



Project Platypus Upper Wimmera Landcare

MISSION

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

**PROJECT
PLATYPUS**
UPPER WIMMERA LANDCARE

Find us:

-  [FOLLOW on FACEBOOK](#)
-  [VISIT our WEBSITE](#)
-  [EMAIL](#)

Contact us:

11 a Ararat Rd Stawell, Victoria
PO Box 838 Stawell 3380
ph 03 5358 4410

DON
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NOW

Down to Earth

MARCH 2021 UPDATE

Welcome to our newsletter *Down to Earth*,

For my last newsletter I have a few cute and cuddly stories for you (think native marsupials and avian creatures) - Project Platypus Landcare members are really good with sharing their little surprises in life. I also have a link to a delightful documentary [Quoll farm](#). Quolls were the other Apex predator suggested in the [Greater Gariwerd Draft Landscape management plan](#) (Remember? Probably not, the dingo got all the attention!). Imagine - quolls on farms could be our future.

Don't forget manager Al is looking for revegetation sites for 2022, planning needs to occur 12 months out.

I would like to thank all of the Landcare groups for welcoming me into the community over the last three and a half years and sharing many projects, stories and events along the way. Also thank you to the many other people in the NRM field that I have had the pleasure of working with.

I am really going to miss the Upper Wimmera and all of its delights - the people most of all.

Warm regards Andrea
Local Landcare Facilitator

CALENDAR

February

Sun 21 Stawell Community Garden Relish Challenge, 3 PM, 119 Patrick St (tips and tricks for the best relish). Call Jenny E: stawellcommunitygarden@gmail.com

M: 0408 571 375

Mon 22 Nature connectedness: exploring integrated ArtScience experiences through head, heart, and hand WEBINAR [Eventbrite](#)

March

Sat 13 **Clean Up Australia Day**, 9 AM, Grampians, Parks Victoria. Please book asap

Call Hannah E: hannah.auld@parks.vic.gov.au M: 0498 777 615

April

Victorian Landcare Grants available

In this issue

[Latest news and grants](#)

[Landcarer better than FB](#)

[Mt Rothwell ecosystem excursion](#)

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[Project Platypus chair delivers Pygmy possum cuteness](#)

[Revegetation 2022](#) - Project Platypus looking for sites

[Project Playpus contracting services](#)

LATEST NEWS

[Could native crop, kangaroo grass, become a regular ingredient in bread and help farmers regenerate land?](#) Kangaroo grass as a perennial native for farms **ABC Central Victoria**

[Ecologists buy 1,000-acre blue gum plantation and transform it into wetland it once was](#) Walkers Swamp has definitely captured my imagination and is proof big audacious ideas can work **ABC South west Victoria**

[South Australia has become the largest grid in the world to have 100% of its electricity demand met by solar power](#), even as electricity prices have become the cheapest in the country.

Renew Economy

[Quoll Farm](#) The true story of a family of charismatic quolls living on an abandoned farm in Tasmania and one man's extraordinary devotion to save them. **ABC iview**

GRANTS

[Protecting Our Iconic Platypus](#)

[Woolworths Junior Landcare Grant](#)

With up to 1,000 grants on offer, this is the largest number of Junior Landcare Grants we've ever given out in a single round. This year, in addition to grants of up to \$1000 each available, since bees and pollinators are so important to our environment, we're offering extra funding of up to \$500 for projects that have a bee component.

[Community Conservation Grant](#) *Foundation for National Parks & Wildlife*

General Jeffery Soil Health Award open to any individual farmer, land manager, extension specialist or educator who is making an outstanding contribution to improving soil health in Australia. Nominations close 31 March

Victorian Landcare Grants - OPEN APRIL

Are you registered on the LANDCARER?

We use social media platforms to share, to keep updated, to learn and to connect – just to list a few

[Landcarer](#), Landcare Australia's online community

platform, is designed to do exactly this *and* more! It's the central place to go to for Australian

landcarers. You'll find information on best practices, emerging technology, upcoming and ongoing projects, webinars from the landcare community and much, much more.

There are a number of benefits to using Landcarer that you won't find on other platforms. Firstly, it is

designed specifically for you, a member of the landcare community! Content on the platform

isn't diluted. It is a pure and helpful feed of landcare related information – from farming technique to upcoming environmental grants.

