



## 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.



[DONATE NOW](#)

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9 Ormston Rd Stawell, Victoria  
PO Box 838 Stawell 3380  
ph 03 5358 4410

## Down to Earth

UPDATE

Welcome to our newsletter *Down to Earth*, Since our last edition we have moved to our new office, which is at **9 Ormston Rd, Stawell**. [Check out where](#). We have already noticed the reduced noise due to not being near the main Ararat Rd and with the reduced traffic it is a lot safer for us all. Feel free to come and visit us.

This last month also included some more restrictions due to COVID and some groups have had to postpone meetings and events, and as I write this edition we have been put into another week of lockdown.

However, I was delighted to spend time preparing and submitting Landcare nominations for this years awards and helping groups with their grants and projects.

I was also impressed with the enthusiasm local primary school age kids had with nature, through the Stawell Urban Landcare Connect with Nature program...I now know how to build a worm tower!

I am also pleased to announce that Project Platypus was successful in securing another three years of funding for the Local Landcare Facilitator program. More details [here](#).

Happy reading.

**Glenn Brooks-MacMillan**  
Local Landcare Facilitator

## Landcare Awards Nominations

This year, Project Platypus have submitted two nominations for the Victorian Landcare Awards:

The **ACM Community Group Award** acknowledges an outstanding community group that is improving sustainable land use and/or is undertaking on-ground action to protect, enhance or restore the natural values of an area on behalf of the wider community.

Our nomination is **Moyston Landcare Group**.

The **Young Landcare Leadership Award** acknowledges an individual or a youth group\* between the ages of 15 – 35 years who promote excellence in landcare through on-ground projects and/or awareness raising activities.

Our nomination is **Matilda Venn**

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## National Landcare Conference 2021

The 2021 National Landcare Conference was run last week and all the presentation posters, videos and awards can be found on their website at

[NATIONAL LANDCARE CONFERENCE](#)

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## We need your vote NOW!.....by this Thursday

**Black Range Land Management Group** have been successful in reaching round two of the Volunteering Innovation Fund which means they need you to vote for their project. The most votes will enable success in obtaining the funds, so please help them out. **Please vote by 5pm 12th Aug.**

Go [here](#) for more details and how to vote.



Click this image to see their video

Checkout their latest newsletter [here](#)

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**Western Quarry reveg** – On the 21<sup>st</sup> of June Project Platypus completed some revegetation and erosion control work for Western Quarries on the Pyrenees Highway. The weather on the day was some of the best you could ask for that time of the year with a fantastic sunny day and light winds. Project Platypus staff planted approximately 900 various endemic species to help bolster biodiversity in the area. Ground cover, herbaceous plants, shrubs and trees went into the ground to assist in the regeneration of the land and help with some erosion control on a previously utilised part of the quarry. The day was a great opportunity to strengthen ties with Western Quarries and help with their site rehabilitation.



**Crowlands Windfarm reveg** - Over the past week Project Platypus staff begun planting at Glendhu for erosion control and to increase biodiversity in the area. Staff braved some beautiful winter weather to get some plants into the ground on some of the roadside batters. The terrain was very steep and the weather made it a little tricky, but staff took their time to make sure the job was completed safely and the plants were planted well. One of the species, a little creeper called Hardenbergia, were in flower, which was a bit of a novelty to be planting. We were also planting alongside previous Project Platypus revegetation sites that were up to 20yrs old, so it was great to see how these sites had matured and created so much habitat for local fauna.



## Stawell Urban Landcare School Holidays Program

**LANDCARE SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM  
CONNECT WITH NATURE 2021!**

<b>MONDAY 28TH JUNE ST ARNAUD</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nature walk</li> <li>Make a worm tower</li> <li>Nature in dance</li> </ul>	<b>WEDNESDAY 30TH JUNE STAWELL</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Make a worm tower</li> <li>Nature Art for Kids</li> <li>Kids' Yoga</li> </ul>
<b>MONDAY 5TH JULY ST ARNAUD</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Choose a seed, grow a feed</li> <li>Nature art for kids</li> <li>Kids' yoga</li> </ul>	<b>THURSDAY 1ST JULY STAWELL</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Build an insect hotel</li> <li>Write your own Haiku</li> <li>Kids' Yoga</li> </ul>

**COST \$2 PER CHILD**  
Primary Age  
**TIME 10 AM - 12 PM**  
VENUES: STAWELL NEIGHBOURHOODHOUSE, STAWELL & ST ARNAUD COUNTRY CLUB, WYCHERPOOF RD

**FOR INFORMATION**  
Ph: Julie 0407561135  
Bookings Ticketebo  
Online:  
[www.ticketebo.com.au/project-platypus-association-inc](http://www.ticketebo.com.au/project-platypus-association-inc)

Logos: State Parks, Landcare, PROJECT PLATYPUS

Over the last school holidays, two locations were alive in connecting kids with nature. As part of the Stawell Urban Landcare, **Connect with Nature** program, children of primary ages were provided an action packed selection of activities over two days.

The locations were, St Arnaud and Stawell. Debra Saxon-Campbell, Landcare Facilitator, Kara Kara CMN coordinated events in St Arnaud while Julie Andrew coordinated the program in Stawell. The children were lead by a variety of volunteers, parents and professionals in a range of activities.

