



CHICKS IN THE STICKS

No. 38 Summer 2012

Farming ladies from the upper Wimmera descended on Elmhurst property "Millbanks" for the first Chicks in the Sticks in the region last Wednesday evening. Close to thirty Chicks took part in the women only event, designed to give local ladies the opportunity to network, socialise and gather information on sustainable farming practices. It was great to see close to thirty ladies attend and take part in what was an informative, inspiring and importantly fun evening.



Cocktails and canapés were followed by a short tour of the property with Jodie Greene. Millbank's has been farmed by the Greene family for three generations. The property is a mixture of steep hill country, intermediate slopes and Wimmera River flats. Early settlement practises of over grazing the fragile soils and annual pasture bases began to take its toll on the property, with deep erosion gullies forming. The Greene's took a combination of practical and innovative action to address the gully erosion, even taking out the Soil Conservation Department esteemed Hanslow Cup on two occasions. The Greene's continue to prevent erosion on their property through the establishment of perennial pastures,

fencing off waterways, and excluding livestock from the Wimmera River. "Millbanks" is a great example of where smart business management has also lead to better environmental outcomes. The use of perennial pastures, riparian fencing, revegetation and stock exclusion all help to keep soil in paddocks where it's needed, rather than in waterways where soil run-off leads to poor water quality and low biodiversity values.



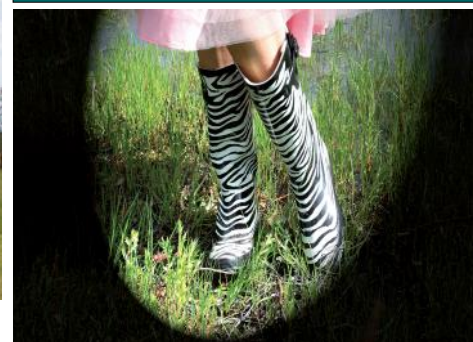
Chicks in the Sticks also included a presentation from environmental biologist Josh Griffiths, who unveiled a few platypus secrets before completing platypus surveys in the area. Based on the success of our first Chicks in the Sticks, we look forward to organising more in the future. For more information on upcoming events please contact Bronwyn Bant on 53584410

Feature Stories:

Chicks In The Sticks
Project Platypus AGM & Book Launch
Thank you Jane Marriott
Platypus Monitoring Program
Southern Brown Bandicoots
Ironbarks Nature Walk
Thank you Plantout Volunteers

Regular Features:

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



Chicks in the Sticks Upcoming Events

Sunday, 24th February, 2012
Trip to biodynamic farm
in Harcourt



Summer is closing in with a vengeance, replacing the lush green of spring with a golden crispness. On top of the usual day to day tasks, farmers have been busy making hay, and harvest is closing in fast.

July and August have seen a successful planting season with a record number of trees in the ground and the involvement of 400 volunteers. Advertising a planting weekend electronically saw success in attracting a great number of young volunteers, an initiative we hope to continue building on into the future. Thanks to David Margetson and the Project Platypus team on their coordination of the planting weekends, and to the landholders and volunteers, all who have contributed to an awesome experience of community coming together to enhance our landscape. A special thanks to all the caterers, the food was amazing!

Ladies, look out for the next opportunity to be a part of our 'Chicks in the Sticks' event. A great chance to frock up and join other chicks for good drinks and nibbles, and enjoy the opportunity to see what others are doing to create a sustainable future.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Jane Marriott for the energy, passion and inspiration she has brought to Project Platypus. Jane's involvement with Landcare in the Upper Wimmera Catchment began as a member of the Black Range Landcare Group, and the Stawell Urban Landcare Group, and went on to her taking on a role of leadership and inspiration with our organisation. Please find more details regarding Jane's involvement on page 4 of this newsletter.