Secondly, the platform includes a wide array of tools that can assist in your work as a project manager or organiser. The site has built in project management tools that allow you to track and

LANDCARER

Just like **FACEBOOK**
but owned by
Australia



**Here's what it is:
SOCIAL MEDIA for
landcarers and
ag/enviro groups**

**Here's what it does:
Connects people &
groups with similar
goals**

**How does it work:
Set up your profile and
make a page for your
group.**

**NO adverts, NO random
information, just
Landcare stories, events
and workshops**

share the progress your group is making, as well as coordinate and communicate with others in your organisation. We hope to see you on there!

Bandicoots and Black Range

MT ROTHWELL ECOSYSTEM EXCURSION

Saturday 10 April 1.30pm - 11pm

The Black Range was habitat to Southern Brown Bandicoots not so long ago. Join us on an afternoon-evening tour to visit feral predatory-free habitats where endangered species are able to recover. Expect short informative talks, guided walking tour through habitats, a BYO picnic dinner and a night tour seeing the Eastern Barred Bandicoot, Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby, Eastern Quoll and more. You'll be driven in a chartered bus, get to meet fellow Range residents, and explore ways to improve the biodiversity of the Black Range.

Meet Great Western 1.30pm for short introductory talks

Tour Stop 1: *Shepherd's Hut Sanctuary, a 55 hectare feral predator-free habitat showcasing Rhynie Pastoral's conservation work in Willaura North.*

<https://www.rhyniepastoral.com.au/conservation-work-1>

Tour Stop 2: *Mt Rothwell's 473 hectare feral predator-free ecosystem (the largest in Victoria), set in the You Yang Ranges of the Victorian Volcanic Plains, that includes granite landscape similar to Black Range.*

<https://www.mtrothwell.com.au/about>

Return Great Western 11pm

Places are limited, and will be offered firstly to members of Black Range Land Management Group at no cost. Non-members are welcome if space is available, for a reduced entry fee to Mt Rothwell of \$20 per person.

Submit an online booking request [here](#).

Enquiries: black.range.landcare@gmail.com

This Black Range Land Management Group community engagement activity is

supported by funds from the Victorian Landcare Grants scheme of the Wimmera CMA



bandicoot

Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoos flock over Moyston

It seems Australian native birds and animals have been creating quite a stir amongst the Landcare groups - here is one snippet from Rosie Nater, Moyston Landcare Group: "One of our members saw a huge flock of Yellow Tailed Black Cockatoos one evening over Moyston about 2 weeks ago. He estimated at least

100, he has never seen such a large number!"

More on this magnificent bird [Birdlife Australia](#)



Mural by Vivien Mason, North Hobart <https://www.vivienmason.com/illustrations-murals>



Project Platypus Chair delivers Pygmy possum cuteness

It is great when people share their enjoyment with the environment. Clive, our Project Platypus board chairperson is always investigating what special fauna he has on his patch. This time the delightful surprise caught was the Eastern Pygmy possum.

From Clive Carlyle "I set up a trail camera on a Banksia flower two nights ago and got this [footage of an Eastern Pygmy Possum](#). It is the first time we have recorded any our property, apparently they rarely show up in surveys. Numbers have declined in

Victoria and there is a push to have them nominated as a threatened species in Victoria." For more information see the [Australian Wildlife Conservancy](http://www.australianwildlifeconservancy.org.au)



Revegetation 2022

Project Platypus are looking for sites to revegetate and fence in 2022. Call AI for more information ph 5358 4410 OR email manager@platypus.org.au

The banner features a photograph of a green field with rows of young trees being planted, with a person visible in the distance. The text is in a bold, green, sans-serif font.

Project Platypus are looking for revegetation sites for 2022. Call AI 5358 4410

PROJECT PLATYPUS CONTRACTING SERVICES

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

FOR A QUOTE
PH 5358 4410
EMAIL
loki@platypus.org.au



Navo
Dad

OUR SUPPORTERS

Donation of support

Geoff & Helen Handbury Foundation



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Our mailing address is:

PO Box 838, Stawell, Victoria 3380

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