



## PROJECT PLATYPUS 20 YEARS ON

No. 43 Spring 2014

# 20th Anniversary Celebration

**Friday 17th, October 2014**  
**Grange Golf Club**  
**Western Highway, Stawell**

*'All Welcome'*

"Clean Water Revival", "Platypus Survival", "Platypus Project" & "Wimmera Solution 2000" were some of names that were thrown around back in 1994 when trying to decide what to call this group that would act as an umbrella body for the 11 Landcare Groups of the Upper Wimmera. 20 Years later and the name "Project Platypus" has been engrained in the Upper Wimmera Landcare Community, and the broader farming and natural resource management communities in Western Victoria and beyond. This is a significant milestone for our organisation and all those that have been involved in any way over the years should be extremely proud of being part of Project Platypus and its achievements.

To celebrate this momentous occasion we invite the community to join us for an afternoon and evening of activity on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> of October. The day will kick off at 12pm with a BBQ at the Grange Golf Club on the Western Highway in Stawell. Those involved will board a bus and travel around inspecting landcare works that have been undertaken across the Upper Wimmera Catchment over the last 20 years. Participants will arrive back at the Golf Course by 5pm where pre-dinner drinks and nibbles will be enjoyed whilst the formalities of the Project Platypus AGM will be held. Col Driscoll, a local bush poet, will entertain the crowd from 6.30pm where selected guests will be invited to share Project Platypus stories and anecdotes. Dinner will be served around 7pm, with speakers concluding by 9pm. Guests will be invited to stay on to socialise and listen to some gentle local live music. We welcome anyone with an interest in Landcare, but ask that anyone intending to attend either part of or the entire event to register on the Project Platypus website or phone the office on 5358 4410.

### Feature Stories:

20th Year Anniversary Celebration  
Concongella PS Tree Planting  
Gazania - Slow & Steady  
Pasture Cropping & Grazing W/shop  
Plantout 2014  
UW Landcare Events

### Regular Features:

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

## 20TH YEAR

### Anniversary Celebration

**Friday 17th October, 2014**

**Grange Golf Club**

**Western Highway, Stawell**

Kicks off with BBQ lunch at 12pm

*'All Welcome'*



## PROJECT PLATYPUS CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE

Phil Hall

Hi Fellow Landcarers.

I would like to take this opportunity to invite all readers of this newsletter to the Project Platypus AGM. It will be a great chance to reminisce about the fantastic achievements made in the "UPPER CATCHMENT" over the past 20 YEARS. (All details can be found in this issue) For those people that are new to Landcare, this is a great time to get involved, join in and make the next 20 years even better.

At Project Platypus we are always looking for new people with great ideas to get involved at all levels. You could become a Board member, join one of our many Committees or just be involved in one of the many events throughout the year. If you are interested and require more information just give me a ring or contact the office at any time.

The Project Platypus Board in conjunction with Manager Leigh and all staff are always striving to make improvements in the operation of our organization. All our member Landcare Groups and landholders have been asked to fill in a survey to let us know what they think. This is a great opportunity to let us know what we are doing well or not so well. Please take a few minutes and fill it in.

As most of you would be aware from all the media reports, funding for Landcare may become harder to obtain. We have been working very hard to make sure Landmate will continue, and that we have an excellent working relationship with the Wimmera CMA, Department of Primary Industries and Environment and our four Local Councils as well as our many local and corporate sponsors. With this collaborative approach I have a high level of confidence that we can deliver ongoing support to the Upper Catchment.

My thoughts are that in the future land holders and Landcare Groups are going to be required to plan projects as well as on ground works up to 3 years in advance to give Project Platypus enough time to match funding with projects. There are a lot of funding options available to complete projects, but when they are announced the closing dates are often very short and mostly require specific site details to be submitted with the applications. If we can match funding with specific sites in a short period of time then we are better placed to be successful in this process.

Yours Sincerely

Phil Hall, Chairman



## PROJECT PLATYPUS MANAGER'S UPDATE

Leigh Blackmore

Well, there is plenty going on as usual in the world of Landcare in the Upper Wimmera. After a busy planting season, a short gasp of breath is taken and then back into it. There have been some great achievements over the last 4 months which are mentioned in brief within this newsletter, well done to all those involved in making all this happen – it doesn't just happen on its own. A special 'thank you' to all the landholders and volunteers involved in a successful Plantout series with 5 community plantings taking place and 6 school plantings. I'd also like to make special mention of two work experience students who volunteered their time for a week each; Michael Standfield and Georgia McDermott, their help has been very much appreciated.

During August I was lucky enough to be part of "Great Eastern Ranges" forum and workshop which allowed me view what we are achieving in the Upper Wimmera in a national and global context. In short, there seems to be a swell of enthusiasm behind the concept of connectivity conservation, i.e. thinking about how the environmental system functions over a large area. In Australia there are several identified 'Large Scale Biolinks' of which one is the Great Eastern Ranges, which aims to improve connectivity along the Great Dividing Range from the Grampians to the Atherton Tablelands. The Upper Wimmera Catchment fits perfectly within the Biolink and our activities contribute towards this larger project. This is a great opportunity to raise the profile of what's happening in the Upper Wimmera Catchment and attract additional resources to undertake Landcare work in our area. Information about the Great Eastern Ranges project can be found on their website at [www.greateasterranges.org.au](http://www.greateasterranges.org.au).

