



Upper Ovens Valley Landcare

Spring #9

November 2022

note from the president—*Peter Jacobs*

Welcome to the 2022 Spring newsletter

Well, another wet spring; even wetter than 2021! We feel for those downstream seriously impacted by the ongoing floods.

Its great to report that our 4 big projects for 2022 are all but completed; see the report below. But don't forget the Living with Deer Field day on 26 November and register if you haven't! We had a lot on our plate this year but with good planning and commitment from members we have got through it with some great outcomes for our environment.

We also have new funding for projects in 2023; but less ambitious than we have just been through, as there is the all important maintenance of plantings to see to as well.

I also welcome the new UOVLG committee for 2022/23. The committee is listed on the back page but a special welcome to new committee members Robyn Guiney and Martyn Patterson. Martyn is also our new Vice President.

project update

Ovens-Buckland Stage 3

This project is to restore the riparian area adjacent to the Porepunkah School Pine Plantation off the Mt Buffalo Road, in conjunction with the school kids. There was major large woody weed removal thanks to support from NECMA and we planted 1000 trees. The 3 stages now account for about 6500 trees planted over the last 3-4 years. Click on the link below to see drone footage of the site; it looks amazing and you can get a good perspective of what we have achieved. Thanks to DELWP biodiversity funding.

<https://vimeo.com/manage/videos/769766911>

Threatened Species: Omeo Gum

Following the great forum on fire and threatened species that we ran at Mount Buffalo, we have now planted 930 of the rare and threatened Omeo Gums into 9 pens in the Upper Buckland with interpretive signage. We have 70 to finish into tree guards that we plan to complete on 4 December. Please join us in this beautiful location. Thanks to the Bushfire Recovery Program and Zoos Victoria.



Ovens River, October 2022—River Red gums getting a good soaking at just below minor flood level



Yvonne Ward (with other UOVLG members) planting trees with Porepunkah Primary School students on a rare sunny day in October

project update cont.

Living with Deer

This project has taken us out of the normal weed control and habitat restoration work that we do and focused on community education. Feral deer are emerging as a major issue for landowners and the natural environment around here and we wanted to help people understand the problem and offer some help with solutions.

We ran a great forum in Bright with lots of expert speakers. This is followed up now by a field day with farm visits on 26 November. At the same time we are developing an online kit to assist landowners with taking the best options to reduce the impact of feral deer. This will be completed and on line by the end of the year. Funded from Victorian Landcare Grants through NECMA.

Upper Ovens Valley Landcare invites you to:

“Living with Deer” Farm Visits

Reducing the impacts of feral deer on your property



Come along to a field day to learn more about deer and ways to manage the impacts of feral deer on your property.

Farmers, property owners and deer control experts will discuss damage from feral deer, and controls such as using property planning, professional pest controllers, volunteer hunters, deterrents and disruptive activity along with physical asset protection such as fencing and guards.

What: Living with Deer Field Day, Buckland Valley
Where: Starting in Porepunkah, car pool preferred or drive yourself
When: Saturday November 26, 10.00 – 3.00
Cost: Free including lunch beside the Buckland River
Bookings: Essential via the link below,
<https://events.humanitix.com/living-with-deer-field-day>
 scan the QR code or
 call Peter 0487 295 198

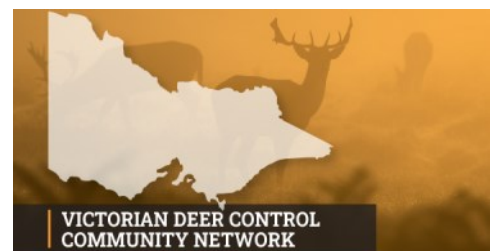


Hosted by the **Upper Ovens Valley Landcare Group** and supported by **TAFCO** and **NECMA**

The new Victorian Deer Control Community Network website is now live.

There is lots of information about deer in Victoria and how you can deal with impacts.

You can visit the website at: <https://vdccn.org.au>



VICTORIAN DEER CONTROL COMMUNITY NETWORK

project update cont.



Planting- Ovens River above Bright

Ovens River above Bright

Continuing with a lot of good work that UOVLG has done between Bright and Germantown over the years, we carried out more extensive weed control along the river and planted 400 trees into one site near German Creek that was particularly infested with weeds. Part of the Murray Darling Healthy Rivers Program.

New Projects

While completing projects we have also been busy applying for the next rounds of funding to keep us busy, achieving what we want to and providing meaningful projects that members can engage with.

