



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 Calendar.*



This Season,
Petyan – Season of Wildflowers Edition 2018
The Spring season is depicted by bird eggs, wildflowers
and great meetings.



Spring: September-November

During the period of Petyan, there were great meetings of Aboriginal bands of up to 1000 people for settling legal conflicts, singing and dancing corroborees, wrestling and boomerang throwing competitions, football games, trade, and seeking partners for marriage.

Many orchids and lilies are in flower. These include Leopard Orchids, Hare Orchids, Pink Fingers, the Sun Orchid, Nodding Blue Lilies and Flying Duck Orchids. This is also a time for many trees to come into flower, including Silver Banksia, Yellow Box and late Black and Silver Wattles.

Some shrubs/grasses are in flower including Parrot Peas, Mint Bush, Bauera, Ttetratheca, Rice Flowers and Christmas Mint Bush Flower.

Swamp Paperbarks are in flower and Platypus lay their eggs. Snipe return to the long grass around swamps while Swamp Hens have running young.

Many mammals are breeding during Petyan. Ring-Tailed Possums carry young,

Koala young leave the pouch at approximately seven months old and Koalas mate again.

There is lots of mammal activity with holes appearing everywhere as bandicoots dig for grubs and echidnas dig for ants.



WATER IN THE WIMMERA

Community Wetland Bird Monitoring for Wimmera Mallee Pipeline Wetlands



The Wimmera's wetlands support an incredible diversity and abundance of plants and animals, especially when they contain water. The local community possesses a profound appreciation and understanding of the values these wetlands hold and Wimmera CMA is keen to tap into this local knowledge. We are seeking to obtain information around birds using wetlands as habitat, especially those supplied with water for the environment by the Wimmera Mallee Pipeline. It will bolster our understanding of the benefits water for the environment provides for these wetlands and improve the way they are managed.

If you are interested in participating, local bird expert Jonathan Starks has developed a brief guide to monitoring wetland birds.

There are a couple options to document your monitoring:

- you can also complete your [monitoring form online](#). The online form has a space to upload photos or video too.
- or you can download and complete the [monitoring form](#). If you prefer this method, you can still upload media files in the form below.
- There is also a template [Job Safety Analysis](#) to enable safety aspects to be considered.

Details regarding the wetlands supplied by the Wimmera Mallee pipeline on public land in the Wimmera CMA region are [here](#) – where they are and if they contain water. But feel free to use this approach to monitor wetlands on public land elsewhere in the region!

Please contact Greg Fletcher on 5382 9915 or by [email](#) to find out more and register your interest. We'll send you a free copy of The Glovebox Guide to Wimmera Wetland Birds to get you started.

Thanks for your help and happy bird monitoring!

NYUPUN PROGRAM

The 2018 Nyupun program with year 3-6 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students at Horsham Primary School has concluded for the year. Goolum Goolum Aboriginal Cooperative has taken the lead in coordinating the program this year and this has enabled increased participation by local Elders and other Traditional Owners. The program concluded with a final performance by the students in front of the all school assembly at Horsham Primary School on 21 September 2018.



Bankang Dyakata Ba Yunguip

Community gathering, Bankang Dyakata Ba Yunguip

Celebrating Wotjobaluk Culture and connection to Water and Country.

This family friendly event, to celebrate Wotjobaluk culture and connection to water and country with a traditional earth oven feast, bark canoe, music and more was held on October 4, 5 & 6.



RIVERBANK RESTORATION

Wimmera CMA commenced a project in September in partnership with Horsham Rural City Council to remove over 1000 Car and truck tyres from the bank of the Wimmera River at Southbank in Horsham and rehabilitate the bank with rock beaching.



Horsham Youth River Protection Planting Day.

Horsham Nexus friends assisted WCMA Staff in the planting of native plants at Apex Adventure Island on the Wimmera River in this month. The amazing native plants will be enjoyed by the many families heading down to the pump track during. It's all starting to fit into place!



LANDCARE MATTERS

We have been working with partners including Centre for Participation, Horsham Urban Landcare Group, OASIS Wimmera, Grampians Community Health, Lentil as Anything, and the Horsham Agricultural Society to develop a concept for a Horsham-based, community planting weekend in May 2019. A steering group was established with representatives from the above organisations and the event date is set for 31 May – 2 June 2019.

Biodiversity Seminar.

The 21st Wimmera Biodiversity Seminar was held on 6 September 2018 at Nhill Memorial Community Centre and Little Desert Nature Lodge. The keynote speaker was Libby Robin, author of *Defending the Desert: The Rise of Ecological Consciousness in Australia*. Other presenters included



Dylan Clarke, Chair of Barengi Gadjin Land Council, Rewilding Program Manager at Conservation Volunteers Ben Holmes, and Zoos Victoria threatened species general manager Craig Whiteford. Participants also toured Kiata Sanctuary with Graham and Maree Goods as part of the event. 80 people attended the day. A group from Nhill College students also observed several

presentations. The Wimmera Biodiversity Seminar is a partnership-based event organised by a committee consisting of representatives from DELWP, Wimmera CMA, Trust for Nature, Grampians Central West WRRG, Parks Victoria, Landcare, and GWM Water. The event is sponsored by Bank Australia.