For those who are interested in Federal Government Environmental policy, you will find that there has been some significant changes to these programs. The Caring for Our Country Program has now been replaced by the National Landcare Programme and funding reduced by about 25%. Given the reference to Landcare in the program's title it is envisaged that it will put Landcare back at the forefront of natural resource management. Information about this program and how it relates to Grass Roots Landcare can be found on the Victorian Landcare Council website at [www.vlc.org.au](http://www.vlc.org.au).

Bob Wallace and myself recently attended a meeting regarding the Landmate Program and I am pleased to advise that there was huge Community and Government support for this program, so much so that with the expanding prisons there was firm commitment to grow the Landmate program. Anyone interested in finding out more or getting involved in the program please make contact with Bob Wallace. In addition to coordinating the Landmate crews and assisting local landcare groups Bob has been organising an agroforestry training course to be held in the Upper Wimmera. Although the course officially commenced this week, if you are interested in finding out more about agroforestry make contact with Bob and he can point you in the right direction.

Finally I'd like to mention the Community Engagement Subcommittee. This Committee's last meeting focused the 2014 Plantout, who came up with some great ideas how we can continue to build upon this iconic event. Their next meeting will be held on the 26th of November and will be focusing on Local Landcare Group Health. If you feel you can contribute to this discussion then please get in touch and we can have a chat about it, or come along to this meeting to be involved. I once heard a good saying "The future is in the hands of those who turn up".

All the best and happy Landcaring,

Leigh Blackmore





Twenty enthusiastic students from Concongella Primary School participated in the planting of 1,600 indigenous plants on Denis Monaghan's property northeast of Stawell. Project Platypus received \$2,000 from Stawell Gold Mines, as part of its Community Grants Program, the funding provides an opportunity to involve young people in the rehabilitation of the local landscape and surrounding environment by tree planting on a local farming property.



The students learn about the role of trees and the multiple benefits trees provide to the farming landscape such as stock shelter, increased biodiversity and provision of habitat. If anyone is interested in getting involved in future planting activities, either landholders, schools or community volunteers, then please get in touch with Project Platypus on 5358 4410 or visit our website at [www.platypus.org.au](http://www.platypus.org.au)



## GAZANIA - SLOW AND STEADY WINS THE RACE

Al Stephens

Most people will be familiar with Gazania, even those that may not know its name will be familiar with the multi coloured prominent flowers along roadsides and in reserves in the spring. *Gazania linearis* is a perennial herb native to South Africa (where all good weeds call home!) that was introduced to Australia as an ornamental plant. It is tough as anyone that has tried to control it will know, possessing a deep tap root enabling it to survive very dry conditions. Underground rhizomes store energy and enable the plants to produce new seedlings each year, steadily expanding from the point of origin. *Gazania* is also spread by seed which is present on the plant into early summer after flowering in the spring. Fluffy airborne seeds enabling *Gazania* seeds to drift on the wind for long distances much like a thistle or Dandelion.

*Gazania* is one of those species that has gained a level of acceptance in our natural landscape due to its showy flowers that most people enjoy and its apparent static rate of spread and minimal impact on local ecosystems. This is not true; *Gazania* is becoming a real problem around Stawell and surrounding reserves of remnant native vegetation displacing local endemic species and modifying these areas from their relatively intact condition. It is infestation by stealth, slowly over the years spreading until the realisation that it is a widespread and highly damaging species in these significant remnant areas. The problem is further complicated by the fact that *Gazania* not a prescribed pest plant and will therefore as a result not attract attention or funding through government grants and management agencies. This leaves only a few options; for *Gazania* to be included as a threat to a specific vegetation community or species and controlled to "protect" a threatened asset or it is up to local community and the landcare members to take matters into their own hands and take the job on themselves.

*Gazania* is tough to control with herbicide; glyphosate seems to be fairly ineffective. Metsulfuron Methyl 600g/kg at a rate of 15g + penetrant (Consume, Pulse etc) + dye per 100 litres of spray mix should be effective. Up to 20 grams per 100 litres may be a good idea to assure thorough control. Spraying will be most effective when plants are actively growing between August and December during spring. *Gazania* is quite often found scattered in amongst native vegetation so be careful with off target damage to surrounding vegetation. Hand digging with a shovel or mattock is good when there is some moisture in the ground but be sure to dispose of plants thoughtfully as they will take root again given the chance if conditions are wet enough. The key message here is that it is time for everyone concerned with the health and integrity of our local remnants of native vegetation to start paying attention to *Gazania* and not to just accept it as one of those weeds we do not need to do anything about. For those in the community that have been chipping and slashing and trying to keep it at bay over the years, good work. For the rest of us it may be time to pay attention before this species has taken over, right under our noses.



