

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.

Chair's Update

G'day all. After a quiet few years Yarrilinks is back up and running. Our new facilitator Alicia started a few months back and has been flat out building momentum and reinvigorating our region. Please get in touch with Alicia for anything Landcare and she will be onto it.

Yarrilinks are currently reviewing the Strategic Plan to help guide our next 5 years, we will have that done early next year and the focus is to enjoy our environment. Plans are in place to get some revegetation projects underway next year; keep an eye out for updates on the website and newsletter.

When it comes to our local environment anything done is better than nothing so start sending in ideas for Yarrilinks to get involved with!

- Tim Inkster, Yarrilinks Committee Chair



Facilitator's Update

Spring in the Wimmera is in full swing and things have been busy at Yarrilinks! I have been out at community events, planning for next year, and working with the committee on our Strategic Plan.

This was my first spring living in the Wimmera, and that means my first orchid season too! Wow, how lucky

are we to have this amazing diversity in our patch? Flip over to the end of the newsletter to see some examples.

We've got plenty to share in this edition, so read on!

- *Catch us at upcoming events
- *New website and new committee member!
- *Project updates: weed control, 2024 planting, & more
- *Wildlife photos from around the network

- Alicia Merriam, Yarrilinks Landcare Facilitator

Upcoming events

Warracknabeal Show

Thurs 12 Oct, 9am-5pm, Warracknabeal Showgrounds

Yarrilinks will have a stall at the show this year, and will have children's activities, environmental resources, and other goodies to give away. Come say hi!

Entrance to the show is \$15 for adults, \$5 for secondary students and free for children.

Aussie Bird Count

Sat 21 Oct, 4pm, Lake Marma, Murtoa

Now in its 10th year, the Aussie Bird Count is an Australia wide event running from 16-22 Oct that encourages Aussies to get out and record the birds they see in their local area.

Join Yarrilinks at Lake Marma to learn how to use the Aussie Bird Count app and observe some birds! Bring sturdy footwear, water, sunscreen, and insect repellent. No prior experience needed, just download the free Aussie Bird Count App and register for an account.

More info here:

aussiebirdcount.org.au

RSVP to Alicia:

0455 166 445 or

landcare@yarrilinks.org.au



FrogID Week Twilight Walk

Weds 8 Nov, 7pm, Rupanyup Memorial Park

FrogID Week (3-12 Nov) is Australia's biggest frog count! Record frog calls to help scientists understand how frog health and distributions are changing over time.

Join Yarrilinks in Rupanyup for a twilight walk to listen for frog calls and see what we can find. Bring sturdy footwear and insect repellent. No prior experience needed, just download the free FrogID app and register your account, or pair up with someone on the evening. More info:

www.frogid.net.au

RSVP to Alicia 0455 166 445 / landcare@yarrilinks.org.au

Guest speaker events

Alicia will be the guest speaker at some upcoming community meetings and will talk about her background, her role at Yarrilinks and our Landcare plans for the future! Catch her at:

Warracknabeal Community Garden

Sat 21 Oct 11am, 102 Scott Street Warracknabeal

Minyip Progress Association

Weds 1 Nov, 5pm, Minyip Memorial Hall, 52 Main Street



News

Our new website is live!

Head to our website to learn more about Yarrilinks. Check out the blog or read past newsletters, with much more to come! A huge thanks to Aubrey+Areegra for setting it up!

www.yarrilinks.org.au

New Yarrilinks committee member

The Yarrilinks Committee would like to extend a big, warm welcome to Maddie Grant!

Maddie is a Biodiversity Officer for the Victorian Department of Environment, Energy and Climate Action (DEECA), so she brings a wealth of experience in natural resource management and passion for the environment.

Maddie is also President of Avon Plains Banyena Landcare Group (part of the Buloke and Northern Grampians Landcare Network), and a member of Rupanyup Landcare Group. Welcome Maddie!

2023 Threatened Species Bake-off

This event invites Australians to bring awareness to our threatened species by baking delicious creations in their honour.



This year Alicia made a Wimmera Spider Orchid (*Caladenia lowanensis*) cake!

Glyphosate resistant weeds on roadsides

We've recently heard from some concerned landholders in the region about suspected glyphosate (RoundUp) resistant weeds on roadsides, including annual ryegrass.

Glyphosate resistance in annual ryegrass caused alarm to Australian growers when it was first reported in 1996. It is no longer considered rare, however effectively managing resistant weeds remains key to glyphosate stewardship.

If you see a few plants remaining green among others that appear to have been killed by herbicide application, you may be looking at resistant weeds. If it's in your paddock, this can be confirmed with a herbicide resistance test. If it's on public land, you can let the relevant land manager know.



Continuing to treat weeds with a herbicide they have resistance to will not achieve the desired aim, and is an unnecessary use of chemicals and a waste of money.

