



# Horsham Landcare Newsletter

## Issue 4: November 2022



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## Update from the Facilitator



Hi all,

Wow, we have just about made it to the end of 2022! It is now a year since I started in the role of Landcare Facilitator and I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the Landcare community for making this first year so enjoyable. I've enjoyed getting out to different parts of our region, meeting so many new people and planning more Landcare activities for the future.

It has been a busy couple of months since the last issue. Five Landcare groups in our area applied for and were successful in the 2022-2023 Victorian Landcare Grants. Horsham Public School and Horsham Special School also applied for Junior Landcare Grants and were successful in their applications. A big congratulations to all who applied and were successful, a lot of work goes into putting these applications together. We look forward to bringing more Landcare events to the community next year.

Many groups are holding their AGM's around this time and it is great to see volunteers putting their hands up to take on committee roles. Landcare cannot operate without volunteers and committees provide a great structure to make things happen. If you're interested in being more involved with Landcare, reach out to your local group and see what their committee needs help with.

The 5th December is International Volunteer Day, an important day to recognise volunteers from all sectors and the fantastic contribution volunteers make to this community. Horsham Rural City Council are hosting a morning tea at the Horsham Town Hall on the 5th from 10.30 am - 12pm. All Landcare

volunteers are invited to the morning tea where there will be tea, coffee and snacks to enjoy and guest speakers to hear from. For catering purposes, **please RSVP** to me by **Thursday 2 December**.

It has been a really great time for citizen science activities. National Bird Week was held in October, along with the Aussie Backyard Bird Count. Last week was Frog ID week where anyone could submit recordings of frogs calling and have them identified. I also participated in the Great Southern BioBlitz - an annual event that encourages citizen scientists all over the Southern Hemisphere to take photos and record our biodiversity. We had fantastic participation across the Wimmera with 640 individual observations, 331 species recorded and 37 people contributing their observations. To learn more about this project and how you can contribute biodiversity observations, visit iNaturalist:

<https://www.inaturalist.org/home>

For the rest of the year, I will be helping groups with their AGM's, reporting on grants and hosting end of year break ups. I'd like to wish all our Landcarer's and broader community and happy, healthy and safe end to 2022. I hope you all have a very Merry Christmas and I'm already looking forward to planning for 2023 and seeing what the new year brings.

Cheers,

Annie



## Updates from the Landcare Groups



### Horsham Urban Landcare

Horsham Urban Landcare held our AGM at the start of November and welcome a new president and vice-president to our committee. At our AGM, we heard from Alex Jaimes about the new four-bin system that will be implemented in Horsham in April 2023. HUL will look at ways we can support HRCC in delivering this project and see some good opportunities for collaboration and education, especially with organic waste.

We ran our final Repair Cafe session on the 26th November. Thank you to those who came along and a big thank you to Michael for stepping in to run the session at the last minute. We'd also like to thank the community for supporting our Repair Cafe throughout the year, we'll be back for more next year!

We were supposed to hold a fruit thinning and de-budding workshop but were unfortunately rained out. We've rescheduled this workshop to run on Sunday the 4th December at 2.30 at The Patch. If you'd like to attend please [register here](#) or contact Annie on 0407914498.

Our final Produce Swap and Share will be held on the 17th December and we will be having a small Christmas break up. We have been able to run our swaps every month this year, except for January which is a big achievement after the last 2 years of disruptions. Thank you to everyone who participates and to our wonderful committee who host the swaps.

Boomerang Bags attended the Community Group Expo at the Horsham Town Hall in October. It was a great day for the group to get some interest and attract new volunteers. We have had our last working bee for 2022. The final workshop date for December will be a lunch to celebrate the hard work of this great group over the year. If you have an hour or so to spare on a Wednesday afternoon, please contact Gillian for more information on 0427 646 728.



### Laharum Landcare

Laharum Landcare have been able to run a few more events towards the end of the year. We ran a small plant out at the Laharum Hall. Wendy hosted a nest box building day where we had a good production line going and got quite a few boxes built. We've also finished spending our 2022 Landcare grant on weed control. We will have our AGM and Christmas break up on Tuesday the 29th of November at Zumsteins. Anyone wanting to get more involved in our group is welcome to come along.

## Natimuk Urban Landcare

The Natimuk Plant Identification was held on the 5th November. It was a great day out and the weather luckily held out for us this time. Paul Foreman from Blue Devil Consulting led the group through 2 sites along Natimuk Creek, one that is planned for revegetation by the Natimuk Urban Landcare Group, and another that is a remnant patch of buloke-grassy woodland. We also visited Mount Arapiles and looked at a site that was previously open grassland but is now shrub dominated. While looking at and learning how to identify a variety of plants, we also discussed different management options for all sites such as the use of burning to promote native grassland, weed control and revegetation.