# PERENNIAL PASTURE SYSTEMS 6TH ANNUAL STUDY TOUR

The 6<sup>th</sup> annual Perennial Pasture Systems study tour headed for Kyneton in the late afternoon of Wednesday August 6<sup>th</sup> no other activity was planned for the night so the group headed for dinner and were joined by members of the O'Sullivan family whose farm was to be the first visit the next day as well as Jane Court from DEPI who has assisted on the reporting of PPS projects. Thursday commenced with an early breakfast before heading east



through the granite country to Pastoria and the O'Sullivan's "Theaden" property where Michael O'Sullivan outlined the properties history and the business structure. Michael moved on to talk about the O'Sullivan's 7000 ewe and 400 cow breeding operation and the issues of growing productive pastures on granite soils with their subsoil acidity and high aluminium levels. Michael has moved into phalaris based pastures after issues with ryegrass based pastures. Lisa Warn from Melbourne University then talked about trial work on "Theaden" before the group headed out to look at a paired Landmaster and Advanced AT phalaris pasture which has been a spectacular success in a paddock formerly dominated by bent grass.

An inspection of a Heritage Seeds grass trial was undertaken before a tour to the top of the hill overlooking the "Theaden" woolshed which opened onto a large plateau which showcased the O'Sullivan farm and the attention to detail in its layout. The tour finished with a hearty morning tea provided by Michaels's family in the woolshed.

It was then onto Glenaroua near Seymour to Sarah and Ross Thompson's Chapman Hill Olive Oil where Sarah took everyone through the history of the olives which were initially planted in 1999 and the development of the plantation and associated olive oil processing. Sarah's background in food services gave her the skills to get Chapman Hill oil into some on Melbourne's top restaurants and expand the business. It was then onto the "hut" which allowed the group to have a look at the extensive landcare work that the Thomson's have carried out over the years. After an olive oil tasting and lunch at the "hut" situated on a timbered hill on the farm and styled on high country huts, Ross outlined the rest of the family business and their reasons for diversification which was to provide a healthy income for themselves and family members who have joined the enterprise. The Thomson's have identified a market being this close to Melbourne and as well as the olives have commenced a range of activities on the farm including weddings in the large woolshed, functions at the "hut" and partridge shoots in some of their hill country. Ross also mentioned their 18,000 merino operation focused on fine wool production and turning lambs off the older ewes.

The Thomson's operation was a great example of a well run sheep operation diversifying into other areas utilising the individual skills of family members and exploiting the opportunities provided by city people wanting a farm experience.

PPS members were settling in well at the "hut" listening to Ross and Sarah's tales of their new ideas but were finally rounded up and headed for the day's final stop at the Fox's property "Cambrain" near Merton. Alan Fox took us through the farm's operation and the family business which has had continued expansion, Alan said that the business plans to be in control of its operations at all times and this has lead to the establishment of a 5000 head feedlot to finish lambs or contain stock in dry periods. After the discussion in the house an inspection of the feedlot, large and efficient woolshed and new undercover sheep handling area was undertaken. The sheep handling area has only recently been completed and all were impressed with its design which included sheep scales with an automated three way drafting machine.

The farm visit ended with a drive into the farm's foothills along the central laneway where the productive pastures, land class fencing and landcare work were a tribute to the Fox's farming philosophy. The day finished with dinner for the tour group in Mansfield where we were joined by Alan and Ailsa Fox, one of the next day's hosts Mark Ritchie and farm entrepreneur Chris Stoney. After dinner Chris took us through his farming career which included high country cattle grazing before the government ban, hosting horse trail rides, joint ownership of an outback pub and now focuses on leasing farms in the Riverina, Gippsland as well as country around Mansfield. It is a highly geared business running nearly 50,000 ewes with lamb finishing on the Gippsland lease; Chris's entertaining talk convinced everyone that this type of operation is not for the faint hearted and requires a very high degree of organisational skill but hopefully will end up being very rewarding.

On the final day PPS headed to Dr Rod Manning's "Davilak Pastoral Co" near Mansfield. Rod has officially retired from both the farm management and his Mansfield vet practice but after a forty minute introduction to the farm business, most of us were left in doubt regarding his description of retired. "Davilak" is an amalgamation of freehold and leased country and runs a 1600 Angus breeding operation as well as trading cattle throughout the year. Rod aims to double the size of the operation every ten years and has done so ever since he added farming to his veterinary career. Rod emphasised that using sensible debt levels were a key driver to this expansion.



PPS President with Dr Rod Manning Mansfield



## PERENNIAL PASTURE SYSTEMS... CONTINUED

The pasture base is phalaris and sub clover with an intensive 5-7 day rotation and a focus on trying to minimise supplementary feed costs. While some of the phalaris pastures on "Divilak" are forty years old, some have declined but are replaced by Victorian perennial ryegrass which has colonised most of the Mansfield area. While recognising the merits of the ryegrass; Rod is adamant that phalaris is needed to provide adequate winter feed for his operation.

