



Upper Ovens Valley Landcare

Autumn # 4

April 2021

note from the president—*Peter Jacobs*



Germantown Reserve maintenance day April

Welcome to the 2021 Autumn newsletter... and what a stunning autumn it has been! Although dry at times we have been lucky enough to have had rain earlier in summer and through autumn at just the right times for our plantings to progress well. In fact many trees and shrubs are bursting out of their guards.

As usual everyone is very busy dealing with work commitments as well as enjoying the beauty and freedoms of life in north east Victoria...and to top that off we have two exciting projects underway around threatened species awareness and recovery.

Gavin has announced he will stand down as secretary on June 30 and will be away interstate for a few months (and we'll keep you busy until you go!). Gav will return to Committee work and support for UOVLG but not as secretary. Thanks to Gav for all his hard work as secretary.



Bec Read looking for suitable Omeo Gum, Upper Buckland Valley

project update

Maintenance Days

Over the past 3 to 4 months we have had some very successful and worthwhile maintenance days at Jenveys (Ovens River Bright), Germantown and Ovens/Buckland revegetation sites. As already mentioned growth has been very vigorous and although there has been some deer damage it is not killing large numbers of plants. As well as checking plants and guards we have been doing weeding and some replanting. Thank you to all our hard working volunteers!

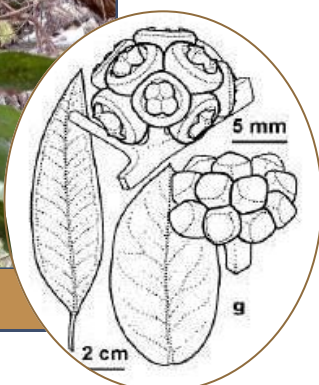
NECMA are also doing some further woody weed control.

Threatened Species Funding

We have been successful in getting a grant for threatened species under Bushfire Recovery Program.



Omeo Gum *E. neglecta*



Flora of Victoria

1. **Building Resilience in Omeo Gum**—a rare species that grows in Upper Buckland but was burnt during the January 2020 fires. We will be collecting and growing seed (via the Alpine Nursery) and replanting Omeo gum seedlings.
2. **Threatened Species Community Event June 19** —to raise awareness about our local threatened species, why they are at risk, fire impacts and recovery. Put this in your diary and don't miss it!

Grant applications

We also have 2 grant applications in for further riparian restoration and weed control. Lets hope we are successful.

Fire Recovery Guided Walk Mt Buffalo NP...in pictures

On March 14 a number of UOVL group met at Cresta Valley Mt Buffalo for a fire recovery walk guided by Peter Jacobs.

Taking in the different mountain ecosystems we started by looking at the burnt peatlands/ sphagnum bogs and heathlands on Bogong Plain; followed by views of foothill and higher alpine ash forests from the Horn carpark. The walk to the Horn provided a close up inspection of the snow gum woodland as well as expansive views across Victorian Alps landscape.

Photos: *peopleinnature & Graeme Gales*



Slow recovery of sub alpine landscape struggling to deal with multiple fires
March 2021 (last burnt January 2020)



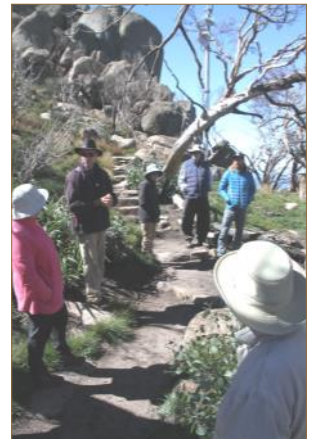
Snow gum woodland Horn Track March 2020



Snow gum woodland Horn Track March 2021



Snow gum reshooting from lignotuber March 2020



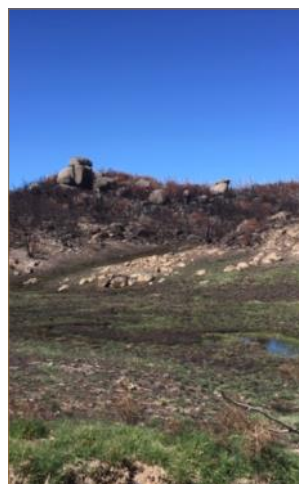
Evidence of Snow gum seedlings & lignotuber regrowth March 2021



Looking SE Horn Track March 2020



Looking SE Horn Track March 2021



Burnt peatland March 2020



March 2021

Endangered Species in mosaic From *Yvonne Ward*

Saturday 24 April saw over 60 people gather for the launch of the new Reform Hill **mosaic trail** in Myrtleford. Eleven beautiful, locally crafted mosaics of threatened species can be found along the track.



