efforts will result in a widespread and hopefully long term outcome to halt the spread and eradicate Sallow Wattle in the local area.

The project has already commenced with an intensive survey and mapping component to locate and record all infestations in the upper catchment so a clear picture can be developed of the species current distribution. Control work will follow which will be mainly hand cutting and pulling of seedlings by Project Platypus' works crew. Due to the longevity of the seed bank in the soil, follow-up control work of areas identified during the project will be necessary for years to come to ensure complete eradication. A further aim of the project is to raise public awareness of the invasive nature of Sallow Wattle and to stop it being available in local nurseries by promoting alternative replacement species.

Project Platypus would welcome any assistance from the local community in locating infestations of Sallow Wattle. Please contact Allistair at the Project Platypus office on 53584410 if you can help out.

PERENNIAL PASTURE SYSTEMS - 2013

Rob Shea

PPS has been busy holding its annual study tour in August which consisted of a farm tour of Yaloak Estate at Ballan and visits to PGG Wrightson and AGF Seeds research sites near Ballarat. PPS also held its fifth Annual Conference in Ararat in mid September.

PPS has recently completed the final report of the EverGraze Supporting Site at Mooneys Gap. The site has two paddocks, a lucerne site and a phalaris best practice management paddock. Both have proven to be highly successful, the report contains all the information collected from the sites as well as the findings from the trials. The full report is available in the projects area of the PPS website at www.perennialpasturesystems.com.au. A third case study on Mooneys Gap has been produced titled "Integration of lucerne into the system at Mooneys Gap" which can be accessed on the EverGraze website at <http://www.evergraze.com.au/> or by using the link http://www.evergraze.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/9.122-CS_Mooneys-Gap.pdf

An article on the Mooneys gap site was produced in the Future Farm Industries CRC August magazine which can be viewed on the FFI website at <http://www.futurefarmonline.com.au/>



Wayne Burton inspects the precision agriculture pH testing rig

PPS has been successful in obtaining funding for the "Greenfields" pasture project at Glenlofty. This will allow a start in 2014. The project aims to take a paddock which has been allowed to become run down and unproductive and re-establish it as a best practice rotational grazing lamb production system. The paddock is typical of many in the Upper Wimmera catchment and other areas of Central Victoria which are producing at well below their optimum because of long term low inputs and set stocking practices which have virtually eliminated productive plant species from the pasture.

PPS proposes to measure the physical and economic changes in the improved pasture system to provide a full analysis of the project. The Greenfields Project is supported by a Federal Government Community Landcare grant

PPS is also in the process of implementing a variable lime application technique trial. Paddock sampling has been completed and selected pastures will be treated with variable applications when soil pH calibrations are completed. Further details on the variable lime pH testing are included in the September PPS newsletter which can be viewed at the PPS website. This project is supported by the Glenelg Hopkins CMA through funding from the Australian Government's Caring for our Country program and the Wimmera CMA with in kind support from Precision Agriculture.

PPS has two events planned for the coming spring with a PPS Trial Site Inspection Tour on Sunday October 20th and the PPS end of year paddock walk and BBQ on Friday November 29th.



PERENNIALPASTURESYSTEMS
MAKING PASTURE DO THE DIFFERENCE

For further information on Perennial Pasture Systems
contact PPS project manager Rob Shea on 0438 521357
or email: yadin@netconnect.com.au
www.perennialpasturesystems.com.au

ON GROUND WORKS UPDATE

INVASIVE PLANTS & ANIMALS :

Since the June edition of the newsletter our works crew have had some variety in their work. The annual Chilean needle grass spraying program was completed in and around Moyston in early June, fortunately before the area got too wet for vehicular access. Spiny Rush and Horehound spraying was completed for Concongella Landcare group with some work postponed until crops are stripped to permit access to sites.

Roadside rabbit ripping works for both Ararat Rural City Council (ARCC) and Northern Grampians Shire (NGS) have been facilitated through Project Platypus in the last couple of months. Ripping was completed by a contractor at the end of Morass road, Moyston for ARCC during July complementing similar works on adjacent private land. To complement roadside ripping along Lennox road and Birdswing road undertaken for NGS, VicRoads committed to two days of Rabbit fumigation along the Pomonal – Halls Gap in the same area resulting in a thorough job on rabbit populations in this area.

The works crew has also been busy completing a rabbit fumigation program across four properties for Black Range Landcare Group members. This program has built on control works completed over the last couple of years on neighbouring properties enabling control of rabbits over a wide area along Panrock Reservoir road.

Project Platypus has recently gained a grant through Caring for Our Country funding to deal with Sallow Wattle infestations in the Upper Catchment. The project will initially survey and map Sallow Wattle infestations and then complete control works which will consist of hand cutting and removal. Some work has already been completed around the Grange Golf Course, Black Range with survey and mapping work commencing in September for the rest of the Catchment.