Attendees came from across the Horsham area and beyond to attend this session. This event was funded through the 21-22 Victorian Landcare Grants.

## The Patch

The amount of rain that Horsham has seen has kept The Patch green and lush but has also given us challenges in keeping on top of the weeds! We have held 2 working bees in November and October where we had 10 volunteers join us for a couple of hours to help with weeding and covering the fruit trees. This has made a great improvement to The Patch. We have welcomed some new members and they have been busy weeding their plots and then sowing their summer crops. We also held a fundraiser with the garlic grown at The Patch and were able to raise \$105 that will go back into buying supplies for the garden. For more information, please contact Annie or follow us on Facebook: [The Patch at the Salvos](#).



## Wimmera Growers of Australian Plants

The Wimmera Growers of Australian Plants ran a Propagation Workshop for the public on Saturday 12 November at the Haven Hall. Thirteen participants attended and it was great to see one mum bring her young son with her and he joined in with the activities.

In the morning topics covered were collecting and storing seed, preparation of seed before sowing, sowing seed and pricking out seedlings into forestry tubes. Each participant went about choosing their seed and sowing each species into separate seed punnets. This was followed by potting on seedlings into forestry tubes. The afternoon sessions followed a similar format to the morning but concentrated on taking and preparing cuttings, placing them into thumb pots, caring for their cuttings until they had struck and finally potting on struck cuttings.

The last session was a demonstration on making your own heat bed to place your prepared pots of cuttings onto. Heat beds can be purchased commercially but it is more economical to make your own and still be well within the legal requirements.

Each participant received a tray full of propagating materials that they were able to use during the day. Once the practical work was completed their trays were overflowing with pots of sown seed and prepared cuttings, and potted on seedlings and struck cuttings for them to take home. Also each participant was given a booklet *Wimmera Plant Guide* which is full of lots of species of plants that Wimmera Growers of Australian Plants members are already growing successfully.

There were lots of exchanging of ideas from both, participants and helpers, as well as lots of laughter and plenty of food for morning and afternoon teas.







### Junior Landcare - Horsham Public School 298 Campus

The children at Horsham Primary School – 298 Campus, have really appreciated, enjoyed and benefited from putting the generous Junior Landcare grant to use. I think the smiles on their faces say it all. They really seem to enjoy their time spent gardening together. It always seems to make for a relaxed opportunity for students to share stories about their gardening experiences at home, share jokes and laughs, get dirty together, enjoy some fresh air, develop a sense of pride in what they achieve, and see other students enjoy what they've done and grown in the garden area. It's always great to hear students comment that they love gardening. That it's fun. Giving them this opportunity at a young age, will hopefully help foster a love of gardening for life. Not all students may be sports or academically orientated, so gardening may be another interest that they pursue.

The students already have a well-established vegetable garden area at the school, so it has been a wonderful opportunity to expand on this garden area and use the grant to redo and expand an existing garden area nearby, that had become a bit over grown with lawn. Student's worked hard together, to pull out the grass, put down a layer of cardboard, soil and mulch. They then enjoyed planting some native plants and a few fruit trees. Students are excited to see some apples growing already! The garden has been completed with some nice edging.

Whilst the project has been a challenge to complete with all the rain, it will hopefully be a very worthwhile and memorable experience for the students involved. And the garden area will keep on providing more memorable gardening opportunities in the future, as students maintain it, add plants over the years, and learn about the various plants, pollinators and mini beasts that visit it, as part of their science lessons.

**And a few words from the students:**

“What I like about gardening is when we softened the dirt (loosen the dirt with a pitch fork to put on the garden beds). The other thing was when we planted the plants and made a new garden bed. After that we covered the garden with mulch so the weeds don’t get through.” - Braxton and Tristian.

“I love gardening with Ms Dunmill because we do lots of things including digging, planting, weeding, watering and were allowed to use real tools! Hot or cold we always find a way to make it fun! We don’t have to stay silent, you can joke and share stories. I’m SO happy we got lots of money to redo our beautiful school garden! And we have animals like rabbits discovered all the time!” – Pippa.

“The thing about gardening at school is well it’s fun. At my experience of gardening we planted new seedlings. They were tomatoes. Then we removed the peas from the pea straw. But the sad thing is a couple of days later we had to dig it up because it flooded.” - Violet.

“Well my experience was fun. I did raking, weeding and shovelling” - Cooper.

“Well my experience was really good. My favourite part of the garden is the snow pea area! Sometimes I like to, or I see people picking snow peas from the plant.” - Amelia.

“When I went to garden at the science room I raked the dirt. It was so crumbly. And I planted plants too. I pulled weeds out as well. It was so fun to do.” - Sienna.