Perennial Pasture Systems Conference.

The 10th annual Perennial Pasture Systems conference was held at the Gum San Chinese Heritage Centre in Ararat on 12 September 2018. The theme for this year's conference was "PPS 10 years on; looking back and moving forward". Speakers included economist Dr Bill Malcolm from Melbourne University on the question of 'Pasture improvement, does it pay?'. The event included a farm tour to a PPS member farm at Maroona.

Regional Agriculture Landcare Facilitator Program

Wimmera CMA participated in the first national teleconference for the new Regional Agriculture Landcare Facilitator (RALF) program on 30 August 2018 with Australian Government representatives and NLP2 service providers from across Australia. A national RALF forum in Canberra is expected to occur in March 2019.

WOODLAND BIRDS AND REVEGETATION WORKSHOP



ARE WE BUILDING HABITATS OR JUST PLANTING TREES?

Wednesday 14 November 2018

9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Venue: Dimboola RSL

Catering provided

Bird populations can reveal much about the function of a woodland. Join bird expert Jonathan Starks as we explore the important question of whether 21 years of Project Hindmarsh is building habitats for wildlife or just planting trees.

This free workshop will include an introductory walk and gawk around Dimboola Common, a seminar on woodland birds, their habitat requirements, how to identify them, and how monitoring birds can tell a powerful story about woodland health and the value of revegetation.

After lunch we will visit the Trust for Nature property Snape Reserve and explore revegetation and remnant woodland habitats in search of birds, bush and answers to our big question.

To register please email hln@hindmarshlandcare.org.au, or ring us at 0429 006 936



Environmental Water:

The **Annual Environmental Water Forum** was held at the



Horsham Angling Club in late August.

The event was well attended with a variety of community and agency representatives. It provided an opportunity to outline the plans for environmental water management and storage operations given the dry conditions. The evening also included a presentation from Wayne Street from Street Ryan, who summarised the results of the latest socio-economic study into the benefits of water in the Wimmera Southern Mallee. Ross Hardie from Alluvium presented the work undertaken in recent years on the Wimmera's weir pools water management and erosion. The attendees were asked to provide feedback on watering actions and opportunities to improve the values of weir pools. This included general support for varying weir pool levels and improving habitat.

The following morning the **Wimmera River Dunn Right breakfast seminar** was held at the same venue. It featured presentations from Ross Hardie on the importance of flows for waterway shape and function. Horsham adventurer, Tom Dunn, who has journeyed the length of the Murray and Darling Rivers also presented. Tom highlighted the impact of dry rivers due to drought and over extraction on local communities. The feedback from attendees was overwhelmingly positive and is an event we can build on in the future.



Environmental Watering for Wetlands:

Periodic watering is underway from the Wimmera Mallee Pipeline for Carapugna, Crow Swamp, Challambra Swamp and Pinedale.

With the region experiencing very dry weather over the past months, environmental water releases have commenced in recent weeks for the Wimmera and MacKenzie Rivers.



AUSTRALIA's LONGEST TRIATHALON

Tom Dunn who presented at the Wimmera River Dunn Right breakfast seminar, is a young Australian Adventurer/Advocate.

At just 22 years old Tom has already raised over \$97,000 for charity through his ultra endurance adventures and now Tom's challenge is a 4825-kilometre journey from top to bottom of the Australian main land, from Cape York in Queensland to the Wilson's Promontory in Victoria. His journey is equal to 90 standard Olympic triathlons.

The money raised will go to a Melbourne Indigenous Transition School, which provides educational opportunities for indigenous youth from across rural and regional Australia. Tom hopes to complete his challenge in 90 days, finishing in Wilsons Promontory in early December



If you wish to follow Tom's marathon attempt at Australia's longest triathlon, you can follow him online at: <https://www.whattomhasdunn.com/>

PLANTS OF THE WIMMERA ID TRAINING DAY

Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) and the Wimmera Catchment Management Authority are partnering to provide plant identification training for interested community members and natural resource management professionals.

With: Paul Foreman of Blue Devil Consulting

When: Wednesday 31st October 2018
8.45 am - 5pm

Where: Stawell and surrounds

Meeting at the Stawell Golf Club, 8473 Donald Stawell Road

We will visit a number of sites and vegetation types.

BYO lunch, snacks and drinking water.

Places are limited! Please RSVP ASAP.

For further information and to confirm your place please contact:

Annie Hobby: annie.hobby@delwp.vic.gov.au 0436641319, or

Mirinda Thorpe: mirinda.thorpe@delwp.vic.gov.au



Environment,
Land, Water
and Planning



**FREE
event!**