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Landcare Week 2nd-8th September 2013

Project Platypus celebrates National Landcare Week with a free tree giveaway

To celebrate National Landcare week, Project Platypus is offering free trees to residents and landholders in the upper Wimmera region on Friday 6th September at shop 108 on Stawell's Main St. Project Manager with Project Platypus David Margetson said up to 40 trees can be collected, with a range of indigenous tree and shrub species available.

"It's fitting that we have our annual tree giveaway during National Landcare Week, as the Landcare movement has been responsible for returning millions of trees to the landscape over the past 25 years or so". It's also a great way for individuals to get involved in National Landcare Week and undertake a classic Landcare activity" said Mr Margetson.

To give your new trees the best chance of survival, Mr Margetson offered the following tips.

- Deep rip or dig a hole to at least 30cm deep.
- Ensure there is no competition from weeds or pasture grasses when planting. Continue weed control for about a year after planting.
- Once your tree is planted, water your tree in, and water it three or four times over the first summer if possible.
- Stake and guard your tree to protect from vermin.
- Plant approx. 4m apart, with trees interspersed with shrubs.
- Check your trees regularly for pest and disease.

Project Platypus recently developed a fact sheet detailing the benefits of trees for farm productivity, which includes increased stock shelter leading to an increase in stock health and birthing rates, increased pasture and crop production, spray drift moderation, improved biodiversity and a reduction in salinity, waterlogging, wind and water erosion problems. The fact sheet can be accessed on the Project Platypus website www.platypus.org.au.

Project Platypus will be joining Stawell Urban Landcare members at Shop 108 on Stawell's Main St on Friday the 6th of September from 10.00am until 2.00pm. For enquiries and further information, contact David Margetson on 5358 4410.

Project Platypus is a community based Landcare network working in the upper Wimmera Catchment supporting Landcare groups and landholders across the region to improve catchment health.

Photo

Insert jpeg 4649. "David Eldridge prepares to plant indigenous species on an Elmhurst property".

End of release

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