The project was funded by the Victorian Landcare Grants Program and implemented by Myrtleford and District Landcare and Sustainability Group. Congratulations to everyone involved, it is an inspiring effort!

NE Platypuses follow up Black Summer with strong breeding season From *ABC news March 2021*



Australian Platypus Conservancy researchers used live trapping to gauge the size of the platypus population *Geoff Williams*

Platypus populations in north-east Victoria are much stronger than expected after last year's bushfires, much to the relief of researchers. Australian Platypus Conservancy researchers set nets in four locations along the river and found 12 platypuses along the upper Buffalo River near Myrtleford.

Biologist Geoff Williams said the animals probably survived because they were normally in the water or in their burrows underground. "The good news was that we found many more platypuses than we expected...All the indications are it's a healthy population and the fact that so many juveniles have been produced this breeding season means if there was any shortfall we would be very confident the numbers will be made up very quickly by this year's juvenile cohort."



The wombat (*Vombatus ursinus*), weighs up to 35 kg lives in the grassy plains & forests (including Australian Alps). It spends its nights grazing on plants and its days in burrows. A territorial animal, it leaves unusual droppings as a calling card on rocks and logs. But how does such a scat come from a round anus?



Rob Duncan — always where he is needed most!

How do wombats poop cubes? From *Science*

Humans may be fascinated by cubes, but only one animal poops them: the wombat. Our Australian marsupial squeezes out nearly 100 six-sided turds every day (probably night) — an ability that has long mystified scientists. Now, researchers say they have uncovered how the wombat intestine creates this exceptional excrement. In a new study, researchers dissected two further road kill wombats and tested the guts' layers of muscle and tissue, finding regions of varied thickness and stiffness.

Want to know more? Go to the 2D model developed to simulate how the regions expand and contract with the rhythms of digestion.



Some of our threatened species / communities



Snow gum dieback around Wallace Hut ANP photo: Geoff Hollow



Sphagnum Bog MBNP photo: Graeme Gales



Spotted Tree Frog photo: Gavin Melgaard



Long footed Potoroo photo: Australian Geographic

what's coming up?

- 2 May** Omeo Gum seed collection Upper Buckland Valley
- 21 May** Macquarie Perch Conservation & Release Buffalo River (DELWP)
- 15 May** May Market Howitt Park: Bright
- 19 June** June Market Howitt Park: Bright (morning)
- 19 June** Community Event: Threatened Species and Fire Recovery: Bright
- 11 July** Planting Red Gums: Ovens/Buckland
- 17 July** July Market Howitt Park: Bright
- 8 August** Planting maintenance German Creek
- 12 September** Planting maintenance site TBC
- Sept/Oct** AGM (date TBC)

Committee meetings 2nd Tuesday of every month

Committee members

- President: Peter Jacobs
- Vice President: Rob Duncan
- Secretary: Gavin Melgaard (until end June)
- Treasurer: Simon Law
- Jane Bateson
- Mick Donges
- Paul Hellier
- Peter O'Donnell
- Tanya Rinehart
- Yvonne Ward
- Jeanette McLaren

Note from editor

The UOVLG newsletter will come out every season—please send me any snippets or stories of interest, I'd love to hear from you!

Gill Anderson
peopleinnature@bigpond.com

What's happening in Upper Ovens Valley?



Need more information?

Come and meet us to discuss any issues with members of the Upper Ovens Valley Landcare Group at our stand at the Bright 'Make-it, Bake-It, Grow-it' market—held on 3rd Saturday of every month. There are maps, literature and pamphlets available.

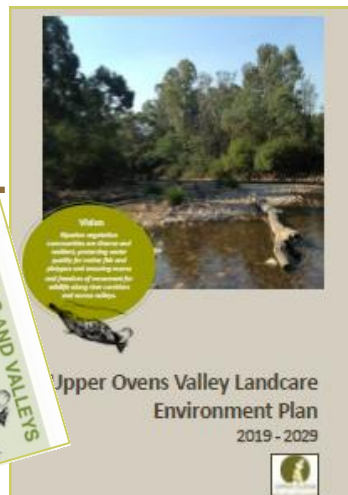
Alternatively go to:

UOVLG website: <https://upperovens.wixsite.com/upper-ovens-landcare>

Upper Ovens Valley Landcare Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/UOVLG/>

President Peter Jacobs
 phone: 0487 295 198

Secretary Gavin Melgaard
 phone: 0415 489 520



Did you know?

The UOVLG has an Environment Plan that guides our work and a brochure on the values of our Riparian Areas.

They can both be downloaded from our website.