Rod is very conscious of mineral deficiencies and their possible sub clinical effects on the herd and has salt constantly available for the cattle. We had a drive through some of the pastures before a stop at the cattle yards where many questions were asked on Rod's theories on mineral requirements before returning to the house for smoko. Rod spent a year of his "retirement" building the magnificent house from materials on the farm using a red gum timber and sandstone design with feature windows looking out on the Mansfield Valley and the snow topped Mt Buller. Rod told us of his next "retirement" plan which consists of a thirty day walking and climbing expedition in South America. He also expanded into his risk management program and the critical points which the business uses in that process. PPS has already asked him to speak to the group again at some stage in the future to expand on some of his farm business innovations.

PPS then headed south over the Delatite River for the final stop at "Delatite Station" where Mark Ritchie took us through a business analysis of the 2600 ha sheep and cattle breeding operation. "Delatite Station" has an 8300 ewe flock with a sheep total of 20,000 and 1280 cows in the 2600 cattle herd. Mark and Fenella Ritchie have a breeding program accessing high range genetics through ASBV's. Most of the pastures are ryegrass based with a higher emphasis planned on Banquet 2 ryegrass and phalaris based pastures.

The tour through "Delatite Station" showed the balance between high stocking rates and winter pasture production with stock in good condition and pastures well grazed ready for the spring. Further discussion was held focusing on the high labour efficiency on "Delatite Station" and the use of gibberillic acid to improve winter feed growth. Mark made the point that they attempt to be an efficient low cost operation with good benchmarking to make sure that they achieve this aim.

The tour ended with lunch in gardens of the Delatite homestead which overlook the Delatite River. The homestead is currently undergoing an extensive renovation before Mark and Fenella and their family move in around Xmas. It will be great to see the homestead, which is over one hundred years old rejuvenated and taking its place overlooking the station land. The PPS group then headed off on the long journey home after visiting five inspirational properties and hearing from six innovative farm businesses. The tour again opened up possibilities for future PPS speakers and projects and was regarded by all as a very successful venture both educationally and socially.

*PPS acknowledges the support of the Glenelg Hopkins CMA for the 6<sup>th</sup> annual PPS study tour*



## PASTURE CROPPING & GRAZING MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP

The town of **Newstead** will host a two day intensive workshop focused on Pasture Cropping and Grazing Management. The event will be held at the football clubrooms with an on farm visit to be included in the workshop. **The dates are 14 & 15 October 2014.** This workshop will feature industry experts and pioneers Colin Seis and Graeme Hand. The aim of the workshop is to provide commercial farmers with a 'how-to of Pasture Cropping and Grazing Management' - a greater depth of descriptions and questioning on these topics than our previous sessions.

Colin Seis will present all you need to know on how to transition from conventional cropping to pasture cropping including:

- The history of pasture cropping
- The benefits of pasture cropping
- Keys to successfully integrating grazing into a cropping cycle
- How to create resilient and diverse pastures
- Machinery, fertilisers, herbicides (if any)

Graeme Hand will present on what it takes for successful adoption of Planned Grazing including:

- Enterprise design- Adjusting stocking rate at a profit
- Animal phenotype and the impact of no inputs, grass genetics and immunity
- Infrastructure- staging changes
- Monitoring- recovery, dung, gut fill, water and the importance of corrective action
- Perennial grass- litter, decomposition, diversity
- Training- making decisions within the correct context, how to set up a practice paddock and planning



**About the presenters:** From 1992 until present, Colin Seis has been developing "pasture cropping", a technique of sowing cereal crops directly into native perennial pastures. The approach combines grazing and cropping into a single land use method where each one benefits the other economically and environmentally. (A ground swell of over 1500 farmers are already using the technique in Australia and it is also being adopted in the northern hemisphere.)

As well as managing "Winona" Colin has been running a farm consultancy business advising landholders on Pasture Cropping, native grass management, grazing management and land management. During the last 15 years Colin has spoken at many workshops and seminars around Australia and internationally on the practical aspects of the system. In 2005 Colin won the Central West Conservation Farmer of the year award and in 2007 won the inaugural "Carbon farmer of the year" award in NSW.

Graeme Hand is a Holistic Management Certified Educator. Graeme was taught by Alan Savory (<http://www.savoryinstitute.com/>) and learnt much through observing and through his own experience on his farm and other people's farms.

Graeme is an engaging speaker and well-known expert on establishing profitable farming systems through the adoption of regenerative practices. This is a great opportunity for landholders to gain an overview on profitable, regenerative management practices aimed at improving the health of your stock, pastures and land while increasing profit and managing your workload.