Ovens River/One Mile Creek Junction

Thanks to a grant from Bendigo Bank we will be restoring the area where One Mile Creek meets the Ovens River. You will have noticed what a mess this area is as you leave Porepunkah on the way to Myrtleford. It is infested with large woody weeds and is in bad condition. We will be restoring this as part of the work we have been doing upstream towards the Buckland River confluence and aligned with our Environment Plan. NECMA will be assisting with the machinery work.

IT support

Thanks to a grant from the Living Local Volunteers Program, we can finally purchase some items to assist with our community presentations and meetings. We are always trying to beg and borrow projectors, screens etc. and this will allow us to have our own and upgrade our computer laptop and software.

Ongoing weed control

Follow up weed control following the first year flush is crucial to prevent regrowth. Thanks to the Landcare grants though NECMA we have funds to go through all our recent restoration sites to do that critical follow up work.

Storage

As reported previously we now have our own storage site in a container at the Men's Shed. This has been such a worthwhile investment and again thanks to the Bendigo Bank for their help with this. Parks Victoria has provided a small grant that we will put to fitting out the container with shelves and purchasing some new tools and equipment.

All looking good for 2023!



Maintenance day-checking plants, collecting guards to be recycled for next planting



Ovens Buckland August 2020



Ovens Buckland August 2022



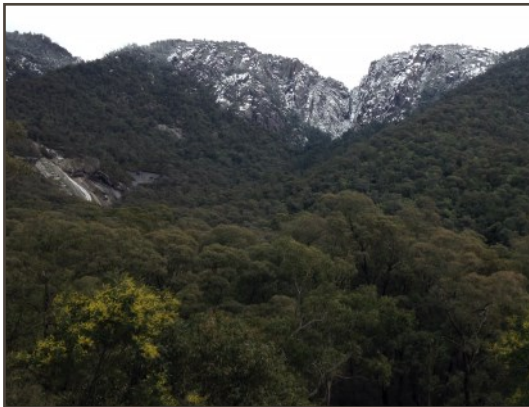
Yvonne Ward and Porepunkah Primary students planting trees

Revegetation video series

The North East Catchment Management Authority (CMA) revegetation video series is now available here at [Revegetation video series \(necma.vic.gov.au\)](https://necma.vic.gov.au).

The series is part of the Bush for Birds project, a landscape-scale project that aims to help landowners create and improve habitat for the critically endangered Regent honeyeater and Swift parrot in north-eastern Victoria.

Revegetation is critical to support these birds and other threatened species to thrive. The series walks through the steps for a successful revegetation project, from planning, site preparation, and planting, to enhancing farm dams to improve biodiversity values in your site.



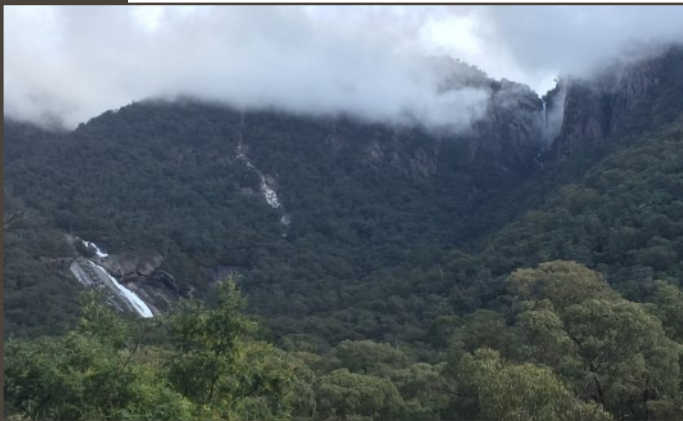
the changing face of Mount Buffalo

Apparently the new slip on Mt Buffalo between the Gorge and Eurobin Falls started with a small rockfall high on the mountain during the 2021 earthquake (reported to rangers by rock climbers). Subsequent heavy rains and erosion have resulted in the slip becoming more and more obvious.

For such a relatively stable mountain geologically, it is remarkable to watch this rapid change.

Mount Buffalo 2019 (L)

2022 August (below left) 2022 November (right)



Forest values at risk—to find out more and take action go to: [Friends of the Earth](#)

You can read the report [here](#) and [Please sign this email to the premier and environment minister here](#)

When the Victorian government announced its forest plan in 2019 to end native forest logging in 2030, it included provision of 'immediate protection' zones, covering a large area across the east of the state.

Friends of the Earth are calling on the government to ensure that areas of greatest ecological values (especially the Little Dargo, Mt Wills/ Bogong and Mt Stirling and alpine ash forests south of the Dargo High Plains) receive immediate protection from logging.