Another valuable contributor I would like to thank is Alan Green. Alan is a founding member of the Project Platypus Management Committee, and has stepped down after 18 years of commitment to the strategic direction of our organisation. He was elected to the role of chairman from 2007 to 2010, a period where his astute business and agricultural skills, along with his energy and enthusiasm assisted in raising the profile of Project Platypus. Thankyou Alan, for all you have brought to landcare in the Upper Wimmera Catchment.



Anyone involved with landcare and plantouts in the Upper Wimmera Catchment would have memories of Athol McKay.



Athol passed away this month, surrounded by people he loved and working the property he loved. Described by many as 'landcare legends', Athol and Doreen have attended all except this year of the Project Platypus 15 years of plantings. Athol has been committed to landcare and looking after what he had. He knew all the species in his plantations, and he was proud of them. A founding and Life Member of the Crowlands Landcare Group, Athol has organized the group's Fox-off campaign since the group was formed in 1994. Athol has also enjoyed an active membership of PPS. Thank you Athol for your commitment to the community and the environment. You have been loved by all and you will be sorely missed.

We look forward to welcoming Leigh back to the manager role following his extended leave. The driving force of Project Platypus, you have been missed.

Lastly, I would like to wish you all a healthy and happy festive season. Thanks to all for a great year in landcare.

Leanne

The Project Platypus AGM was held on Monday September 17. Landcare members and the general public were invited to attend and take part in a Q & A style Carbon in Agriculture discussion.

While the purpose of our AGM is to elect committee members and take stock of the previous years work, we also like to be prepared for the future in farming. With an Emissions Trading Scheme and Carbon Farming Initiative underway, our AGM was the perfect time to have the 'Carbon' conversation. A number of carbon experts were selected to form the expert panel, with members of the audience asking a range of questions relating to agriculture and carbon. Local farmer and Environmental Farmers Network representative Peter Forster was on the panel, along



with Corey Watts from the Climate Institute, Ben Keogh from Australian Carbon Traders, as well as local farmer and Project Platypus Management Committee member Mark McKew.

Project Platypus also launched "The Journey" a book celebrating the combined achievements of upper Wimmera Landcare groups at the AGM. This publication is currently being distributed to local Landcare groups. Copies of the "The Journey" are available from the Project Platypus office or you can view it at the website www.platypus.org.au



Jane Marriott was commended for her brilliant work on "The Journey"

Our AGM also saw Alan Green stepping away, as the younger generation stepped up! We welcome



Lachie Green, our new member to the Management Committee, and look forward to the energy and initiative he brings to landcare in the Upper Wimmera Catchment.

As part of the 25 years of landcare celebrations, AGM attendees were asked to finish the sentence; Landcare is..... The answers were then transferred to a landscape canvas. Some of the responses were as follows:

Landcare is.....

"restoring our natural environment to protect flora and fauna and ensure the health of our planet"

"socialising with like-minded people"

"sustainable farming"

"about smart farming that will feed people without compromising the environment"

"setting a good example for my son"

"communities looking after its natural assets"

"a future for the planet"

"everyone's responsibility"



FAREWELL TO A DEDICATED STAFF MEMBER & VOLUNTEER

Jane Marriott was employed with Project Platypus in 2000 as Seed Bank Co-ordinator. In the years that followed, Jane has applied her passion for the environment and organisational skills to projects including Works Co-ordinator, Engaging Small Landholders, Community Engagement, organiser of Agrifest 2011, author of the Project Platypus and GWMWater Partnership 15 year celebration book and the Southern Brown Bandicoot Recovery Plan.

Planning and co-ordination of plantout weekend has been a massive team effort and refined over the years, and Jane's contribution has assisted in reaching an efficiency and effectiveness to be proud of. She has been involved in project planning, plants, catering, venue and entertainment co-ordination. Bernie Rudolph recalls 'I would talk to the landholder and we would agree on a project idea. When I got back to the office, Jane's experience with native grasses and plant species would lead to suggestions to improve the plans. Invariably, the landholder agreed to the changes, and we ended up with a more balanced and valuable project!' At plantout



weekend, I have heard comment, 'I don't know how Jane does it, she is so organised and energetic. She makes a huge job seem easy!'

