



Wimmera CMA

## Wimmera CMA Newsletter

A summary of recent events

For upcoming events, please visit our website or follow us on Facebook.



### There are six distinct weather periods recognised in the Gariwerd Seasonal Cycle



The Season of Kooyang is depicted by eels, galaxia, baby animals, mistletoe as well as eeling and fishing. Kooyang is the peak time for eel with eel trapping common during this season, a favorite food of the Gariwerd people.

Stone huts could be seen on salt Creek for the harvest.

Herbal medicines are available: Old man weed for cold and chest

complaints,

Tannins from gums and wattles for stomach complaints and burns.

The stars were used for navigation with star formations having creation stories.

Tree frogs can be heard squeaking.

Many insects can be seen in larval form or beginning to hatch and Gum emperor moths emerge. Stick insects eat treetop leaves and imperial white butterflies can be seen.

Some plants continue to flower including mistletoes, messmates and long leafed box. The flowers of River Red Gums attract honeyeaters. Snakes can be seen basking in the sun and mammals appear during Kooyang. Water boatmen migrate from drying ponds and many aquatic insects emerge as adults, attracting Swallows and Martins. Galaxias (small native trout) move downstream to estuaries to spawn.



## WATER IN THE WIMMERA

### Environmental Flows

Summer/Autumn low flows and freshes are continuing for the Burnt Creek, Wimmera River, Mt William Creek and MacKenzie River. Low flows range from 5 ML/d for the Burnt Creek through to 30 ML/d for the Wimmera River. Occasional freshes are also taking place for several days at a time ranging from 30 ML/d to 100 ML/d depending on the waterway. These flows are important to manage water quality issues (Wimmera River) and provide habitat (other waterways). There was an unplanned hiatus in flows for several days due to the fatality at MacKenzie Falls in January. When pipeline demands reduce, deliveries will also commence to Fielding's Dam near Watchem.

After many years of it being out of action due to vandalism, bushfire and flood impacts GWMWater are starting to use the fishway at Dad and Dave Weir on the MacKenzie River at Wartook. This will be useful for Platypuses traversing this stretch of river as well as facilitating movement of Obscure Galaxias (the key reason it was constructed). They have been noted to aggregate in large numbers downstream of barriers in summer.



Planning for 2018-19 is continuing with the focus on developing the Seasonal Watering Proposals.

### Fragile Native Fish

Environmental flows from Lake Lonsdale are targeting a fragile native fish population in Mount William Creek. Latest research surveys of the creek, a priority waterway for environmental flows, discovered a River Blackfish and self-sustaining populations of small native fish including Flat-headed Gudgeons and Obscure Galaxias. Low flows of 10 megalitres a day from Lake Lonsdale over the next few weeks will help keep refuge pools topped up and preserve habitat and water quality for the native fish.

Wimmera CMA CEO David Brennan said he expected the environmental water from Lonsdale to continue along the parts of the creek that flow through Ledcourt through to Dadswells Bridge but not much further, depending on weather conditions.

“The purpose of these releases is to focus on Mount William Creek only, to ensure species such as River



Blackfish can persist and be ready to breed and disperse in the cooler months when rain arrives,” he said. “Environmental water for the Wimmera River will be delivered from Taylor’s Lake.”

Mr Brennan said preliminary results of the Victorian Environmental Flows Monitoring and Assessment Program (VEFMAP) show that flows are having a positive impact on fish numbers in the creek.

“Many people fondly remember catching large numbers of fish in Mount William Creek in the past but due to habitat loss, introduced species and droughts their numbers have drastically declined,” he said.

The VEFMAP program is also returning positive results for nearby Burnt Creek and MacKenzie River.

“Over the years, drought conditions, water extraction and sedimentation of deep pools meant these waterways increasingly lost vibrant and diverse fish populations. Wet conditions during the past two years, combined with regular environmental flows, have boosted fish numbers and allowed them to repopulate. We are excited about these monitoring results, which indicate waterway health in these areas has turned a corner.”

\* Environmental water releases in Mount William Creek are prioritised as part of the [Victorian Environmental Water Holder's \(VEWH\) Seasonal Watering Plan 2017-18](#), which aims to improve river and wetland health across the state.

\* Wimmera CMA has released its planned flows for summer, which it adjusts depending on weather conditions, [HERE](#).