**Places are strictly limited. To secure a place at this limited seating event please RSVP before Monday 13th October to p: (03) 5448 7124 or e: [info@nccma.vic.gov.au](mailto:info@nccma.vic.gov.au)**

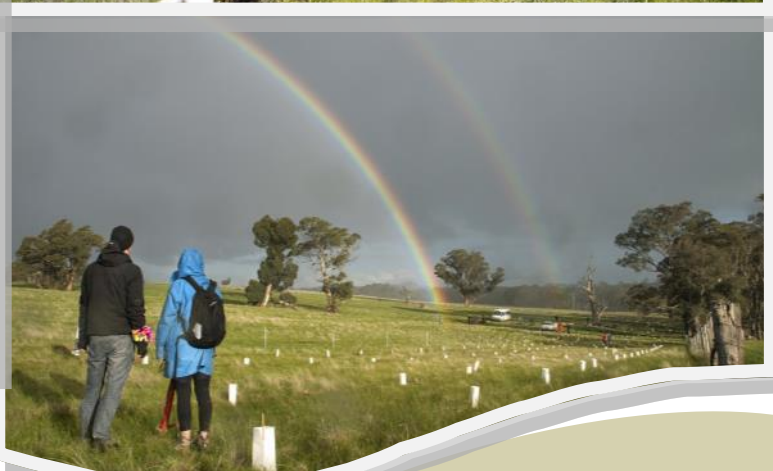






Project Platypus staff would like to extend a huge thank you to all those energetic volunteers who braved the elements to plant over 20,000 seedlings over the months of June and July. The appreciation of the landholders and the positive comments from participants means we will continue to hold the very successful Plantout well into the future. These events couldn't be achieved without the combined efforts of everyone involved including sponsors Australian Government, the landowners, Moyston Landcare Group, Jallukar Landcare Group, Crowlands Landcare Group, Laharum Grove Olives, Frenchman's Valley Wines, Grampians Eco Youth Hostel, Ararat Live, Callum Nicholson, Scouts, and Carus Thompson. We would also like to acknowledge and say a big thank you to all the children who participated in these planting days, you were amazing!

Photos by Marty Schoo [www.martyschoo.com.au](http://www.martyschoo.com.au)



Australian Government





## PLANTOUT 2014 - THANK YOU!





# ON GROUND WORKS UPDATE

## **INVASIVE PLANTS & ANIMALS : by Allistair Stephens**

Since the last update the works crew have completed a large project controlling Spiny Rush around Lake Fyans on private and public land. This work was made possible by funding provided by GWMWater for weed control around the water storages. Control work which consisted of spot spraying has accounted for 61.7 hectares of Spiny Rush controlled along channels and low lying areas. GWMWater funding was also utilised to spot spray 8.8 hectares of St John's Wort around Panrock reservoir in the Black Range late in 2013. Work is ongoing with our Sallow Wattle control project with a lot of work completed since the last newsletter. Our works crew has hand cut and controlled around 81 ha of land infested with Sallow Wattle in the Ledcourt Forest and scattered plants along roadsides in the Northern Grampians Shire area. Mapping is currently underway in areas of remnant vegetation in the Lake Fyans and Devils Garden area to identify isolated plants in this area for follow-up control.

Flax Leaf Broom is the most prevalent woody weed species around Stawell and has taken a real hit in the last few months with a lot of work completed on behalf of the Stawell Urban Landcare Group (SULC) and Northern Grampians Shire Council (NGSC). This control work represents how a co-ordinated control program across public and private land tenures can achieve complete eradication of a specific species in areas. Complete control of Flax Leaf Broom has been achieved in many areas around Stawell but these gains will only be short term with follow-up control works necessary over coming years to control emergent seedlings that will come up from seed stored in the soil. Follow-up funding is being applied for further control work next year to control what infestations remain and it is hoped that a similar funding split between SULC and NGSC will permit Flax Leaf Broom to be controlled on private property and also over the fence on the road reserve in one operation. The annual control program for Chilean needle grass (CNG) in and around Moyston Township was completed in June. Using GPS information of infestations gathered during mapping in December 2013, CNG infestations located down to the level of single plants were spot sprayed. This represents the third consecutive year of mapping and control using Flupropanate herbicide with real gains becoming evident. This year's mapping program in December when plants are in flower making them easy to ID should reveal a drastic reduction in infestations and provide an excellent before and after contrast.



Our works crew have also been busy controlling Rabbits and regionally controlled weed species like Broom sp., Boneseed and Box Thorn for Northern Grampians Shire Council along road reserves. This control work has been targeted using information gathered from Landcare groups in the upper catchment and is a good news story with funding provided by council being used to control invasive plants and animals in response to community concerns. It is now Bridal Creeper control season with a number of funding sources available to complete some much needed follow-up control on previously controlled sites. A week of control work has already been completed along the Wimmera River at Glenorchy using Victorian Landcare Grant money which is timely follow-up on the work completed two years ago. Project Platypus have been successful in gaining

some funding for Bridal Creeper control through a Communities for Nature grant (DEPI) in the southern half of the upper catchment. Follow-up Bridal Creeper control work has also begun in Jallukar forest for Parks Victoria and is the third consecutive year of control in this area with excellent gains now evident. Future works will include Spiny Rush and Rabbit control work for the Jallukar landcare group, Weed control along the Mt William creek near Dadswells Bridge for Northern Grampians Landcare group, Ararat Rural City roadside tender works and more Sallow Wattle control.

