![Western Murray Land Improvement Group logo]

MEDIA RELEASE

For release 25th February 2023

Come Yabby Fishing and Learn About Our Wetlands

Being able to catch yabbies is a long held tradition, but future opportunities to do so rely on keeping our wetlands and waterways healthy.

Join Western Murray Land Improvement Group (WMLIG) and Murray Local Land Services (LLS) on Sunday 26 February, 2023, to celebrate World Wetlands Day and learn more about the common yabby and its habitat and you may even learn some tricks about how to catch them.

A bus will be running from Murray Connect to a favourite yabbying spot within the Ramsar-listed Koondrook-Perricoota Forest.

With an estimated 35% of the world's wetlands having disappeared in the last 50 years, environmental water flows and ongoing rehabilitation works are vital to preserve these ecosystems.

Wetlands are areas that are saturated, or flooded, with water either permanently or seasonally and in our region include marshes, lakes rivers, floodplains and swamps.

Farm dams have also added habitat for yabby populations.

During a wet season, an Australian yabby can travel kilometres across land in search of new water in which to make its home.

And, what better way to learn about them than to bait up some yabby traps, see some traditional Indigenous methods of capturing this important food source and swap some stories about your own yabby catching efforts.

The ones that got away can be discussed over a barbecue lunch at WMLIG's Murray Connect in Barham, where the feature on the grill plate will – depending on the catch – be this iconic Australian freshwater crustacean.

But, even the ones that do avoid the traps will be serving an important purpose – they are important dietary items for native freshwater fish such as Murray Cod and Golden Perch.

For further information and to book your place, please contact WMLIG - admin@wmlig.org 03 5453 1577

When: Sunday 26 February, 2023

Where: Murray Connect, 27 Thule Street, Barham

Time: 8.30am departure

Finish time: 1pm barbecue lunch at Murray Connect