

MEDIA RELEASE

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Wildlife Win at Wah Wah

Wah Wah landholders on the Hay Plain will open their gates on Tuesday June 25th to showcase their efforts to benefit local wildlife.

With funding from the Australian Government's Caring for Our Country program, ground tanks with high ecological value have been the focus of on-ground works to improve habitat. These wetlands will provide vital relief for wildlife when the new Wah Wah Pipeline Scheme is rolled out by Murrumbidgee Irrigation.

The Wah Wah Pipeline will replace open channels and ground tanks with pipes and troughs. This improvement in the efficiency of water delivery will ensure a greater volume of environmental water is available downstream.

Matt Herring, an ecologist coordinating the trials with Murrumbidgee Landcare Inc., said the improvement in one part of the environment doesn't need to come at the expense of another.

"Over the past 80 years, local wildlife like waterbirds, bats and frogs have become dependent on the old open water system."

The June 25th field day offers the community an opportunity to view wetlands at two properties. It commences at 9:30am at the Gunbar church hall, with visits to *Sunrise* at 10.00am and *Yurdyilla* at 11.30am. Lunch and morning tea are provided free of charge.

Hay Landcare Chair, Ian Auld, said he hopes these and other demonstration sites will inspire landholders to undertake similar projects on their properties.

"By maintaining the best ground tanks and enhancing their habitat, we'll mitigate the loss of habitat associated with the pipeline."

A Wetland Management Guide will be launched at the field day and provided free to attendees. This step-by-step guide to wetland construction and management will be an invaluable resource for landholders.

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Photographs and interviews available on request.

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The wetlands management guide, *Wah Wah Water For Wildlife - how to make biodiversity the winner in times of change*, developed by ecologist Matt Herring, will be available through Murrumbidgee Landcare Inc.

This project is funded by the Australian Government's Caring for Our Country. It is a multi-partner project including Murrumbidgee Landcare, Hay Trees on Plains Landcare, Wah Wah Stock and Domestic Water Users Association, Murrumbidgee Irrigation and Murrumbidgee CMA.