



Upper Ovens Valley Landcare

Spring # 6

October 2021



Mountain Hickory Wattle
Acacia obliquinervia



Buffalo Sallow Wattle
Acacia phebohylla



Buffalo Sallow Wattle—
endemic to Mt Buffalo but
common on rock slabs
above Mackey's Lookout

note from the president — Peter Jacobs

Welcome to the newsletter for Spring 2021...in this edition I'd particularly like to welcome all of our new committee members as well as say thank you to those leaving.

Joining the existing committee are: *Aviya Naccarella, Leonie Wyld, Helen Weston* and *Rod McCracken*. Jeanette McLaren is the new secretary whilst Simon continues as treasurer.

Outgoing from the committee are *Tanya Rinehart, Jane Bateman* and *Gavin Melgaard* although it is hoped Jane and Gav will continue their good work with Junior Landcare.

And of course a big thank you to Jennie (outgoing acting secretary but staying on the committee) for amongst other things organizing a really pleasant AGM evening in Harrietville; a treat after not being able to get together for so long with plenty of good food, music, chatter and enthusiasm!

2021—2022 is going to be a big year for the UOVLG so we will need as much enthusiasm as members can muster. I look forward to working with you all.

project update

With all the existing plantings around the Ovens-Buckland (stages 1 & 2) and Germantown Streamside Reserve growing so well there continues to be a need to keep up with site maintenance; removing and/or straightening guards, weeding, spraying and replacing dead trees.

Bushfire Recovery; Threatened Species: Bec (Alpine Nursery) reports there has also been excellent germination of the Omeo Gum seeds collected by the UOVLG in the Upper Buckland last autumn.

2022 will see quite a lot of work around weed control and Omeo Gum seedling planting around Beveridge's Station (Upper Buckland) where this rare species grows.

We are also hopeful that our Threatened Species and Fire Community Event will also be rescheduled in 2022 after the fire season.

A number of grant applications have been successful allowing for another 3 exciting new projects to go ahead with the assistance of a paid project officer:

Ovens Buckland Stage 3 will continue weed control and restoration near Ovens/Buckland Rivers confluence with the involvement of the Porepunkah Primary School in Junior Landcare and planting along the Ovens River adjacent to the school 'plantation' site.

Murray Darling Healthy Rivers will involve weed control (contract) and new plantings between Bright and Germantown.

Living with Deer will involve UOVLG working with landowners (rural and town) learning how to reduce the impacts of feral deer. We will run field days with experts on a range of topics.

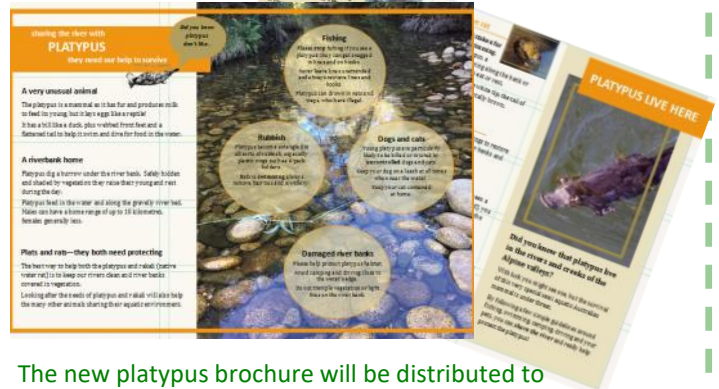


We acknowledge the Taungurung and Dhudhuroa Traditional Custodians of the land on which we work and learn and pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.

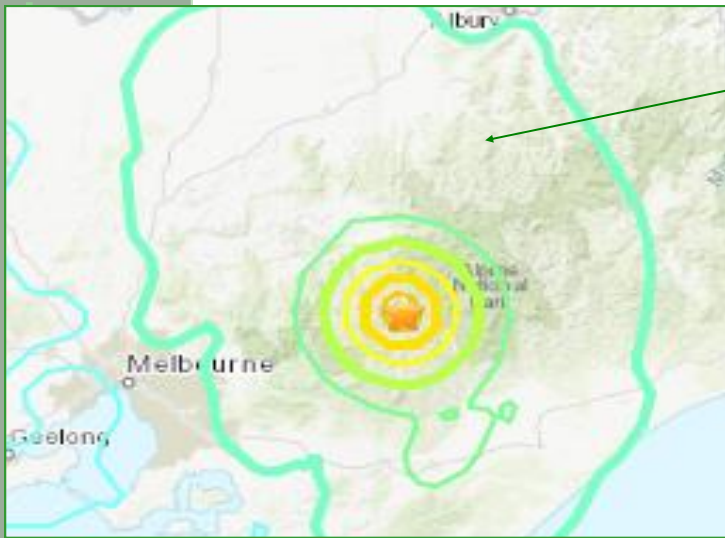
platypus awareness The Upper Ovens Valley Landcare have assisted the Alpine Shire in the development of new 'sharing the river with platypus' signs and brochure.



The Alpine Shire will install new platypus signs at 5 popular river side locations



The new platypus brochure will be distributed to visitor centres and accommodation



Shake Map <https://earthquake.usgs.gov/earthquakes/eventpage/us7000fd9v/map>

floods, storms and an earthquake!

We may not have been at the epicentre but we certainly felt it!