Jane has also left a legacy in the nature trails she has been instrumental in establishing. Take time to enjoy the 'Granite Pools Nature Trail' in the Sisters Rocks Bushland Reserve, and you find an example of Jane's vision and flair for presentation that will be with us for years to come. Jane also co-ordinated and contributed to the Mount William Creek Nature Trail and Moyston Nature Trail.

Publications created by Jane are

a testament to her skills and knowledge. One example of this is 'The Journey', a booklet that documents and celebrates the history of Project Platypus and the Upper Wimmera Landcare Groups. An initiative that has been talked about for years, we will all be grateful for the passion, energy, persistence and creativity Jane contributed to make this happen.

Those committed to landcare in our area, remember Jane for her amazing knowledge of plant species. She has always displayed strong vision, and the ability to think big and to find a way to make things happen. Jane will now be easing into retirement, spending more time around her cottage and garden in Creswick, but continues to make herself available for an occasional project and additional environmental works. Thanks Jane for all you have brought to the community and landcare in the Upper Wimmera Catchment, you have left a valuable legacy for our future.





Project Platypus were successful in receiving Federal Government funding to undertake platypus monitoring in the upper Wimmera Catchment to determine platypus distribution and abundance in local waterways after several years of drought, followed by a series of flood events. Cesar Australia undertook the surveys during October, monitoring platypus populations in Mt William Creek, Mount Cole Creek and the Wimmera River upstream of Crowlands. Unfortunately, no platypus were trapped during the survey period. Stay tuned for further details from the Cesar Australia survey report.

Even though platypus were not trapped by Cesar researchers, platypus are possibly still about in our waterways. We're trying to build a picture of where platypus can be found, so **if you've seen platypus in local waterways over recent years, please let us know!**

SOUTHERN BROWN BANDICOOTS - HAVE YOU SEEN ONE?

Over the past couple of months, Project Platypus has ramped up efforts to locate any surviving population of the Southern Brown Bandicoots in and around the Black Range near Stawell. Southern Brown Bandicoots were once common on many private properties surrounding the Black Range having survived major habitat loss and predation by foxes and cats since European settlement.



The project is not aware of any positive sightings of Bandicoots since the fires that devastated the Black Range in 2006 with most recent anecdotal reports being about ten years old.

The project has been running for the past eighteen months with the aim of locating and then protecting remnant populations through a co-ordinated 1080 baiting program. To date no Bandicoots have been identified through survey work which is continuing in the Black Range area.

Remote motion sensitive cameras are being used to survey areas of suitable habitat in the hope a remnant population will be found. Cameras are left in place for around three weeks pointing downward onto a felt lure soaked in a mixture of Linseed oil, Vanilla essence and Truffle oil. The cameras are automatically triggered by movement recording an image day or night (with the aid of a flash). So far the most common animal photographed has been the European rat with wallabies, kangaroos, echidnas, native bush rats, antechinus, brush tailed possum, deer, sheep, rabbits, shingle back lizards and various bird species making up the majority of records. At one site, two different cats have been recorded with no foxes making an appearance so far.

The project team are still hopeful there are some remaining Bandicoots in the Black Range that can be given some immediate protection from predation by the baiting phase of the project. Currently, areas of suitable habitat that were not burnt in the 2006 fires are being located using aerial photography and targeted for camera surveys in the hope that some bandicoots still remain in these areas.

IRONBARKS NATURE WALK PROVES POPULAR WITH STUDENTS

Now in its 13th year, the annual Ironbarks nature walks conducted with Stawell primary school students are proving as popular as when they first began in 2000.

Grade 3 students experience the wonders of spring in our local box ironbark forests on a guided tour in the Deep Lead Flora and Fauna reserve. Along the 2km walk they learn about the trees and flowers they see about them and about some of the animals that rely on these forests for food, shelter and nesting. They also learn to look for signs of human impact and so learn about history and conservation management.