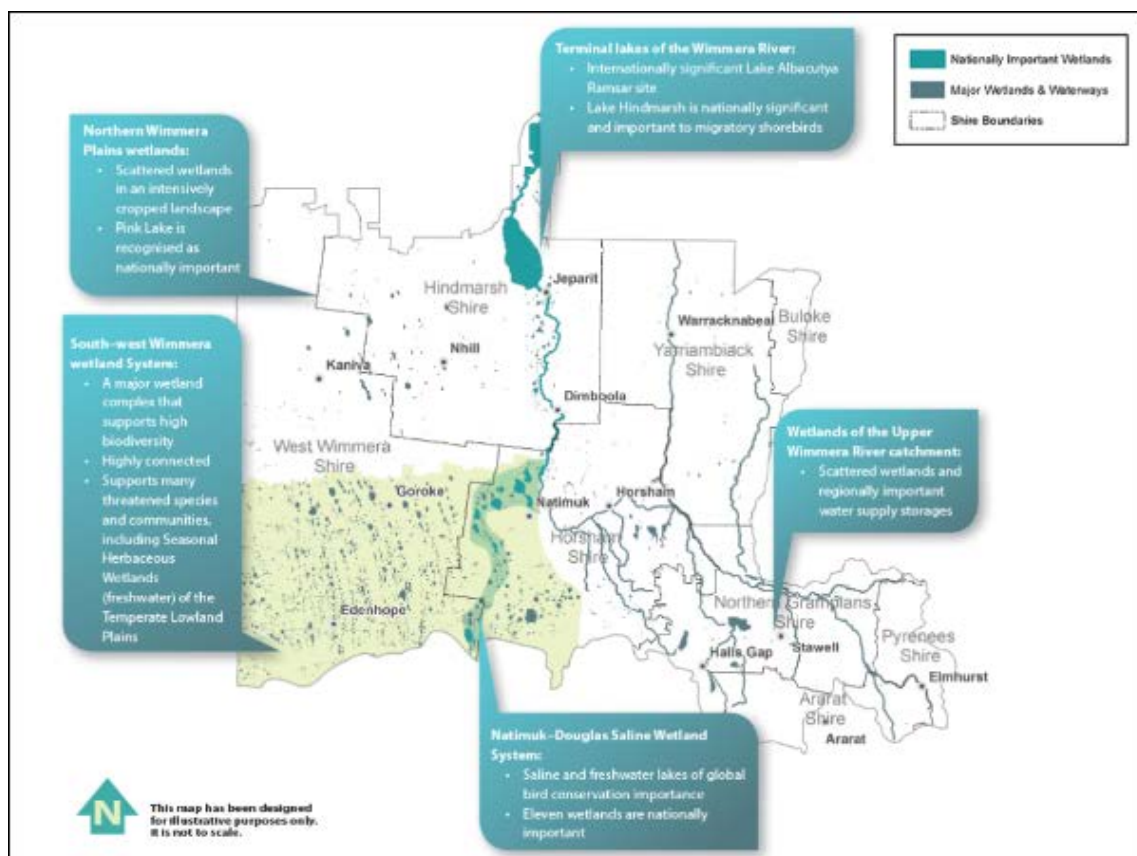
\* VEFMAP is funded through the Victorian Government's \$222 million investment in waterway and catchment health over the next four years.

Arthur Rylah Institute fish ecologists Joanne Sharley and Graeme Hackett completed the surveys of Mount William Creek.

## WORLD WETLANDS DAY

February 2 was World Wetlands Day with the theme urban wetlands. Urban wetlands are great for so many reasons – they reduce flooding and water quality issues whilst providing valuable habitat for wetland plants and animals and a wonderful place for us to go and enjoy.

The Wimmera is blessed to have some great wetlands including the Ramsar recognised wetland Albacutya, Lake Hindmarsh which is recognised as a nationally important wetland, the Northern Wimmera Plains wetlands (Yanac, Nhill, etc), the South-West Wimmera wetland system, the Natimuk-Douglas saline wetland system, and the Wetlands of the Upper Wimmera Catchment. Find out more about these on [Wetlands](#)



## WATER IN THE WIMMERA

### HORSHAM FISHING COMPETITION

That's right the Horsham Fishing Competition is on again this year on March 11 and Chris Humfrey will be back too!

