



# Upper Ovens Valley Landcare

Winter #5

July 2021

## note from the president—*Peter Jacobs*

Welcome to the newsletter for Winter 2021...and so far it has certainly been a cold rainy (snowy at times) one! The photo above shows the clear water of Eurobin Creek flowing into the flooded silt laden waters of the Ovens River. Obviously there are still sites along the Ovens and it's tributaries with exposed unstable fire effected river banks and hill sides.

As always in the lead up to the end of the financial year we have been busy writing grant applications; one from Victorian Landcare called "Living with Deer" to work with the community on managing feral deer impacts and another from the Murray-Darling for weed control along the Ovens River. No news on those yet.

Finally thanks to Jennie for doing a great job stepping in as Secretary and Jeanette for helping out when she returns from her trip.



Trees growing well

## project update

### Threatened Species Project (Omeo Gum)

In May we had a great day in the Upper Buckland above Beveridge's Station and collected lots of seed capsules. Bec (Alpine Nursery) reports that a lot of seed has dropped out with plenty to start propagating in Spring.

The **Threatened Species Day** was postponed due to Covid19 restrictions but now rescheduled for October 9 at Dingo Dell on Mt Buffalo. The great range of speakers are lined up again. Thanks to Gill Anderson for arranging, cancelling and re-arranging! And Penny for the on line booking system. Please support this and put in you diaries!

### Ovens Buckland confluence (Stage 1 & 2)

In July an enthusiastic group planted 100 very heathy redgums along the south bank of the river. This was to add to the 3000 plants we put in last year . The deer and other wildlife are knocking the trees about a bit but overall things are looking great with trees really coming along.

This added to a smaller group who did some all-important maintenance on the north side. The transformational change on both sides of the river there from what it was (invaded by woody weeds and introduced trees) is amazing. Martin Patterson has donated another 50 redgums from his collection so they will go in soon on the north (Telford's) side. NECMA is coming back in Spring to do some follow up woody weed control on the site.

### Ovens Buckland confluence (Stage 3)

We are quietly confident we will receive a grant enabling us to value add to the great work we have done there over the last 3 years. This will involve the Porepunkah School and NECMA would manage the woody weed control.

### Germantown Streamside Reserve

Construction of a gravel bike path through the Germantown Reserve is commencing soon. It is anticipated that the path will be covered with an asphalt sealer in November. The Working with Children checks for all volunteers on Parks Victoria land have been delayed for now.



Collecting Omeo gum seed



River red gums getting a good Ovens River soaking

*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 future.*

**Murray Darling Basin Authority (MDBA) community forums** *From Simon Law*

Simon attended the first **Upper Murray, Mid Murray and Goulburn-Murray Irrigation District Regional Community Forum** of the MDBA. Simon was invited to join this forum as a Water Watch volunteer.

The Forums were created by the MDBA to **utilise the knowledge and experience of Basin communities. The forum participants are expected to increase their knowledge of the science of their region and contribute to MDBA science and monitoring programs.**



UOVL in Murray Darling Basin

The group were asked to express what they thought were important issues that future monitoring should cover. Much of the discussion involved monitoring of planned water releases to evaluate their impact across both the environmental and irrigation systems. Water releases do not impact the UOVLG as there are no dams above our region to create releases.

A common theme was the lack of feedback from the MDBA, something the UOVLG Water Watch team agrees with.

The session finished with an interesting presentation on monitoring waterbirds in the Barmah-Millewa Forest, a good illustration of the scope of environmental monitoring the MDBA undertakes.

The scope of the MDBA monitoring program can be seen at their [Monitoring and evaluation](#) web page.

- Australia's **largest river red gum forest, covering 66,000 ha** on the Vic / NSW border
- A **Ramsar** wetland of international importance and one of six **Living Murray icon sites**
- **71 waterbird species** identified since monitoring began in 1999, including **four threatened species** such as endangered Australasian bittern
- **Maintaining flooding for 3-4 months** creates ideal conditions for birds to complete all life stages, as seen in 2011



Barmah-Millewa Forest (MDBA)



Migratory wader-Red necked stint



Fish eater-Pelican



Colonial nester –Royal spoonbill



Large wader -Straw necked ibis

**Junior Landcare update** *From Jennie Showers*

When possible, 50 students from Harrietteville school plan to plant 100 native trees and shrubs along the east Ovens River in Harrietteville.