## **NATIVE VEGETATION : by David Margetson**

This year has seen another busy revegetation season, with Project Platypus involved in planting 36,000 stems. The majority of this work was undertaken by community volunteers and students (420 individuals), with additional work being undertaken by prisoners, through the Landmate Program and some with Project Platypus employees. This year's Native Vegetation protection and establishment program worked with 17 landholders across the Upper Wimmera Catchment resulting in 140 hectares of land being managed for conservation. Most of this work was part of the Federally funded Grampians to Pyrenees Biolink project, which aims to improve ecological connectivity between the Grampians National Park and the Pyrenees Ranges. This project is targeted to specific locations within the Upper Wimmera and it was identified early that landholders outside the target area still wanted to get involved in Project Platypus's revegetation program. Based on this demand we were able to access funding through various means including the Helen McPherson Smith Trust, Stawell Gold Mine, Carey Grammar, Pacific Hydro and the Department of Environment and Primary Industries' Communities for Nature Program. With this extra funding we able to assist all landholders who had expressed an interest in getting involved in Project Platypus's Native Vegetation protection and establishment program.



Now is the time for us to start identifying project sites for 2015 protection and planting works. The target area for the Grampians to Pyrenees Biolink project is in the process of being refined and will be ready for public comment soon. In the meantime we are keen to hear from any landholder who may be interested in getting involved. Like we did this year, if we have demand for projects, then we will seek support either through Government, Corporate or Philanthropic organisations to recognise the environmental and community benefit that these projects bring. Please don't be afraid of making contact with David who will have a chat about your project idea, come out and have a look and if both you and David think it is a good idea, then a plan of action can be developed and Project Platypus can seek financial or labour support to make your project idea a reality. David can be contacted on 0427 881 021, email at [david@platypus.org.au](mailto:david@platypus.org.au) or you can contact the office on 5358 4410.

## **LANDMATE : by Bob Wallace**

Ararat Landmate crew have been undertaking many environmental and community works around the Upper Wimmera and Glenelg Hopkins catchments. Jobs include broom control at the hospital in Stawell, revegetation and riparian fencing in Concongella, tree planting for Project Platypus. The crew have been working on some fire recovery work in the Northern Grampians, and track stabilisation work with Parks Victoria. Langi Kal Landmate crew have been working on projects in the Corangamite and Glenelg Hopkins catchments. The Langi Kal crew have been tree planting, riparian and revegetation fencing, brush cutting and physical removal of weeds, rubbish removal, and some community work. If you would like to register for environmental or community work please contact Bob Wallace the Landmate Co-ordinator on 03 5358 4410.





**Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> November**

**Ideas and Inspiration FREE**

Visit five **food producing gardens** in Stawell  
between 9.00 am and 1.00 pm

**PLUS**

Attend **workshops** on:

- \* baking sourdough bread 10.30 am to 12.30 pm
- \* keeping chooks 1.00 pm to 2.00 pm
- \* Burrum Biodynamics cooking class 2.30 pm to 4.00 pm

Bookings for workshops required as places are limited



For more information  
[www.platypus.org.au](http://www.platypus.org.au)  
11A Ararat Road, Stawell  
**5358 4410**



The Open Kitchen Garden Day is a **free event** organised by  
Stawell Urban Landcare and supported by Grampians Community Health



## MOYSTON GRASS WALK

26<sup>th</sup> October 2014  
Meet at the Moyston General Store,  
10am-12noon.

### Grass ID Workshop 9<sup>th</sup> November

At Moyston Fire Station 10am-12noon.  
(or hall if there is a call out)  
Bring a magnifying glass or Jewellers lens (x10), available  
from Jaycar (Jerrams) Ararat.

For more information:  
Adam 0458 965 333



## FARM, STOCK & WILDLIFE MONITORING

### Trail camera information session

learn about different types of cameras  
&  
see actual footage, both still and video.

**Sunday, 14<sup>th</sup> September, 2014**  
**at the Moyston Fire Station**



10am – 12noon. **No bookings necessary**  
Enquiries: Adam Merrick 0458 965 333.  
**'All Welcome'**

# UPPER WIMMERA LANDCARE GROUPS UPDATE

## Black Range:

**President: Neil Marriott**

**Secretary: Helen Rosenbaum**

## Concongella:

**President: Malcolm Nicholson**

**Secretary: Mark McLean**

Concongella Landcare Group have received funding through the Victorian Landcare Grant to be spent on weed and rabbit control

## Crowlands

**President: Rod Verring**

**Secretary: Harold Thomas**

Crowlands Landcare group have been undertaking extensive pest control activities. The group successfully obtained funding through last year's round of the Victorian Landcare Grants. Group members are maximising their funds by carrying out a majority of the work themselves. The target weed for this project is Spiny Rush; landholders will contribute 50% towards control work.

## Elmhurst:

**President: Michael Roberts**

**Secretary: Christine Baines**

Elmhurst Landcare group have been working in conjunction with the Department of Environment and Primary Industries, Landcare group members and landholders in their Landcare group area to undertake extensive rabbit harbour destruction, through ripping. The group have been taking "expressions of interest" from landholders for assistance. Landcare group members and the Landcare groups 'Vermin Committee' will determine the most cost effective areas to use this funding. This work has been made possible through the Victorian Landcare Grants.