Works crew supervisor Graham Pearson injured his neck during July and has been off work for six weeks only returning to light duties in early September. We look forward to his full recovery and his return to normal duties in the near future.

Coming into spring, the works crew will be tasked with annual weed control works including Bridal Creeper in Jallukar for ParksVic, Paterson's Curse, One Leaf Cape Tulip and St John's Wort for various landholders across the Upper Catchment.

For further information please contact Allistair Stephens on 5358 4410 or email allistair@platypus.org.au

NATIVE VEGETATION :

Woodlands Revival: During this winter 100,000 indigenous plants were returned to the landscape with 50,000 of these planted by 306 willing and enthusiastic volunteers. We ran six community Plantouts with a Bushdoof weekend held in Navarre, which attracted over 130 energetic volunteers who happily planted in pouring rain, and celebrated their efforts with an outdoor dance party well into the night. Another major highlight was the local gourmet food supplied by Laharum Groves Deidre Baum for the Deep Lead Plantout. A last minute change from Elmhurst to Paradise was required for one of our Plantouts. **Contact David Margetson on 5358 4410 or email david@platypus.org.au if you would like to be apart of this program in 2014.**

EROSION CONTROL : The erosion work carried out at Harrington's site has been completed and plans are now in place for a site at Glenlofty Creek. These erosion works will take place over the coming months.

LANDMATE :

Langi Kal Kal - The Langi Kal Kal Landmate crew have been assisting Landholders involved in Landclass fencing projects at Chalicum, The Langi crew have done extensive revegetation work for the Burrenbeet and Brewster Bio-links project, as well as fencing revegetation sites and planting and guarding trees for the Kooroocheang and Blampied Landcare groups.

Ararat - The Ararat Landmate crew have been very busy over the winter. The crew have been assisting landholders involved with Project Platypus projects. Work the crew have completed involve fencing of revegetation sites and planting and guarding trees. The Ararat Landmate crew have been helping Crowlands Landcare group with the fumigation of roadside rabbit warrens, as well as assisting Landholders from the Great Western Landcare Group. The crew have completed several weeks of work for Parks Victoria with the construction and maintenance of walking tracks, and the crew have carried out extensive Sallow Wattle removal, cutting and painting stumps. Recently the Ararat Landmate crew have been helping out with revegetation projects for Landholders (farmers) based in the Glenelg Hopkins Catchment. If you would like to register for environmental or community work please contact Bob Wallace the Landmate Co-ordinator on 03 5358 4410.



EQUIPMENT HIRE : Check out our website at www.platypus.org.au. for equipment hire prices. A 20% discount applies to all Landcare group members.

UPPER WIMMERA LANDCARE GROUPS UPDATE

Black Range: President: Neil Marriott

Secretary: Helen Rosenbaum

Concongella: President: Malcolm Nicholson

Secretary: Mark McLean

The Concongella Landcare group held their AGM and elected Mark McLean as the new Secretary/Treasurer. The group is applying for Community Action Grant for trees in the non-biolink areas. They are also applying for funding for rabbit and weed control work.

Crowlands President: Dennis Harrington

Secretary: Harold Thomas

The group conducted a front end loader course for Landcare members in the area.

Elmhurst: President: Bill Langcake

Secretary: Christine Baines

The Elmhurst Landcare group are hoping to secure further funding for rabbit work. Adam Merrick was a guest speaker at the meeting.

Great Western: President: Mark Kindred

Secretary: Paul Dakis

Jallukar: President: Terry May

Secretary: Fred Rich

Jallukar Landcare group held its AGM. Neil Marriott gave a presentation on the World Arts Museum of Australia

Landsborough: President: Daryl Leslie

Secretary: Greg Dean

Landsborough Landcare Group have been using the services of the Landmate crews to spot and spray Spiny Broom, Patterson's Curse and cut and paint Gorse. The group are using Project Platypus to spray more Patterson's Curse in the Landsborough district.

Moyston: President: David Coad

Secretary: Rosie Nater

Moyston Landcare Group held its AGM, David Coad was elected as the new President. The group are organising a bird walk in November and will be holding a native grass and wildflower tour around Wickcliffe and Narrapumelap homestead.

Navarre: President: Shane Bibby

Secretary: Richard & Liz Kelleher

Northern Grampians: President: Ray Graham

Secretary: Judy Dunkley

The Northern Grampians Landcare group are winding up the Communities for Nature projects. A meeting is to be held to consider future projects outside the biodiversity Fund.

Stawell Urban: President: Angela Baker

Secretary: Cathy McDermott

Glenda Lewin and Neil Marriott held a presentation on the proposed World Arts Museum of Australia. The group held a display in the Main Street of Stawell during National Landcare Week which attracted new members and a lot of interest. Nest boxes are being made by the year 9 Stawell Secondary College woodwork students. The group conducted the annual Ironbarks Walk for Grade 3 students from Stawell 502 Primary Schools and Stawell West Primary School.