On top of that they learn what a great classroom the great outdoors can be, with a chance to be active and learn by looking and listening to the world around them.

Comments from teachers include the 'children had a fantastic time and liked the hands on experiences' and 'the kids had a lovely morning'. Certainly the children are engaged and at times enthralled by the stories of carnivorous plants they discover and the antics of the mistletoe bird.



The walks in more recent years are organised and guided by Stawell Urban Landcare group members. New members are encouraged through other Landcare group activities to build their skills in plant identification and to assist with guiding the children. Other members donate their skills in photography to record the adventure. Grant money is used to assist schools with bus transport. The goal of the walks is to engender a stewardship ethic in our local children and community in our local unique box ironbark forests. By understanding and enjoying the many delights of the forests at our backdoor, the Stawell community will better understand how to manage and protect from current threats this special place into the future.



Local Landcare groups and community members came together with Project Platypus to plant 34,000 trees over the months of July and August. This year there were six planting weekends held on properties at Great Western, Navarre, Lake Lonsdale, Moyston, Elmhurst, and Dadswells Bridge.

The plantouts contribute to biodiversity, provide habitat, reduce salinity, and create shelter for livestock. The positive environmental outcomes the community plantouts over the past 13 years to the local landscape is immeasurable. We estimate that close to three hundred thousand trees have been planted in the Upper Wimmera Catchment thanks to the dedication of over two thousand volunteers.

Without the support of Landcare groups, getting this many trees in the ground each planting season wouldn't be possible.



THANK YOU PLANTOUT VOLUNTEERS



ON GROUND WORKS UPDATE

INVASIVE PLANTS & ANIMALS :

Rabbits: Rabbit control work has been followed up from last year in partnership with Ararat Rural City Council.

Weeds: The weed crews have been busy targeting winter weed species and more recently spraying various spring weeds that have a fairly narrow window for control. The main focus over winter this year has been Bridal Creeper with a very good coverage of infestations across the Upper Catchment. Using old control and recording data, a number of large infestations were “rediscovered” this season and treated with herbicide. A number of new infestations reported by members of the community that have not previously received control work from our crews are also receiving treatment.

The Chilean Needle Grass control effort in the Moyston area was completed during June and July. Using GPS mapping data gathered in December 2011, when the plants were in head (making them easy to identify) infestations were located down to the individual plant level and sprayed out with a specialist herbicide. Results have been excellent in areas of spot spraying with some variable results on some areas that were boom sprayed requiring better timing of application next season. Spring weeds have included Cape Tulip, Paterson’s Curse and currently St John’s Wort. This traditionally busy time for weed control works has seen control work completed on some of the major infestations of these species across the Upper Catchment.

A rough breakdown of works completed in the last quarter:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Wimmera CMA Flood Recovery | - Bridal Creeper - Fyan’s Creek Reserve, Mt William Creek Dadswell’s Bridge, roadsides and private land across the Upper Catchment |
| | - Paterson’s Curse on tributary of Wimmera River, Eversley |
| | - Paterson’s Curse on headwaters of Malakoff creek, Glenlofty |
| | - Cape Tulip along Howards Creek (tributary of Concongella creek), Black Range |
| | - Cape Tulip along Concongella creek, Concongella |
| | - Paterson’s Curse along Greens creek, Green creek |
| Weeds of National Significance | - Bridal Creeper in various public reserves, roadsides and private land across the Upper Catchment |
| | - Gorse along tributary of Concongella Creek, and Armstrong |
| Landsborough Landcare Group | - Patterson’s Curse and St John’s Wort follow-up in Landsborough township area |
| Jallukar Landcare Group | - Cape Tulip on public and private land in Pomonal area |
| Moyston Landcare Group | - Patterson’s Curse follow-up work from last year on one private property |
| Great Western Landcare Group | - Rabbit fumigation on neighbouring properties in the Black Range |
| Victorian Landcare Grant | - St John’s Wort follow-up work on various neighbouring properties in the Black Range |
| Ararat Rural City Council Roadside | - Gorse along cemetery creek and Council roadsides in Ararat city |
| | - Various regionally controlled weed species along roadsides in the Warrak area |
| | - Rabbit fumigation on various Council roadsides in the Watgania area. |