Urgent protection needed for Alpine forests

- Mount Wills
- Mt Stirling
- Little Dargo



More about wombats



Bravecto Spot-On for Dogs has been granted a permit by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicine Authority (APVMA) to allow minor use in wombats for the control of sarcoptic mange. Sarcoptic mange causes significant animal welfare and conservation concerns, especially for wombats.

Learn more about [WIRES Community Mange Treatment Program](#), and [register your interest](#).

What eucalypt tree seedlings have we been planting lately?

Easy species identification from seedling juvenile leaves:



Eucalyptus camaldulensis River Red gum

Juvenile leaves are fine and wispy—long thin and tinted red



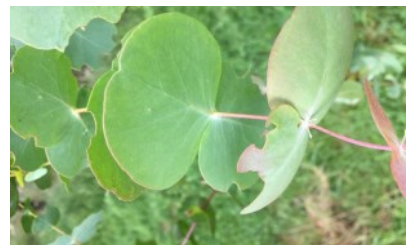
E. camphora Mountain Swamp gum

Juvenile leaves are short stalked and almost complete circle



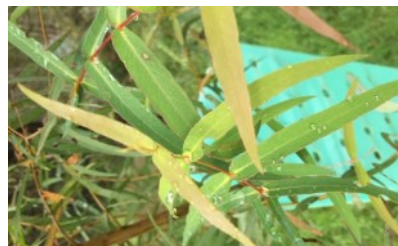
E. globulus ssp. bicostata Blue gum

Juvenile leaves are large, soft and greyish white (waxy), stalkless on square stems



E. rubida Candlebark gum

Juvenile leaves blue grey, roundish, opposite and stalkless



E. radiata Narrow leaf Peppermint

Juvenile leaves are long, reddish and shiny



E. bridgesiana Applebox

Juvenile leaves are blue grey, heart or circular, short or no stalk

What's coming up?

19 November (Saturday)

Market, Bright—always looking for help so please contact Leonie on 0417 242 391

26 November (Saturday)

'Living with Deer' Field Day—Buckland Valley Farm Visits (see page 3)

4 December (Sunday)

Omeo gum planting—Buckland Valley & Alpine NP (no dogs) notification to come

17 December (Saturday)

Upper Ovens Valley Landcare Xmas BBQ

What's happening in Upper Ovens Valley?



Notes:

A 2023 summer/autumn calendar will be available after the new year.

Reminders go out by email a week before each activity confirming details so look for them; locations may change to reflect need and conditions.

Sunday working bees are fully supported with the equipment trailer and lunch and hot drinks, and go a bit longer.

Thursday working bees are less formal for those that prefer mid week; bring you own tools and refreshments.

Committee meeting: 5.30 pm zoom or SES Bright: **2nd Thursday of every month.**

All members are welcome to attend.



Need more information?

Look for us at our stand at the Bright 'Make-it, Bake-It, Grow-it' market—held on 3rd Saturday of every month. We are not there every month but when we are there are people to chat too as well as maps, literature and pamphlets.

Alternatively go to:

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

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

President phone:

0487 295 198

Secretary phone:

0408 541 226

Committee members

President: Peter Jacobs

Vice President: Martyn Paterson (new)

Secretary: Jeanette McLaren

Treasurer: Simon Law

Yvonne Ward

Graham Gales

Leonie Wyld

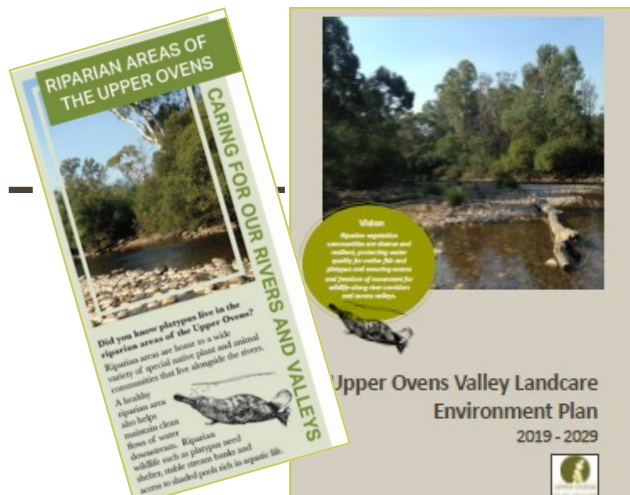
Rod McCracken

Robyn Guiney (new)

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!

Gill Anderson
peopleinnature@bigpond.com