## Great Western:

**President: Mark Kindred**

**Secretary: Paul Dakis**

## Jallukar:

**President: Michael McMurtrie**

**Secretary: Phil Williams**

Jallukar Landcare group have finalised the design of a sign to be displayed at the picnic area of the Miller's Creek reserve in the township of Pomonal. The sign has information about the Jallukar Landcare group's area, the Millers creek project, as well as the Jallukar Landcare group's achievements.

## Landsborough:

**President: Daryl Leslie**

**Secretary: Greg Dean**

Landsborough Landcare group are about to proceed with weed control works in and around the township of Landsborough. They will be concentrating their efforts on Gorse, Patterson curse and horehound. The group will be using the Ararat Landmate crew for assistance.

## Moyston:

**President: David Coad**

**Secretary: Rosie Nater**

The Moyston Landcare Group hosted a successful Moyston Community Dinner in April and again had an information tent at the Moyston Easter Market. Chilean Needle Grass spraying around Moyston was completed early July by Project Platypus on the sites mapped in November. The group was successful in obtaining funds for next year's spraying as well in Round 4 of Communities for Nature grants. Partnering with Pacific Hydro, members planted trees at Ian & Kevin Brady's. As part of the Project Platypus 2014 Plantout weekends, a planting of 6000 trees was held at Norval. This was the Bushdoof theme, which saw many young city people come planting alongside locals and then enjoy a night of music. The AGM was held in August and saw David Coad return as president and the rest of the positions also remaining unchanged. Upcoming events include a trail camera information workshop on 14<sup>th</sup> September and a Grasses Walk and ID session 26<sup>th</sup> Oct & 9<sup>th</sup> Nov. All welcome.

## Navarre:

**President: Shane Bibby**

**Secretary: Richard & Liz Kelleher**

## Northern Grampians:

**President: Peter Jackman**

**Secretary: Leanne Jackman**

Northern Grampians Landcare group are in the process of conducting weed control work in their Landcare group area. The group are concentrating their efforts on Bridal Creeper, as well as rabbit fumigation work. The grant involves engaging the community to get involved with Landcare. The group were able to receive funding for their project through the Victorian Landcare grants.

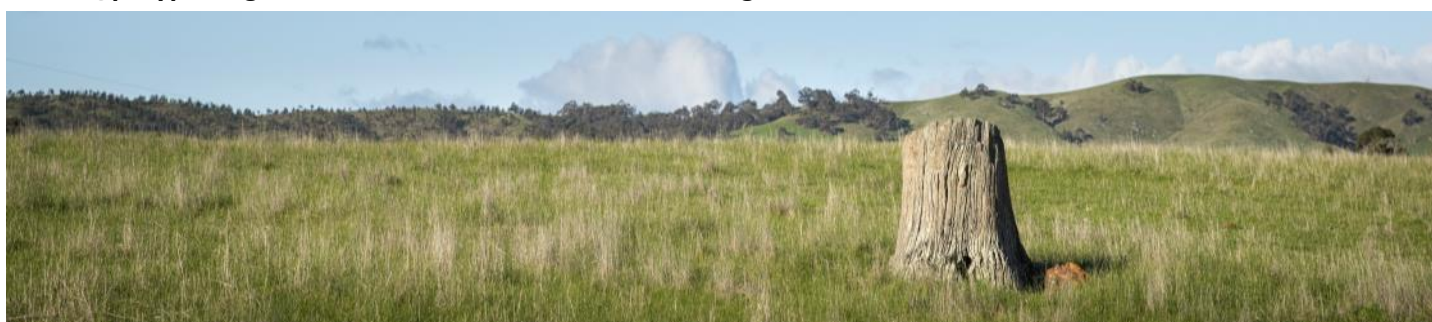
## Stawell Urban:

**President: Mandy Smith**

**Secretary: Cathy McDermott**

Stawell Urban Landcare group have applied for a Victorian Landcare Grant for broom control, Ironbarks walks and litter clean up in the Stawell area. The group will be holding the 2014 Ironbarks walks with students from Stawell West Primary School, 502 Primary School and St Pats Primary school in September. The group held a promotional display in Main St Stawell as part of Landcare Week. An Open Kitchen Garden Day and Workshops will be held on Saturday 22nd November, 2014 FREE EVENT. All welcome! The AGM will be held on Tuesday 9th September, Leigh Blackmore has been invited to the meeting to hold an action planning session.

