

MEDIA RELEASE

26 October 2023

Winton Wetlands is going WILD!

Winton Wetlands, the most ambitious wetland restoration project in the southern hemisphere, is set to go fully WILD for a week from November 20-25.

Winton Wetlands Wild Week is an event planned as a week-long celebration of the milestone achievements of 2023 and acknowledgment of the efforts of supporters and partner organisations over the past year and beyond to make it all happen.

Winton Wetlands Wild Week will feature:

- A public open day on Saturday 25 November including a hot air balloon flight, demonstration of a heavy-duty aerial plant seeding drone in action, special walks and talks on aspects of ecology and culture on the wetlands, demonstrations, food vans, kids' competition and other attractions
- An official naming and opening of the wetlands' new education centre building at a special VIP event on Friday 25 November
- An outdoor arts and gardening event – Our Village Garden - to be staged with children participating from local schools, from Tuesday 21 through to Friday 24 November, in association with the Village Festival community arts project. (On Saturday 25 November everyone else will also be able to participate in this wonderful arts and gardening project!)
- A chance to get up close and personal with live long neck turtles, and learn more about the fascinating Growling Grass Frogs which have recently begun their journey to return to their traditional home on the wetlands
- Display of traditional tapestry, weaving and other items honouring the special and enduring relationship of Yorta Yorta people, traditional custodians of the land
- Engaging stalls set up by organisations that collaborate with Winton Wetlands to lend their expertise in water management, ecological renewal, breeding of native species and add other scientific, professional and cultural knowledge

-2-

All this and lots more will happen during Wild Week, culminating in the public open day from 10am till around 3pm on Saturday 25 November.

“We thought it was important to mark our big milestones of 2023 in some way,” Dennis O’Brien, Chair of the Winton Wetlands Committee of Management, said today.

“These highlights have included the return of Growling Grass Frogs to the wetlands after many decades, the return of two species of native fish, a record number and variety of birds being recorded, a school education program now up and running with great success, and a host of other indicators of real progress.

“None of this would be possible without the ongoing commitment of our fantastic volunteers, the support of members of the local community, and collaboration with partner organisations that share our commitment to this place remaining a world-leading ecological restoration project. It’s very much a shared achievement amongst many.

“And we think it’s particularly important to highlight the traditional life and culture of this land as well, by honouring the Yorta Yorta people this week.

“2023 has been one of our biggest years, coming on the back of the difficult pandemic years that impacted on most of our community one way or another. We feel it’s high time for a little celebration and acknowledgment of the efforts made by everyone to get us this far. These collective efforts have gone well beyond this year alone, so we hope as many people as possible can come along and be part of it.”

More information about **Wild Week** is on the Winton Wetlands website – www.wintonwetlands.org.au

Further information will be made available by social media and other channels in coming weeks.

-ends-

Further media information:
Graeme Domm
Graeme.Domm@wintonwetlands.org.au
03 5747 7117