At magnitude 5.9, *Geoscience Australia* said this is the biggest earthquake to hit Victoria in the modern instrumental era (post 1900), and probably since European settlement. "The Australian plate is the fastest moving continental land mass on Earth and is colliding into the Pacific plate to the north and east, and the Eurasian Plate to the northwest.

This generates compressive stress in the interior of the Australian continent. Earthquakes are caused by the sudden release of this stress when rocks deep underground break and move along a fault line.

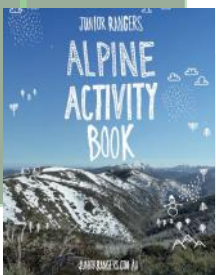
The Rawson earthquake occurred in Australia's South-East Highlands region, which has a relatively high level of seismic activity and was felt across four states."

REGISTER NOW

The **Aussie Backyard Bird Count** is back OCTOBER 18-24 2021. The #AussieBirdCount is a great way to connect with the birds in your backyard, no matter where your backyard might be — whether it's a suburban backyard, a local park, a patch of forest, a farm, or the main street of town.

From Landcare member *Charlie Pascoe*: If you haven't already seen this, following changes in the FFG Act, **Omeo Gum** is now back on the FFG threatened species list. Lots of other changes, too.

<https://www.environment.vic.gov.au/conserving-threatened-species/threatened-list>



From Landcare member *Felicity Brooke*: Are you looking for Junior Ranger activity booklets? Our local **Alpine booklet** can be picked up from the Landcare stall plus others be found [here](#) under the "Make & Do". There's one on bushland, Marine, Murray River, Grasslands; and Vic Faunal Emblems and one coming for Rainforests.



Koala(s) in Myrtleford?

From *Alpine Observer* Myrtleford's newest resident is capturing the hearts of resident's right when they need it most. PHOTO: Kevin Wood



Alpine Ash (Mt Buffalo NP) bark scrapped from numerous trunks and shredded at base. Possums or Cockies?

What do you think?



Spring bower where it appears the male Satin Bower Bird is hedging his bets on yellow (Sulphur Crested cockatoo feathers) being as attractive as blue.



An egg puzzle? In early September 2 eggs were found high up on a dry northern ridge of candlebark (hollows) and peppermint forest a long way from water, in Mt Buffalo NP. The eggs were white with some mottled markings about the size of a small duck egg.

Some ideas are: Wood Duck (no creek or river close by), YTB Cockatoo (too early in season), Little Eagle (uncommon), Powerful Owl (uncommon), & White-throated Nightjar (ground nester).

Any more ideas?



Jenvey's From Landcare Committee member Rob Duncan (August 2021)

The HVP replanting appears finished, more than 50 well started new trees (Manna Gum, Mountain Swamp Gum, Apple Box) planted into augured pits in the dredged rocky alluvium and soil added. Cylindrical, rabbit wire netting deer-guards 1.8m high supported by three steel stakes protect all new trees.

The original poisoned trees have been felled and a few vigorously coppicing lignotubers retained. The recent wet weather has encouraged immediate fresh growth of the trees, and given a benign summer season the area will be soon restored and enhanced.

Considerable labour, effort and materials have gone into the remediation work following accidental poisoning of landcare plantings. The cost to HVP must have been significant and the Company should be commended.



Challenges



Extensions to tree guards to prevent deer browsing



Red gums enjoying minor flooding in July

What's happening in Upper Ovens Valley?



what's coming up?

- 24 October** Planting maintenance : Ovens Buckland confluence: (Mt Buffalo Rd)
- 9 November** Committee meeting: 6 pm U3A rooms Railway Ave Bright
- 20 November** November Market Howitt Park: Bright
- 28 November** Planting maintenance: German Creek
- December** Christmas Party: Date to be confirmed
- 18 December** December Market Howitt Park: Bright
- 15 January** January Market Howitt Park: Bright

Committee members

- President: Peter Jacobs
- Vice President: Rob Duncan
- Secretary: Jeanette McLaren
- Treasurer: Simon Law
- Mick Donges
- Paul Hellier
- Peter O'Donnell
- Yvonne Ward
- Jennie Showers
- Graham Gales
- Aviya Naccarella
- Leonie Wyld
- Helen Weston
- Rod McCracken

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

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.

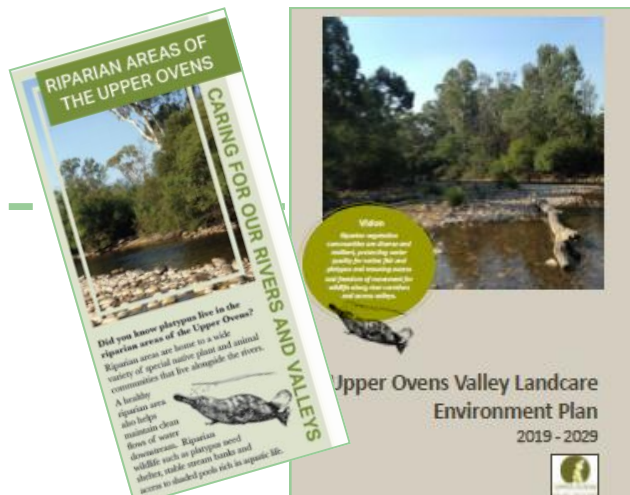
Alternatively go to:

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

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

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Secretary Jeanette McLaren
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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.