



The Yarrilinks Loop

Quarterly Newsletter

Produced by Yarrilinks Landcare Network and covering Landcare and sustainable agriculture groups in southern Yarriambiack Shire.

Yarrilinks Landcare operates on the Traditional Lands of the Wotjobaluk, Jaadwa, Jadawadjali, Wergaia and Jupagulk people. We acknowledge them as Traditional Owners and Custodians of Country, and pay our respects to elders past and present.

Introducing our new Landcare Facilitator!

Yarrilinks Landcare is pleased to share that they have recently appointed a new Landcare Facilitator!

Alicia comes from another Facilitator position at Lismore Land Protection Group in Corangamite. Although she is new to the Wimmera, she brings experience navigating the unique Landcare space and facilitating projects in natural resource management and agriculture.

She grew up on the Canadian Prairies and completed a degree in plant ecology from the University of Saskatchewan before moving to Australia and doing her PhD in weed science at the University of Adelaide. In her spare time, she enjoys bushwalking with her husband and caring for far too many houseplants. She is pictured here planting some trees in June at Trust for Nature's Snape Reserve to see how we do it up here in the Wimmera.

Alicia is keen to learn as much as she can about her new patch and open to discussing opportunities to collaborate on Landcare projects. Please feel free to reach out!

Alicia's position is hosted at the Wimmera CMA in Horsham and funded by the Victorian Landcare Facilitator Program (VLFP). The Victorian Government recently announced a one-year extension to the VLFP. Across the state, 80 Landcare Facilitators and 10 Regional Landcare Coordinators now have their roles funded until 30 June 2025.



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What else is new?

It's no secret that Covid was hard on community groups, and Yarrilinks was no exception. Combined with a vacancy in the facilitator position for over 12 months, things have been looking pretty quiet at Yarrilinks lately. We're hoping to change that, but we need your help! Read on to learn how you can have your say in our Landcare Priorities Survey and pick up a free native plant at our Landcare Week plant giveaway.

As part of our reactivation efforts, we've also gotten a bit of a makeover: new logo, new look, and a new website is coming soon. We also have lots of project plans in the works, and are reviewing our strategic plan.

A big thanks to Aubrey+Areegra for designing our new logo, style guide, and website (currently in the works)! The wonderful Kate and Karen, brains behind this War-racknabeal marketing agency, have been involved with Yarrilinks over the years and were well positioned to craft a new look that would speak to our audience. We've even noticed that the colour scheme they've set for us matches a lot of the photos we've been using - they've absolutely nailed it! How lucky are we to have this local expertise?

Landcare Priorities Survey

Reviewing our strategic plan means surveying the current Landcare landscape and doing a stocktake of our stakeholder needs and priorities.

If you have 15-20 minutes to share your views, we would really appreciate your feedback. Access the survey using the QR code below, or visit bit.ly/YLNSurvey.

We will also be getting out into the community to speak with people face to face! See more details on the reverse.





Native Plant giveaway and engagement drive

We'll be getting out to towns in our catchment area to give away native plants from Dalki Garringa Native Nursery and engage with the community during Landcare Week (7-13 August) and beyond. New facilitator Alicia is very keen to meet some local landcarers!

Murtoa

Weds 9th Aug 10-12 pm
Murtoa Neighbourhood House

Minyip

Thurs 10th Aug, 10-12pm
Minyip IGA

Rupanyup

Weds 9th Aug 2-4 pm
Nutrien Ag Solutions

Warracknabeal

Sat 19th Aug, 10-12pm
Warracknabeal Community Garden

Around the Network

Here are some highlights of recent events and site visits in the Yarrilinks Landcare Network area! If you've got something to share, whether its flora, fauna, farming or just a beautiful Wimmera landscape, we'd love to hear from you!

Flying a drone at Rupanyup

In July Alicia visited the old reservoir at Rupanyup to take some drone photos of a previous planting site, thanks to drone pilot Cobba Harrison from the Wimmera CMA.

This site was planted by the Rupanyup Landcare Group over the past few years, and group member Adrian Tyler continues to undertake maintenance keep the weeds down. Adrian is really keen to get some native grasses established at the site, which will reduce the need to spray the weeds. We are hoping to et some native grasses sown on the site in autumn 2024. Watch this space!



What's blooming in the Wimmera?

As we come to the end of winter more and more wattles are starting to bloom in cheerful yellow. The gold-dust wattle (*Acacia acinacea*) is just starting at the moment. Some of the other species we've observed flowering over the past few months of winter are the Wimmera riceflower and of course, the eucalypts.

Other upcoming events

Rupanyup Landcare Group Meeting

Weds 9th August, 7:30 pm, Rupanyup Museum

New facilitator Alicia will attend and share a bit about her background before Yarrilinks. She's also really keen to meet the community and get feedback on Landcare needs and priorities in the region.

Wimmera Biodiversity Seminar

Thursday 7th Sept 2023, Warracknabeal

The Wimmera Biodiversity Seminar is our region's own biodiversity conference. This year's focus is on rediscovering our threatened species. More info and register: bit.ly/WimmeraBS-2023

Gather, Grow & Thrive Forum

Friday 8th Sept, Rupanyup

This forum from Partners in Agriculture is all about putting your health and wellbeing first to form a solid foundation for your farm business to thrive. More info and register: bit.ly/PinAgGGT



The critically endangered **Wimmera Riceflower** (*Pimelea spinescens* ssp. *pubiflora*) flowers in winter and is known from only a handful of sites across the Wimmera. One of those sites is in Minyip, where a population of plants grows at the Minyip wetlands.

Eucalypts can flower year round, but one of the species currently in bloom is one of the sweetest! **Yellow box** (*Eucalyptus melliodora*) is known for its sweet scent and is a favourite for honey production.



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