We'll also have an educational session about the impacts of land degradation through gold mining, the importance of invasive weed control and the role regeneration plays in improving riparian zones and river health.

**in the news!**



Yvonne Ward looking 'deadly' whilst she chats to the Alpine Observer about the mental health benefits of Landcare. As Yvonne said "...I don't know how you'd measure the health benefits but I'm sure they're there. One of the rewards for me is coming back years later and seeing trees growing"



Also in the news recently was Peter Jacobs talking about the newly formed *Victorian Deer Control Community Network* which he has been involved in setting up. It will provide a platform for groups to collaborate and share resources / strategies to combat the growing deer issue.



Members enjoying lunch after a big morning planting River red gums

**100 members...UOVLG reaches a milestone!** From Rob Duncan

UOVLG ended Financial Year 2020-2021 with 100 financial members, a record for recent years, and possibly all time.

Notices have been emailed to approximately 90 recent members and a further dozen will be physically mailed inviting members to renew for 2021-2022. The UOVLG membership list is being constantly updated. The next task is to forensically track down problems with bounced emails and lost members.



**Macquarie perch release**

In May several UOVLG members attended the release of the endangered native fish, Macquarie perch, in the Upper Buffalo River.

This DELWP event was both fun and interesting where on a sunny autumn day everyone participated in the release (by hand) of individual fish translocated from Lake Dartmouth. The community event was also well attended by local Traditional Owners from the Taungurung Land and Water Corporation.



**Eucalyptus neglecta—what's in a name!**

From Neville Walsh Senior Conservation Botanist , Royal Botanic Gardens

The earliest collection we have is 1888 - by Howitt from Livingstone Ck (near Omeo). J.H.Maiden, who described *E. neglecta*, saw the specimen but initially considered it to be *E. gunnii* (Tas endemic these days) which was a pretty wild stab. The current phylogeny doesn't place it very near *E. gunnii* at all, and it's in its own Series (sandwiched between things like *E. nitens* and *E. bridgesiana*).

He obviously reconsidered this and published *E. neglecta* in 1904. So, in a sense, neglected/overlooked on 2 fronts - (relatively) late date of collection and his initial overlooking it as something different. The rest is history.



UOVLG collecting & sorting *E. neglecta* seeds

## UOVLG members at work & play—come and join them!



### what's coming up?

- 8 August** Planting maintenance German Creek
  - 10 August** Committee meeting: U3A Bright 6.00pm
  - 21 August** August Market Howitt Park: Bright
  - 12 September** Planting maintenance site TBC
  - 19 September** September Market Howitt Park: Bright
  - 9 October** Threatened Species Day: Dingo Dell M Buffalo NP  
(registration will be necessary)
  - 12 October** Committee meeting/AGM (location TBC)
  - 17 October** October Market Howitt Park: Bright
  - 24 October** Planting maintenance site TBC
- Committee meetings 2nd Tuesday of every month**



What's happening in Upper Owens Valley?



### Committee members

- President: Peter Jacobs
- Vice President: Rob Duncan
- Secretary: Jennie Showers
- Secretary: Jeanette McLaren
- Treasurer: Simon Law
- Jane Bateson
- Mick Donges
- Paul Hellier
- Peter O'Donnell
- Tanya Rinehart
- Yvonne Ward
- Graham Gales
- Gavin Melgaard

### Need more information?

Come and meet us to discuss any issues with members of the Upper Owens 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.

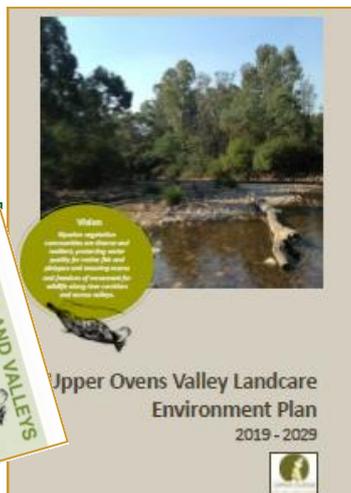
#### Alternatively go to:

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

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

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Secretary Jennie Showers  
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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.

### 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!

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