



Autumn - Winter #8

June 2022

note from the president—*Peter Jacobs*

Welcome to the 2022 Autumn-Winter newsletter...

It's been a busy Autumn and Winter start for UOVLG. As part of our goal of raising awareness of the local environment, we staged and assisted with four great community events as reported on page 2. In addition, we did maintenance to plantings and major weed control works were undertaken along the Ovens River in preparation for winter and spring planting, along with organizing permits and materials (thanks Wendy).

So now we have lots of planting to do and we need your help!

The main projects are outlined below and the scheduled dates are on the back page: please put the dates in your diary and come along if you can.

Many hands will get the work done; the results of the last few years' weed control and planting are amazing and nice to reflect on. ***Think global: act local!***

project update

Ovens-Buckland Stage 3

In partnership with the Porepunkah School we are restoring the riparian area behind their pine plantation; planting 1000 trees and shrubs. Wendy and Yvonne ran an introduction for the kids recently and they are now excited about helping us plant out the site. Massive weed control and mulching has been completed and it's all ready to go with 300 plants already. We have previously planted over 5000 trees into this area near the confluence of the Ovens and Buckland Rivers.

Threatened Species: Omeo Gum

We have propagated 1000 rare Omeo Gums ready to plant in the Upper Buckland Valley where they were burnt in 2020. Following the construction of fenced pens (to keep out deer and cattle) we will start planting later in Spring.

Ovens River above Bright

Following weed control between Bright and Germantown we have 400 plants to put into disturbed sites, building on work done over previous years.

Living with Deer

Following the great forum in Bright, we will hold a field day after winter and produce a kit and video for landowners in the Upper Ovens around options for dealing with feral deer impacts.

Grant applications

Grant applications in development are for follow up weed control around plantings, assistance with planting Omeo Gums and some support for growing awareness in the community of landcare and growing out membership.



Ladies Bath Falls MBNP, Autumn 2022



Planting Ovens—Buckland Stage 3



Omeo Gum *E. neglecta*

project update cont.

A busy autumn of community forums for UOVLG

UOVLG have been directly involved with three big community events during autumn!



Sustainable Upper Ovens Carbon Action Field Day, Bright, 26 March

Organised by Sustainable Upper Ovens (SUO) the field day hosted presentations from Upper Ovens Valley Landcare, Zoos Victoria, Parks Victoria, Alpine Shire Council and the Bright Community Gardens about how the community can be an active part of the action plan to reduce our carbon emissions.

SUO deputy chair Dennis Lambert said people came and went throughout the day listening to the various presentations on climate change initiatives and viewing the range of local electric cars and bikes on display.

Peter Jacobs (UOVLG) introduced the concept of '**nature based solutions**' as an important way to think about how to reduce the impacts of climate change.

Threatened Species & Fire Recovery: stories from Upper Ovens Valley, Mt Buffalo NP, 30 April

About 60 people attended the full day forum at Mount Buffalo (organised by UOVLG) to discuss the impact of multiple fires on local threatened plant and animal species. Experts spoke about the effect of frequent fire on key alpine species such as (L-R) Mountain Pygmy Possum, Broad-toothed Rat and Smokey Mouse among a long list of other species under threat. (Photos: Zoos Victoria) Long fire free periods are desperately needed to prevent a total change of state.



Taungurung elder, Uncle Shane Monk with 'Welcome to Country & smoking ceremony'.



The forum was opened by Aboriginal Traditional Owner Uncle Shane Monk who spoke of the concern of First Nations people about the health of the country and the effect climate change and too many fires.

Thank you to presenters from DELWP, Zoos Victoria, ARI, Platypus Conservancy and Royal Botanic Gardens who shared their stories about the ecology of so many fascinating species.

Living with Deer Forum, Bright, 28 May



Participants & Parks Victoria presenter, Deer Forum, Bright

As part of the *Living with Deer* project UOVLG ran a successful forum with around 50 participants attending. Feral deer are emerging as one of the most concerning invasive species across Australia. They are growing in number and spreading fast. In Victoria there are around 1 million feral deer covering nearly 40% of the State. North-east Victoria contains some of the highest populations of deer from rivers to the highest mountain tops. They were initially introduced for game in the 1860's and hunters' value them, but they have now gone from a curiosity to becoming a serious pest.

Deer impact on residents of the North-east Victoria in many ways be it grazing and browsing valuable pastures crops and trees, destroying fences and gardens, or being a hazard on the road. Deer are in all our national parks. There is no one solution currently to eliminating feral deer in the landscape, so we need to learn how to live with them. The forum presenters provided very useful information.

Safe Cat, Safe Wildlife *from Amanda Lamont Zoos Vic*

Check out the 'sardines for thought' on the webpage. Giving pet cats safe and happy lives indoors is one of the best things we can do for both our furry friends and for Australian wildlife. In fact, a cat cared for indoors at home can live up to 4 times longer than a cat allowed to roam.

ZV and the RSPCA Victoria is here to help with all the advice and tips & tricks cat owners need to give their pet cat enriched and happy lives at home. We're about to hit 30,000 members of our Safe Cat, Safe Wildlife community and have over 150 councils, vet clinics, shelters and groomers helping us spread the message that an indoor cat is a happy cat. <https://www.safecat.org.au/>

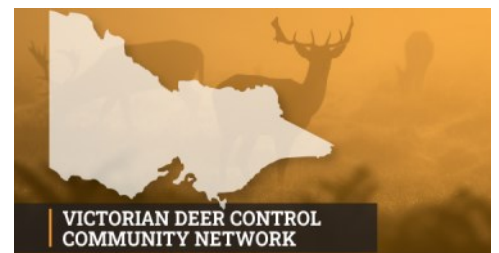


Small native mammals are easy prey for cats

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>



And the fungi continues into winter...