Come along and join in the fishing, there are some great prizes including:

Wimmera CMA's sponsored Heaviest Carp Bag - \$1000!

Get your registrations in before it's too late!

<http://horshamfishingcomp.com.au/register/>

Or just come for the fun and serenity.

And don't miss out on seeing Chris Humfrey and the Wild Action Zoo!

Wimmera Landcare and Wimmera CMA are bringing Chris Humfrey and the Wild Action Zoo to the Horsham Fishing Comp for some great fun and education for the young and old!

We hope to see you there!



**HORSHAM FISHING COMP  
MARCH 11**

Wimmera Landcare and Wimmera CMA are bringing back our favourite wildlife champion

**CHRIS HUMFREY & THE WILD ACTION ZOO**

1pm - Horsham Showgrounds  
1.30pm - Mardon Drive (near Natoli Court)  
2pm - Weir Park  
3.30pm - LIVE SHOW Horsham Soundshell

Bring the whole family!  
As seen on ABC3 TV, KidsWB & Foxtell!

Wimmera CMA  
Wimmera Waterway Strategy  
HORSHAM

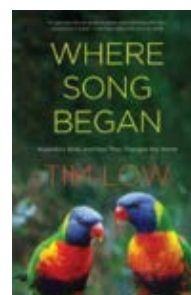
### NATIONAL HARMONY DAY

Planning continues for the 2018 Harmony Day Landcare celebration at Horsham Town Hall. The event will feature Tim Low, author of the award-winning bestseller "Where Song Began", and nature sound recording specialist Andrew Skeoch. "Where Song Began" describes how Australia provided the world with its songbirds and parrots, the most intelligent of all bird groups".

National Harmony Day is 21 March 2018.

Bookings for this free event can be made through the Horsham Town Hall website.

<https://t.co/U0tfJykmfs>



## RIVER DETECTIVES

In 2018 we are continuing River Detectives, a program to support educators in exploring local waterways with students. River Detectives is a sustainability program which inspires schools and youth groups to understand, appreciate and care for their local waterway through a variety of engaging, practical, multi-age cross-curricular activities.



Registration for the River Detectives program will provide groups and schools with:

- entry to an interactive website
- updated data for exploration
- access to 'How to' guides
- resources and activities linked to the Victorian Curriculum (Geography, Mathematics, Science, Sustainability and more)

To support the launch, we are offering a number of schools the chance for additional support in 2018, including:

- a water monitoring kit for your group (on loan from March to November)

two professional development sessions to help you run the activities in the classroom.

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## WIMMERA FIELD DAYS

Preparations are underway for the 2018 Wimmera Machinery Field Days on 6-8 March 2018.

The event is the Wimmera Events Centre at Longerenong near Horsham in western Victoria.

As with previous years Wimmera CMA will share a site with Department of Economic Development Jobs, Transport and Resources so look for the Wimmera CMA stand at this site.



## Future Farming Expo 2018

8:30am 21 February 2018 Donald Stadium

Free Event (Including Lunch)

RSVP is essential to the North Central CMA by Friday 16 Feb.

on 03 5448 7124 or [info@nccma.vic.gov.au](mailto:info@nccma.vic.gov.au).

### MANAGING RISK BY BEING OPEN TO OPPORTUNITY

The annual 2018 Future Farming Expo will provide farming with new ideas and the latest information on farm management.

Covering the following topics:

- Where to invest
- Integrated pest mangment
- Farmer stories
- Virtual herding
- Weather Forecasts
- Succession planning
- Business management
- Drones and aerial imagery
- Grain marketing



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### EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST:

#### ***Wetland Protection Incentives.***

Expressions of interest have been advertised for our next round of Wetland Protection Incentives and a new round of Riparian Fencing and Protection will be advertised throughout February.

<http://www.wcma.vic.gov.au/forms/submit-expression-of-interest-for-wetland-grants>



#### ***Waterway fencing and revegetation grants.***

Be paid to protect!

If you've ever thought about fencing off or revegetating a waterway on your property but haven't had the funds to do it, we can help.

Wimmera CMA are seeking Expressions of Interest (EOI) from landholders wanting to protect and enhance waterways on their properties.

For more information call Tori on 5382 9957.

To submit an EOI, please complete the [Online Form](#)