More info here: bit.ly/RoadsideWeeds

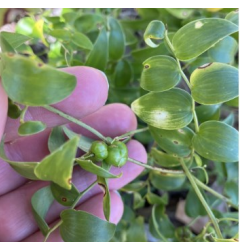
Project Updates

Weed Control at Lake Marma

Earlier this year we applied for a Victorian Landcare Grant with Lake Marma Committee of Management for weed control around the lake in Murtoa. We are pleased to share that this application was successful! Volunteers from the Lake Marma CoM will undertake the works.

Controlling environmental weeds helps maintain the balance and health of ecosystems. Weeds compete with native plants, reducing biodiversity and disrupting the natural habitat for wildlife. Effective management of environmental weeds requires early detection and rapid response to prevent their establishment and spread.

Lake Marma is one of the valued natural assets in our region and provides habitat for native fauna as well as recreational value to the town of Murtoa. This project will primarily focus on Bridal Creeper, Boxthorn and Cumbungi control around the Lake.



Bridal Creeper



Boxthorn

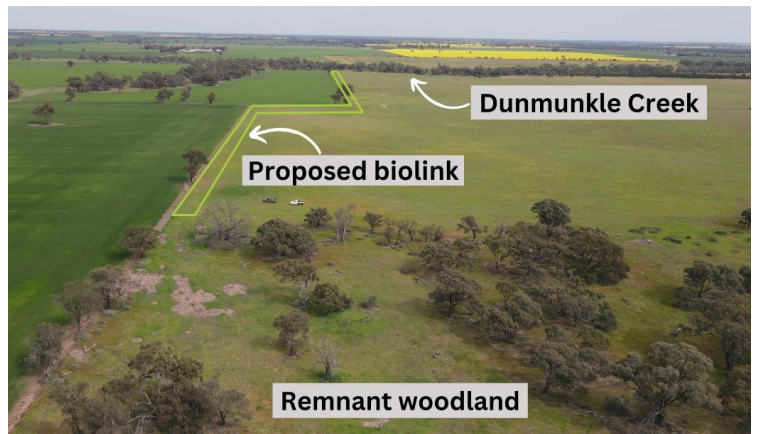


Cumbungi

Boolite Plantout Site

Yarrilinks often works under the concept of biolinks, where fragmented but ecologically significant sites are reconnected through revegetation, providing habitat and movement corridors for native flora and fauna.

Alicia recently visited a plantout site planned for next year. The project will be undertaken by Minyip Landcare Group, with support from Yarrilinks, and will link a Trust for Nature covenanted remnant woodland with native vegetation along the Dunmunkle Creek.



The site is about 2 hectares in total and will be direct seeded and planted with a mix of tubestock grown from locally

Project Updates

native seed propagated by our host landholder. We will be planting native tree species including bulokes, cypress pine, and eucalypts such as grey box, yellow box and yellow gum. These will be interspersed with shrubs such as wattles and a range of other understory species. The perennial pasture we are planting into is native so will provide a good base with many of the native grass species already present.

A huge thanks to our drone pilot, Cobba Harrison from the Wimmera CMA!

Warracknabeal Education Precinct Planting

In August Alicia helped students plant shrubs and understory species at Warracknabeal Education Precinct. We planted wattles, wildflowers and grasses.

In the morning Alicia gave a presentation to Mr. Shannon's year 9, 10 and 11 classes about Landcare in the Victoria before heading outside to plant the shrubs. In the afternoon the primary school students joined in to fill in the gaps with understory species. It was book week so we had some real characters out there! Mario, Barbie, and a Creeper from Minecraft all made an appearance.



We did site prep on the day featuring a unique tool called a water spike. It injects water into the soil, softening and wetting the soil for planting. Graeme Eldridge from the Wimmera CMA helped us out with this.

This activity was funded by a Victorian Landcare Grant administered through the Wimmera CMA.

Spring Plant Giveaways

Our spring plant giveaways were a great opportunity for new facilitator Alicia to meet local residents and distribute our first newsletter and Landcare Priorities Survey. Alicia estimates she gave away about 400 plants and spoke to 50 people in Murtoa, 30 to 40 in Rupanyup and Minyip, and 50 in



Warracknabeal. Some leftovers went to Minyip Progress Association and the Warracknabeal Community Garden for planting in public spaces.

Members of the Yarrilinks committee also stopped by to help out and say hi. Adrian Tyler in Rupanyup, Cr Corinne Heintz and Daryl Barber in Minyip, and Yarrilinks committee president Tim Inkster in Warracknabeal.

In each town we set up outside of a local business or community organisation - thanks for hosting us!

- *Murtoa Neighborhood House
- *Nutrien Ag Solutions Rupanyup
- *Minyip IGA
- *Warracknabeal Community Garden

The plants for the giveaway were funded by a Victorian Landcare Grant through the Wimmera CMA

Strategic Plan Review

We're doing a stocktake of stakeholder needs and priorities to inform our Strategic Plan, which will guide our activities over the coming years.



The Landcare Priorities Survey will help us respond to those needs, so we'd really appreciate your feedback. Access the survey using the QR code, or visit

bit.ly/YLNSurvey.

The Strategic plan will be released in early 2024. In the next edition of our newsletter we will share a summary of the survey findings and provide details of a launch event to share the plan with our stakeholders.