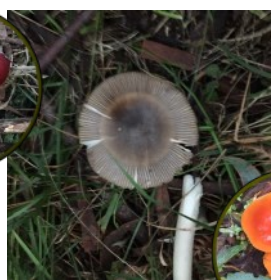
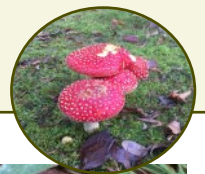
from The Conversation

This year has been a particularly good one for fungus. The harsh 2019-20 summer dried our soils, stressed much of our vegetation and led to major bushfires. In 2021, this switched abruptly to one of the wettest starts to a year on record in many places, courtesy of the La Niña climate pattern.

With the rains, the weather became ideal for fungal reproduction. We had warm, very moist soils and lovely warm and sunny autumnal days, perfect for fungi to send up their reproductive structures (you might know these as mushrooms and toadstools) and spread their spores.

Conditions this good may not occur again for years so seize the opportunity to see them.

Fungi are always there in our soils. Their fine thread structures, called hyphae, lie underfoot all year, but their fruiting bodies only appear under the right conditions. Many of these fungi entwine around the roots of specific plants and in many cases into the plant root cells themselves. The fungus offers water and nutrients to the plants and in return the plants give the fungus some of the carbohydrates they produce from photosynthesis. It's a marvellously beneficial relationship.



Working with Children

Parks Victoria (PV) now requires all volunteers working on PV managed land to have a current Working with Children's check. While we fully support a child safe environment and most of our committee have this check, this is a personal decision and some volunteers may choose not to go through that.

This may effect our ability to effectively run projects on PV managed land so we will need to give that some thought for future projects. Currently this will effect existing projects in Germantown Streamside Reserve, the Alpine National Park (Omeo Gum) and the Ovens River Reserve, right bank above Bright.

The Victorian Environmental Friends Network are unhappy with how this has been implemented and have been making representations to PV on this, but the policy remains.

In the mean time, we would encourage UOVLG members to get a Working with Children's check. It is free for volunteers and quite an easy process.

Go to: <https://www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au/>

Upper Ovens Valley Landcare Market: we need your help with this too!

The UOVLG market stall has been a feature for many years at the Make it, Bake it, Grow it Market, third Saturday of the month at Howitt Park in Bright. This is a great opportunity to raise awareness of landcare, get new members, promote events and generally chat and socialise. We love the market but it needs your support if its going to continue. It needs members to help set up @ 8.00am, attend during the day and pack up @ 1.00pm.

We have roster so no-one needs to be there the whole time, but recently its been falling to just a few to do this. We would love you to come along and join in!

If you can help on some of the market days please call Leonie on 0417 242391



Films coming up:

The Lake of Scars

The Lake of Scars is as much a portrait of a hidden facet of history and environment as it is a musing on what reconciliation can look like in Australia. While exploring the beautiful, mysterious scarred trees, middens and stone scatters along murray wetlands, we meet the people, Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal, who are working against the clock, to preserve and promote what they can. Jida Gulpilil, a past resident of Bright has a major role. From 10 July: Sun Cinema Bright.

Mine Field

Sue Ronco has advised there will be a screening of 'Mine Field' that investigates the ethics of mining regulation in Victoria. Sue says it's a must see for all communities who face the prospect of large-scale mining. It is based on the plight of the residents and farmers in East Gippsland, as they face the huge challenge of opposing a mining company.

Save the date: Saturday 30th July. Tickets available online soon.

For more information email sue_ronco@yahoo.com.au



what's coming up?

7 July (Thursday)	Ovens –Buckland planting: 10.00am—12.00 noon
24 July (Sun)	Ovens –Buckland planting: 10.00am—1.00pm
12 & 19 August	Ovens –Buckland Porepunkah School planting
20 August (Sat)	August Market Howitt Park: Bright
28 August (Sun)	Ovens –Buckland planting: 10.00am—1.00pm
8 September (Thurs)	Ovens –Buckland planting: 10.00am—12.00 noon
17 Sept (Sat)	September Market Howitt Park: Bright
25 Sept (Sun)	Ovens/German Creek Healthy Rivers: planting 10.00am— 1.00pm
6 Oct (Thurs)	Ovens/German Creek Healthy Rivers: planting 10.00am—12.00noon
15 Oct (Sat)	October Market Howitt Park: Bright
23 Oct (Sun)	Upper Buckland Omeo Gums: 10.00am—3.00pm
3 Nov (Thurs) TBC	Upper Buckland Omeo Gums: 10.00am—3.00pm

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

What's happening in Upper Ovens Valley?



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 U3A rooms Railway Ave Bright: **2nd Thursday of every month.**

All members are welcome to attend.

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>

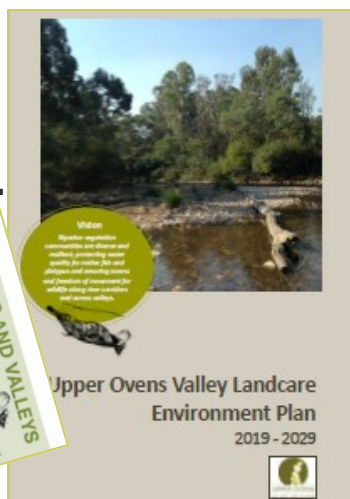
Upper Ovens Valley Landcare Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/UOVLG/>

President phone:

0487 295 198

Secretary phone:

0408 541 226



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.

Committee members

President: Peter Jacobs
Secretary: Jeanette McLaren
Treasurer: Simon Law
Mick Donges
Paul Hellier
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