If you would like to include more information about your group please send your article to Cathy McDermott at admin@platypus.org.au or for further information contact Regional Landcare Facilitator, Bob Wallace 53584410.



GRANT INFORMATION DETAILS

Title/Provider	Grant Detail/ Aims	Closing Date	Value
Sidney Myer Fund	Funding for education, training, professional development for young people in rural and regional communities. http://www.myerfoundation.org.au/programs/projects.cfm?loadref=19	Ongoing	Upto \$10,000
Living Water Rebate	Water tanks, sprinkler systems, mulch, tap fittings, washing machine replacement, dual toilet flush, pool covers and more http://www.livinggreener.gov.au/rebates-assistance/vic/home-garden-water-rebates	30 June, 2015	unspecified

EVENTS CALENDAR

November	
3	Moyston Landcare Group Homestead & Grasslands Bus Tour. Contact Rosie 5354 2512
3	Stawell Open Garden Day 9am - Fundraiser. Call 5358 7400
3	Halls Gap PS Craft Market 9am onwards
5-8	Eighth National Stipa Native Grasslands Conference, Murray Bridge register online
11	Native Vegetation and Waterways Subcommittee meeting 7.30pm @ Project Platypus office
12	Stawell Urban LC Group meeting 7.30pm @ Project Platypus Office
16	Open Kitchen Garden Day. Contact Bronwyn on 5358 4410
23-24	Biochar Workshop Register email joe@breaze.org.au or call Joe Bain on 0477 288 765
24	Stawell Farm and Craft Market 9am-1pm Contact Val 5358 5007 or 0419 445 095
December	
2	Project Platypus Xmas Dinner



PROJECT PLATYPUS COMMITTEE & STAFF MEMBERS

Project Platypus Management Committee

Phil Hall, Chair (Concongella Landcare Group)
 Michael Greene, Treasurer (Elmhurst Landcare Group)
 Mark McKew, Secretary (Crowlands Landcare Group)
 Leanne Jackman (Northern Grampians Landcare Group)

Rosie Nater (Moyston Landcare Group)

Michael McMurtrie (Jallukar Landcare Group)
 Lachie Green (Jallukar Landcare Group)
 Ian Nicholson (Stawell Urban Landcare Group)
 Richard Kelleher (Navarre Landcare Group)
 Steven Start (Crowlands Landcare Group)

Native Vegetation & Waterways Subcommittees
 Partnerships & Funding Subcommittee, Perennial Pasture Systems
 Sustainable Agriculture Subcommittee
 Sustainable Agriculture, Community Engagement, Partnerships
 & Funding Subcommittees
 Invasive Plants & Animals, Native Vegetation & Waterways ,
 Sustainable Agriculture ,Community Engagement Subcommittees
 Partnerships & Funding Subcommittee

Partnerships & Funding Subcommittee

Invasive Plants & Animals Subcommittee

Sub-Committee Members

Partnerships & Funding
 Native Vegetation & Waterways

Invasive Plants & Animals

Sustainable Agriculture

John Cassell
 George Holden, Phil Williams, Rob Arnts, Mandy Smith, Neil Howell, Jacqui Norris (WCMA),
 Luke Austin (WCMA)
 Neil Marriott, Wendy Marriott, Ross McGregor, Malinda Godino, George Holden, Deidre Andrews,
 Mark Toomey, John Miles, Peter Brazier, Ray Graham, Kath Gosden, Daryl Leslie, John Stevens,
 Geoff Penna, Doug Boatman,
 Larry McLean, Steph Arnts, Rob Shea

Staff

Leigh Blackmore
 David Margetson
 Bob Wallace
 Barry Curtis
 Allistair Stephens
 Bronwyn Bant
 Graham Pearson
 Dene Marshall
 Catherine McDermott

Manager
 Project Manager (Native Veg & Waterways)
 Regional Landcare Facilitator (Sustainable Ag)
 Accounts and Payroll Officer
 Project Manager (Invasive Plant & Animal)
 Events Coordinator (Community Engagement)
 Works Crew Supervisor
 Weed Control Officer
 Administration Officer (Native Veg & Waterways)

leighblackmore@platypus.org.au 0407 320 093
david@platypus.org.au 0427 881 021
bob@platypus.org.au 0409 740 521
accounts@platypus.org.au
allistair@platypus.org.au 0408 787 813
bronwyn@platypus.org.au 0428 255 936
admin@platypus.org.au



This newsletter has been put together by staff of the Project Platypus Landcare Team with contributions from local Landcare group members. Please forward any contributions for future newsletters to Catherine McDermott at admin@platypus.org.au

Project Platypus Landcare Network

Tel. (03) 5358 4410
Fax . (03) 5358 4441
www.platypus.org.au

Have you got an email address??

If so please contact us to receive the newsletter by email.

printed on recycled paper

**PROJECT
PLATYPUS**

UPPER WIMMERA LANDCARE



PO BOX 838 STAWELL VICTORIA 3380

POSTAGE

PAID

AUSTRALIA