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

NATIVE VEGETATION :

Woodlands Revival: We have been progressing well with attracting landholders to get involved with revegetation projects for 2013. There is around 280 Ha under verbal agreement. Nursery’s need to have orders in to be able to produce seedling of good quality in time for planting. This means that it is too late for sites that need seedlings, however, if anybody has any remnant or a direct seeding site we are still able to access your project. We are able to offer a higher remnant protection rate for gray box or buloke this year. This rate is likely to be for this year only so could be a good time to consider protecting that buloke or gray box patch. If anybody has any questions about doing a revegetation or remnant protection project please feel free to get in touch and talk though what we can do to make your project happen. **Contact David Margetson on 5358 4410 or email david@platypus.org.au**

EROSION CONTROL :

Currently we have a small erosion control job taking place on Paul Harrington’s property near Crowlands. The site was identified last year as being of appropriate size to be effectively dealt with, with the funds we had available. The design work was carried out earlier this year and contractors appointed to carry out work. The site has been surveyed and pegged out and the trickle pipe has been delivered to site and welded together. It is expected that earth moving will take place before Christmas. After which the site will be covered with straw to protect it until it can be sown down in the Autumn. Finally, the site will be fenced out to prevent stock access. The end result should help improve the health of the Wimmera river.

LANDMATE :

Ararat – The Ararat Landmate crew have been helping Landholders and Landcare groups in the Upper Wimmera and Glenelg Hopkins catchments. The Ararat Landmate crew planted approximately 20,000 trees for Project Platypus over the busy ‘Plant Out’ season, as well as fencing several sites for landholders involved with these projects. The Ararat Crew have assisted Elmhurst and Crowlands Landcare groups spotting and fumigating rabbit burrows. The crew assisted Stawell Urban Landcare group, spraying spiny broom, cutting and painting stumps of Desert Ash along the pleasant creek walking track and planting and guarding trees at Moonlight Sands Reserve in Stawell. The crew have been cutting and painting gorse and spiny broom, as well as spraying Paterson’s curse on hill sides in the Landsborough Landcare group’s area. Other work completed by the Ararat Landmate crew have been clearing willows from creek lines in Warrak, fencing revegetation sites along the Hopkins River, fencing off areas from stock and planting trees at Lake Bolac, reconstructing walking tracks and maintenance and flood recovery work for Parks Victoria at Zumsteins, spraying Briar Rose in Elmhurst, and fencing an erosion control site in Landsborough.

ON GROUND WORKS UPDATE ...CONTINUED

Langi Kal Kal – The Langi Kal Kal crews have been involved with fencing out creek lines. The crew are carrying on with planting and guarding trees in areas in the Glenelg Hopkins and the Corangamite Catchments, that have received rain and that are able to be planted. The crew have also been cutting and painting Gorse and fire hazard removal, for Landholders in the Glenelg Hopkins catchment. Both crews were utilised by Perennial Pasture Systems to construct four demonstration sites, Langi Kal Kal worked in Dobie and Eversley and the Ararat crew worked in Greens Creek and Lake Lonsdale. To book the Landmate crew contact Bob Wallace on 5358 4410 or 0409 740 521 or email on bob@platypus.org.au

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

PERENNIAL PASTURE SYSTEMS - BUSY SPRING

Rob Shea

The Perennial Pasture Systems group has had a busy spring period starting with their 4th Annual Conference attended by over sixty participants. The conference held at Gum San Chinese Heritage Centre in Ararat focused on the theme “technical farming needn’t be alarming” and had farmer speakers presenting some of the latest innovations in pasture management. These sessions were backed up with technical speakers giving more information on the topics of variable lime application, pasture from space and the latest in farm recording systems.