“When I went to help in the garden I planted plants. I raked the soil. I watered the plants.” - Holly.















## Update from Landcare Victoria



Landcare Victoria is leading the development of a Landcare Plan for Victoria. Due for completion in June 2023, the Plan will provide a united voice and future vision for the landcare community in Victoria.

Building on our engagement with the Landcare community and partners in early 2022, we would like to further engage around the development of the Plan.

This stage of engagement will include a series of online workshops to gather input into potential solutions and ways forward for the challenges and opportunities identified in the 2022 Landcare Plan Engagement Findings Report - available here: [Landcare Victoria Engagement Findings Report](#)

Register for the workshop on the 6th December to provide your feedback here: [Victorian Landcare Plan - Landcare Members Workshop Tickets, Tue 06/12/2022 at 5:00 pm | Eventbrite](#)

There is also an opportunity to provide feedback on the quarterly Landcare magazine. Complete [this survey](#) to provide feedback by the 9th December.

## Grants and funding opportunities



- **Andrews Foundation** <https://andrewsfoundation.org.au/>

The Trust supports selective projects for assisting in dealing with environmental needs and problems. These needs include rehabilitation of land and monitoring of land at risk. The usual limit for such a Grant is \$10,000.00.

- **The Ross Trust Biodiversity Conservation Smart Grants** <https://www.rosstrust.org.au/apply-for-a-grant/biodiversity-conservation>

Up to 40k per year for up to 3 years

- **Australian Communities Foundation** <https://www.communityfoundation.org.au/>

Australian Communities Foundation is a community of giving, powered by a courageous ambition: a fairer and more sustainable Australia. As a broker of change, we connect those who can give with the people and organisations leading the way. \$2000-\$15000 available.

- **Roddenberry Foundation** <https://roddenberryfoundation.org/our-work/catalyst-fund/>

The Catalyst Fund makes grants between \$2,500–\$15,000 to anyone, anywhere in the world who has an early-stage idea or project that addresses pressing global challenges.

- **Normal Wettenhall Foundation Small environment grants** <https://wettenhall.org.au/>

Support projects making positive difference to natural environment. \$1000-10000 available.

- **Mazda Foundation Grants** <https://mazdafoundation.org.au/>

Fund projects on a range of objectives including assistance towards the maintenance & improvement of the natural environment

- **Regional Renewable Energy Agency Regional Australia Microgrid Pilots Program**

Aims to improve the resilience and reliability of power supply for regional and remote communities

<https://www.futurefoodsystems.com.au/regional-australia-microgrid-pilots-program-rampp/#:~:text=Announced%20in%20the%202020%2D21,for%20microgrids%20in%20regional%20Australia.>

- **Zero Emissions Vehicle Subsidy**

The Zero Emissions Vehicle (ZEV) Subsidy reduces the upfront cost of a new zero emissions vehicle to get more Victorians driving the future of transport sooner. \$3000 subsidy available.

<https://www.solar.vic.gov.au/zero-emissions-vehicle-subsidy>

- **June Canavan Foundation**

Supports projects that create sustainable outcomes & allow people to help themselves in accordance with the principle of ‘a hand up, not a hand out. One of the focus areas is conservation. Small projects \$10000 - \$20000, larger projects \$20000 - \$50000. Ongoing.

<http://www.junecanavanfoundation.org.au/>

- **Purves Environmental fund**

Grants available to support species loss from habitat destruction, landscape & water management and/or climate change solutions. Up to \$50000 available.

[Apply for Funding \(purvesenvirofund.org.au\)](http://www.purvesenvirofund.org.au/)

## Articles and Links



[Floods can be a disaster for humans – but for nature, it's boom time](#)

[New native bee species with distinctive 'snout' discovered in Perth's Kings Park](#)

[The biodiversity crisis – in Australia and around the world](#)

[Maia Grazing webinar](#)

[Environment laws need overhaul epa say farmers and conservationists](#)

[Five takeaways from COP27](#)

## Upcoming Events



### **Laharum Landcare AGM and Christmas Break up**

November 29th 6pm

Zumsteins picnic area

Contact [laharumlandcare@gmail.com](mailto:laharumlandcare@gmail.com) to RSVP

### **International Volunteer's Day**

December 5th 10.30am - 12pm

Horsham Town Hall

RSVP to Annie by 2nd December

**Landcare Victoria Landcare Plan Workshop**

December 6th 5-7pm

Register here: [Victorian Landcare Plan - Landcare Members Workshop](#)

**Natimuk Urban Landcare Xmas drinks and wrap up**

Thursday December 15th, 7.30 – 8.30 pm

At NC2. BYO drink, snacks provided

**Horsham Urban Landcare Produce Swap and break up**

Saturday December 17th, 10am

At The Patch. Bring a plate to share!