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



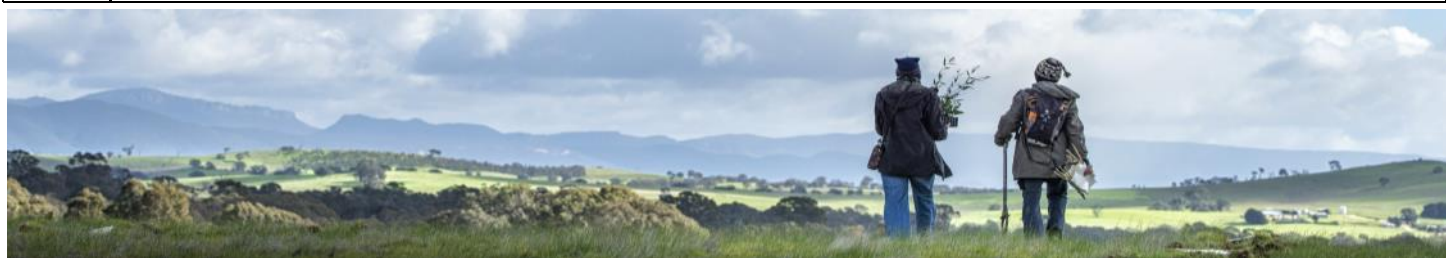
## GRANT INFORMATION DETAILS

Title/Provider	Grant Detail/ Aims	Closing Date	Value
<b>FRRR</b>	Small Grants for Rural Communities are available for projects and activities that offer clear public benefit for communities in rural, regional or remote Australia. Priority is given to communities of 10,000 or fewer.	26 Sept 2014	Upto \$5000
<b>Pacific Hydro</b>	Applications are accepted from community groups and organisations operating in the Ararat Rural City for projects who are working to provide lasting social, environmental and/or community benefits in their local region. <a href="http://www.pacifichydro.com.au/">http://www.pacifichydro.com.au/</a>	23 Sept 2014	



# EVENTS CALENDAR

September	
14	Moyston Landcare Group - Trail Camera Information Workshop
17	Wimmera Master Tree Growers Course contact Bob Wallace on 53584410
18	Wimmera Master Tree Growers Course contact Bob Wallace on 53584410
19	Wimmera Master Tree Growers Course contact Bob Wallace on 53584410
25	Wimmera Master Tree Growers Course - contact Bus Tour Bob Wallace on 53584410
26	Wimmera Master Tree Growers Course - contact Bus Tour Bob Wallace on 53584410
October	
2	Wimmera Master Tree Growers Course contact Bob Wallace on 53584410
3	Wimmera Master Tree Growers Course contact Bob Wallace on 53584410
17	Project Platypus 20 Year Celebrations & AGM for bookings visit <a href="http://www.platypus.org.au">www.platypus.org.au</a> or ph. 5358 4410
14 & 15	Pasture Cropping & Grazing Management Workshop at Newstead to book ph. 03 5448 7124 or <a href="mailto:info@nccma.vic.gov.au">info@nccma.vic.gov.au</a>
26	Moyston Landcare Grp - Moyston Grass Walk 10am- 12pm meet at Moyston General Store ph. Adam 0458 965 333
November	
9	Moyston Landcare Group - Grass ID Workshop 10am -12 Moyston Fire Station ph. Adam 0458 965 333
22	Stawell Urban Landcare "Open Kitchen Garden" & workshops contact Cathy McDermott 0458 732 636



## PROJECT PLATYPUS COMMITTEE & STAFF MEMBERS

### The Board - Project Platypus

Phil Hall, Chairman  
 Steven Start, Vice Chairman  
 Michael Greene, Treasurer  
 Mark McKew, Secretary  
 Leanne Jackman  
 Rosie Nater  
 Michael McMurtrie  
 Lachie Green  
 Ian Nicholson  
 Richard Kelleher

Concongella Landcare Group  
 Crowlands Landcare Group  
 Elmhurst Landcare Group  
 Crowlands Landcare Group  
 Northern Grampians Landcare Group  
 Moyston Landcare Group  
 Jallukar Landcare Group  
 Jallukar Landcare Group  
 Stawell Urban Landcare Group  
 Navarre Landcare Group

### Committee Members

Partnerships & Funding  
 Native Vegetation & Waterways

Invasive Plants & Animals

Sustainable Agriculture

Community Engagement

Leanne Jackman, Michael Greene, Michael McMurtrie, Ian Nicholson  
 Rosie Nater, George Holden, Phil Williams, Rob Arnsts, Neil Howell, Luke Austin (WCMA),  
 David Margetson, Peter Start, Allistair Stephens  
 Rosie Nater, 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, Allistair Stephens  
 Mark McKew, Leanne Jackman, Rosie Nater, Larry McLean, Steph Arnsts, Rob Shea,  
 Bob Wallace  
 Leanne Jackman, Rosie Nater, Madelene Townsend, Bronwyn Bant, Cathy McDermott, Bob Wallace

### Staff

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

Manager  
 Project Manager (Native Vegetation Program)  
 Regional Landcare Facilitator/Landmate Coordinator  
 Project Manager (Invasive Plant & Animal Program)  
 Events Coordinator (Community Engagement)  
 Weed Control Supervisor  
 Weed Control Supervisor  
 Administration Officer/Events Coordinator  
 Accounts and Payroll Officer

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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 [cath@platypus.org.au](mailto:cath@platypus.org.au)

**Project Platypus**  
**Upper Wimmera Landcare Network**

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**PROJECT  
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