The conference tour then took participants to Crowlands to inspect paddocks where the variable lime technique has been applied and to inspect the PPS Eversley pasture variety trail site. An inspection of a newly sown Holdfast GT phalaris pasture was also conducted before the bus headed for the PPS pasture variety site at Dobie.



PPS member and conference speaker, Steven Start presenting soil pH results at his Crowlands property

The conference finished with the annual dinner and meeting where Matt Kindred was elected as the new PPS secretary replacing Tony Roberts, who remains on the PPS committee and Wayne Burton was elected to the committee replacing Ewan Letts who has retired after serving since the commencement of PPS in 2007.

The dinner speaker Bob Reid from Tasmania then gave an enthralling talk on his life as a plant hunter.

PPS also held a spring field day in October starting with inspections of perennial pastures at Matt Kindred’s Lake Lonsdale property, before heading to the two northern PPS plant variety sites at Lake Lonsdale and Greens Creek. The trial sites reflected how difficult it has been to establish pastures in the southern Wimmera this year due to the dry autumn and the difficulties in getting adequate weed control.



PPS Secretary Matt Kindred (2nd from left) presenting results from pasture establishment on his Lake Lonsdale property

The field day ended at the Joel PPS MLA producer demonstration scheme site where Uplands Cocksfoot is showing that is going to be a valuable perennial grass variety in the tough conditions experienced in this region. Fertiliser demonstration strips set up at the site were also inspected. A BBQ provided by the Joel Hall committee and sponsored by Michael Joss from Beaufort Rural & Hardware completed the day.

PPS has also been busy collecting plant cuts and counts from its trial sites and results will be presented through upcoming newsletters and field days.

The next PPS event on November 23rd will be an inspection of the subsoil lucerne trail site at Jallukar which is supported by funding from the A W Howard Trust. Dr Peter Sale from La Trobe University will be the guest speaker followed by the end of year BBQ at Simon and Yvette Brady’s Jallukar Park.



PERENNIAL PASTURE SYSTEMS
MAKING PASTURE GO THE DISTANCE

For further information on Perennial Pasture Systems contact PPS project manager Rob Shea on 0438 521 357 or email: yadin@netconnect.com.au

UPPER WIMMERA LANDCARE GROUPS UPDATE

Black Range: President: Neil Marriott Secretary: Helen Rosenbaum

Concongella: President: Malcolm Nicholson Secretary: Phil & Trudy Hall

Crowlands President: Dennis Harrington Secretary: Harold Thomas

Crowlands Landcare Group have been successful with their application for funding to replace the old Crowlands spray trailer. The group have completed their ripping work and the Ararat Landmate Crew are carrying on with fumigation works in the Crowlands Landcare area.

Elmhurst: President: Bill Langcake Secretary: Christine Baines

Elmhurst Landcare Group are working in partnership with the Department of Sustainability and Environment to manage feral pigs in the Mt Cole State Park. The DSE have purchased several pig hoppers, specifically designed for pigs to be trialled in the area. Elmhurst Landcare members are testing a trap on private land. Local landholders, Midway-Blue Gum management and Elmhurst Landcare Group members are all keen to get involved with the project. Evidence and sightings of pigs is crucial to this projects success, please call Bob Wallace on 03 5358 4410 to report any pig sightings or evidence of their activity.

Great Western: President: Mark Kindred Secretary: Paul Dakis

Jallukar: President: Terry May Secretary: Fred Rich

Jallukar Landcare group went on a bus tour of the Jallukar Landcare area. The group visited old revegetation sites that were established over the last several years. The group had an informative and entertaining day.

