



Mutton Swamp January 2017

Wetland tour

The northern Wimmera, from Tarranyurk in the west to Watchem in the east, looks like typical plains country with large cleared farming land with a few stands of trees here and there. But when you look more closely, as one of Victoria's foremost wetland botanists Damien Cook did when he led a tour from Wimmera and North-Central CMAs, you'll be amazed at the plants and animals that call this area home.

Thanks to the Wimmera Mallee Pipeline, a number of these wetland biodiversity hotspots are getting periodic environmental water. Water is delivered during the cooler months to reflect what would happen naturally. The timing also takes advantage of the reduced water supply requirements of the pipeline.



Sneezeweed

*“What’s in a name? That which we call a rose.
By any other name would smell as sweet.”*

When William Shakespeare’s Juliet speaks these words to Romeo, she is telling him there is something much more important than a name.

Some of the Wimmera’s plants have rather unfortunate names like knotweeds, bindweeds and sneezeweeds, but special attributes nonetheless. These are among important native plants that take advantage of retreating water levels to grow along the edge of waterways and wetlands, and emphasise the importance of not just getting wet but drying out as well.

Sneezeweed is also known as old man weed and was a vital medicinal plant that Aboriginal people used to cure skin problems and other ailments. It has an unmistakable pleasant fragrance which is pine like and minty. Knotweeds and bindweeds were important food plants for Aboriginal people as well.

Water for the environment - May & June

LOW FLOWS AND FRESHES

Wimmera River
Mt William Creek
Burnt Creek
MacKenzie River

PIPELINE WETLANDS

Tarkedia – Sheep Hills
Mutton Swamp – Rupanyup South
Carapugna – Watchem/Warmur
Crow - Tarranyurk

Pinedale – Brim (Private land no access)

Challambra – Warracknabeal (Private land no access)



For further information on environmental flows **subscribe to 0427 871 565 for SMS updates** or check out Wimmera CMA’s website or **like us on Facebook.**



Beauty in art & nature

Thinking about doing the Silo Art Trail? How about including some of our beautiful northern Wimmera swamps and making it a **Swamp Silo Art Trail**? You’ll be amazed at the birds, plants, wildlife and serenity of these hidden gems and it makes for a great family outing!