These included:

- Nature walk
- Making a worm tower
- Nature in dance
- Choose a seed, grow a feed
- Nature art for kids
- Kids' Yoga
- Build an insect hotel
- Write your own Haiku



## Shallow Wattle Sessions - Volunteering Opportunities

Would you like to contribute to the overall health and conservation of Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park? Short Volunteer sessions for you to be involved are now available! (pending COVID-19 restrictions). Parks Victoria are seeking community members to assist Rangers with the removal of Sallow Wattle at Troopers Creek Campground. We are encouraging as much involvement from the community as possible! Please feel free to forward the above information onto anyone who may be interested in this opportunity 😊

### [READ MORE](#)

You can sign up on the ParkConnect website for any of the three dates by following this [link](#), we hope to see you there!



### **Han Auld**

Community Engagement Ranger  
Gariwerd

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**P:** 8427 2787 **M:** 0498 777 615

### **Parks Victoria**

PO Box 18, Halls Gap, Victoria, 3381

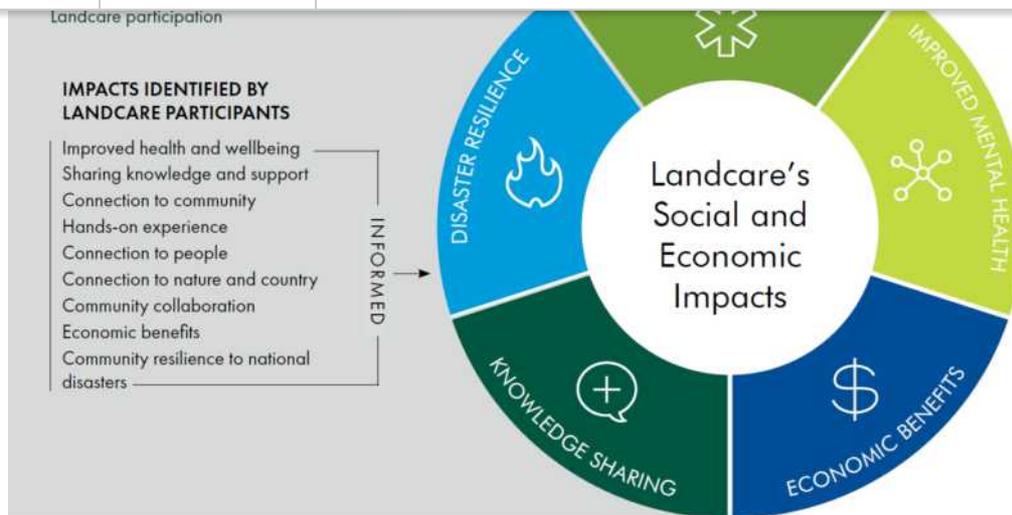


*I acknowledge the traditional Aboriginal custodians of country throughout Australia and pay my respects to them, their culture and their Elders past and present.*

### [FACT SHEET](#)



## The wellbeing benefits of participating in Landcare



Landcare across Australia has never been more important than it is now.

This report clearly demonstrates that Landcare's role goes well beyond environmental benefits and that there is strong justification for the continuing and extended support for Landcare.

These findings will prove highly beneficial to that development and support and the recruitment of new generations eager to join the thousands of existing Landcare groups and networks; from Traditional land managers and sustainable farmers, to Bushcare and 'Friends of' groups, Coastcare, Dunecare and Rivercare groups, Junior Landcare and other community groups determined and committed in restoring and protecting their local environment for all Australians and the future of Australia.

DOUG HUMANN AM  
Chairman  
Landcare Australia

[SEE REPORT](#)

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## Data driven drought resilience project - Soil moisture probes - Seeking Landowners

**Wimmera CMA** is looking for landholders to host a weather station and soil moisture probe in suitable locations. At this stage sites are particularly required in the Moyston, Jallukar and Navarre Landcare areas to create a representative network across the upper Wimmera.

We are seeking possible landholders who may be interested. This is not restricted to graziers or croppers. Other land uses eg vineyards, horticulture are also to be considered.

This soil moisture data is helpful for decision making around cropping operations but will also be a valuable adjunct in pasture management in tandem with the current Perennial Pasture System project developing tools providing remote sensed growth rate of local pasture.

In addition the data generated by the broader project as well as the PPS existing probes, will be beneficial to all local primary producers, once accumulated and accessible. The data is expected to improve understanding of soil moisture conditions under different usage/ management regimes.

Interested landowners/businesses and/or members who might like to suggest suitable landowners please contact



**PROJECT PLATYPUS  
PLANTOUT 2021**

**CALL FOR VOLUNTEER  
TREE PLANTERS**

**This years planting is at  
Great Western**

**POSTPONED**

Bill Kilpatrick's property "Allanvale"  
to the north east of Great Western.

After Spiny Rush and rabbit control  
over the last couple of years, the  
site is ready for 4500  
plants to go to revegetate the area  
and provide valuable habitat and  
linkage across the landscape.

Bring yourself, friends and family  
and come along and enjoy the day  
and help us achieve more the  
natural environment for the upper  
Wimmera.

We were sorry to postpone the plantout scheduled for 18th July due to COVID restrictions. We will let you know when the next date has been planned.

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## CALENDAR

Unfortunately for this newsletter it is probably best not to share all planned dates for meetings and events as they keep getting postponed. Please keep active on our facebook site for updates of events.

Models to the test. [Here](#) for more details

**Soil Carbon Workshops** - Soil carbon Fundamentals , Sept 1 - [Nhil](#), Sept 2 - [Edenhope](#)

**Wimmera Biodiversity Seminar Online** - Sept 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30th, more details [here](#)

**Perennial Pastures 12th ANNUAL CONFERENCE** - Tuesday October 12th; more details [here](#)

## 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](mailto:loki@platypus.org.au)



Servicing:  
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Geoff & Helen Handbury Foundation



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**Our mailing address is:**

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