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: Adam Merrick Secretary: Rosie Nater

Moyston Landcare Group is hoping to run a Ag. Chemical Users Course and a 1080 Accreditation in Feb/March 2013 if there is sufficient interest. Note: You must have a Chemical Users accreditation to do 1080 course. So please register your interest by contacting Rosie Nater on 5354 2512 or email janibs@skymesh.com.au. A Subsidy will be offered to the first 10 Landcare members in each course.

Navarre: President: Shane Bibby Secretary: Richard & Liz Kelleher

The Navarre Landcare group met recently to discuss the group's involvement for the 2012/13 year. The group are keen to clean up the Paterson's Curse problem in the area, with work being coordinated by the group

Northern Grampians: President: Ray Graham Secretary: Judy Dunkley

Northern Grampians Landcare group were successful in obtaining a grant to establish paddock trees. It was recognised by the group that paddock trees have a life span and need successive generations to establish themselves. The group are also working on the Mt William Creek walking track at Dadswell's Bridge, the group intend on installing numbered bollards along the track for the nature walk. The group are planning for the next round of rabbit work to commence.

Stawell Urban: President: Angela Baker Secretary: Cathy McDermott

The Stawell Urban Landcare group welcomed Angela Baker as its new President. The group continue to hold working bees at the Big Hill site to remove boneseed. The Ironbarks walk was held with local primary schools and continues to be popular. Guest speakers are to be a regular part of the meeting line up in 2013.

If you would like to include more information about your group please submit an article to Cathy McDermott at admin@platypus.org.au. Or for further information contact the Regional Landcare Facilitator, Bob Wallace on 0409 740 521 or email bob@platypus.org.au

GRANT INFORMATION DETAILS

| Title/Provider | Grant Detail/ Aims | Closing Date | Value |
|---|---|---------------|---------------|
| Communities for Nature | Communities for Nature grants are targeted towards local community groups and organisations, including schools. Contact the Regional Landcare Facilitator, Bob Wallace on 53584410 for more information | 19th Dec 2012 | Upto \$10,000 |
| Environmental Partnership Grants | Local Landcare and environmental groups, schools and community groups are encouraged to lodge applications for around \$1m in community grants to support environmental partnership initiatives. contact the Regional Landcare Facilitator, Bob Wallace on 53584410 for more information. | 17th Dec 2012 | \$1m |

EVENTS CALENDAR

| December 2012 | |
|---------------|---|
| 11 | Stawell Urban Landcare Meeting @ Project Platypus office from 7.30pm |
| February 2013 | |
| 24 | Chicks in the Sticks road trip to biodynamic farm in Harcourt contact Bronwyn Bant 53584410 |
| March 2013 | |
| TBC | Ag. Chemical Users Course and 1080 Accreditation contact Rosie Nater 53542512 or email janibs@skymesh.com.au to register your interest |
| April 2013 | |
| TBC | April 2013 Farming in the 21 st Century tour of a local sustainable farm (location & date tbc) |
| May 2013 | |
| 9 | Landcare members road trip to Jigsaw Farms, Hensley Park |
| TBC | Chicks in the Sticks tour to a local sustainable farm (location & date to be confirmed) |



PROJECT PLATYPUS COMMITTEE & STAFF MEMBERS

Project Platypus Management Committee

Leanne Jackman, Chair (Northern Grampians Landcare Group)

Phil Hall, Vice-Chair (Concongella Landcare Group)
 Michael Greene, Treasurer (Elmhurst Landcare Group)
 Mark McKew, Secretary (Crowlands 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)

Sustainable Agriculture, Community Engagement, Partnerships
 & Funding Subcommittees

Native Vegetation & Waterways Subcommittees

Partnerships & Funding Subcommittee

Sustainable Agriculture Subcommittee

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

Ewan Letts, 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, Celia Tucker,
 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

Catherine McDermott

Dene Marshall

Marcus Thomas

Brendan Barbetti

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Regional Landcare Facilitator (Sustainable Ag)

Accounts and Payroll Officer

Project Manager (Invasive Plant & Animal)

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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 admin@platypus.org.au

Project Platypus Landcare Network

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