Yarrilinks Meetings

The Yarrilinks committee meets periodically to discuss issues of relevance. Recently we've been working on the Strategic Plan, and formalizing the structure of our network. Our next meeting will be on the 1st of November, so if you would like an issue raised please get in touch with Alicia using the details below.

If you are interested in joining the committee, please reach out for a chat. We are always open to considering new members, especially from geographic areas not already represented on the committee.

Stay in the Loop!

Subscribe:



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Contact:

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0455 166 445
landcare@yarrilinks.org.au

www.yarrilinks.org.au

Around the Network

Barrabool Blooms

During spring wildflower season, Alicia visited Barrabool Flora and Fauna Reserve to familiarise herself with some of the local wildflowers. Barrabool is the largest reserve of remnant native vegetation in the Yarrilinks region and is in the southern reaches, near where the Yarriambiack Creek branches off of the Wimmera River.

The area is mainly open woodland dominated by yellow gum and grey box with the occasional buloke and cypress-pine, and an understory of grasses, wildflowers and sparse shrubs.



Broughton pea

Common eutaxia

Shingleback lizard

Alicia also came across a very cold-looking shingleback lizard! Shinglebacks are a type of blue tongued skink and are omnivores. They eat more plants than a lot of the other blue tongues and due to their sluggish nature tend to focus on slow-moving prey such as snails and beetles.

Wimmera Partnerships Meeting Goes Bush

These meetings, hosted by the Wimmera CMA, are an opportunity for Landcare Facilitators and other local Agriculture/NRM groups to discuss local issues.

We decided to incorporate a field walk in our September meeting. The event was hosted at Project Platypus, the Landcare Network representing the Upper Wimmera and based in Stawell. After the meeting we went walking on a nearby track to check out some spring wildflowers.



How many Facilitators does it take to spot a bird?!

Spring Seminar Week

During the week of 4-8 Sept Yarrilinks Facilitator Alicia attended three seminars in the region.

- *14th Annual Perennial Pasture Systems Conference
- *26th Wimmera Biodiversity Seminar
- *Partners in Agriculture Gather, Grow Thrive Forum

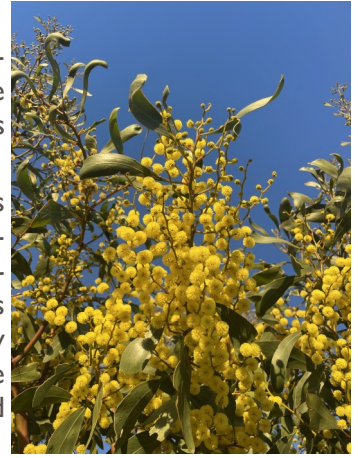
The events provided a great opportunity to learn about local environments, farming systems, and farm business management. They were also great opportunities for networking! For a recap, visit the blog on our website:

www.yarrilinks.org.au/blog

Happy Wattle Day!

September 1st is National Wattle Day in Australia, when we celebrate these cheerful heralds of spring.

There are around 1000 species native to Australia. While different species can flower at different times of year, the peak is usually in late winter and early spring in Victoria, when the roadsides are lit up in green and gold.



Wattles are a member of the pea family, Fabaceae. Like other members of this family, they fix nitrogen from the atmosphere and add it to the soil.

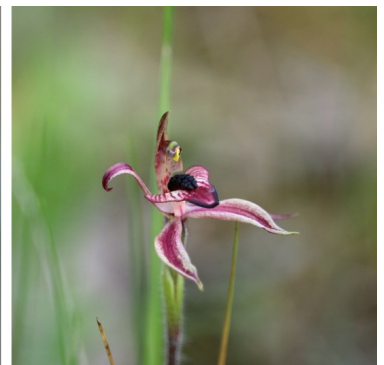
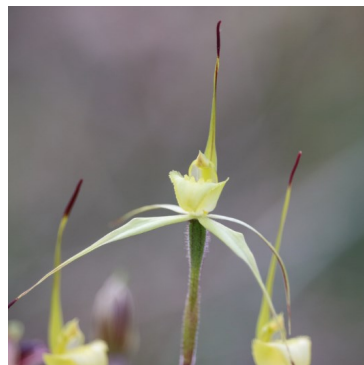
Community Submissions

All our readers are encouraged to get in touch and share images of wildlife they see in the Yarrilinks Landcare Network area! Here are some we received recently.

Gail from the Murtoa district came across an eastern bearded dragon (*Pogona barbata*) (below, left) that was quick to stand its ground.



Adrian from Rupanyup had an unexpected visitor when this eastern banjo frog / pobblebonk (*Limnodynastes dumerilii*) (above, right) hopped into his office!



Paula from Murtoa sent in these amazing orchids. On the left is yellow-lip spider orchid (*Caladenia xanthochila*) (listed as endangered) and on the right is thick-lipped spider-orchid (*Caladenia cardiochila*).

If you've got something to share, whether its flora, fauna, farming, or simply a beautiful Wimmera Landscape, we'd love