



## MEDIA RELEASE

(September 2016)

### **Farming smarter, not harder**

Project Platypus, the Landcare network for the upper Wimmera catchment, with support from the Aussie Farmers Foundation is inviting local farmers and farm business professionals to attend an introductory farm finance training session in Stawell.

The training will take place on Thursday the 6th of October at the Goldfields Comfort Inn on Ararat Rd, starting at 4.30pm.

Events Coordinator with Project Platypus, Bronwyn Bant said that the training had been made available at a critical time for many farmers in the region. “Increasingly, farm businesses need to be able to withstand not only climate variability, but also economic and market variations. We’ve seen this multiple times with a range of floods, droughts and even a locust plague impacting the bottom line of farm businesses across the region in recent years” said Ms Bant.

With funding received from the Aussie Farmers Foundation, Project Platypus has been able to secure two well respected and experienced farm business management consultants to share some advice. Mike Krause has over 30 years’ experience working with farmers, viticulturists, pastoralists and agri-business, and likens his ability to an accountant, but he helps farmers to improve profits rather than minimize tax. Mike has worked extensively with the Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC) and is the author of the GRDC published ‘Farming the Business’ manual, which aims to improve farm business skills in order to maintain farm sustainability into the future. Mike will help participants build their financial literacy by discussing cash flow, balance sheets, profit and loss budgets, improving business efficiency, wealth building and tax returns.

Robyn Gulline works with Partners in Grain, a national organisation that provides locally relevant and personalised training for Australian grain growers. Robyn will deliver a short training session discussing effective and efficient office practices including the use of apps and other technologies.

“Despite an increase in farming challenges and complexities, there is also great demand for agricultural products which provides great opportunity for Australian agricultural producers. This training session is designed to give farmers greater skills in business management so they can make informed business decisions to comfortably ride the challenges and complexities of farming, while making the most of opportunities” said Ms Bant.

Julia Hunter, Executive Officer of the Aussie Farmers Foundation said “the Aussie Farmers Foundation is delighted to fund this workshop. The economic sustainability of Australia’s family farms is a key focus for us and the work Project Platypus are doing will give our farmers some of the skills they need to help manage through tough times.”

Attending the event costs \$24 per person which covers the cost of a two course dinner. Participants are also asked to bring their latest tax return which can be used confidentially during the evening to make some on farm assessments. Registrations are required and can be made by calling Project Platypus on 5358 4410 or by emailing [bronwyn@platypus.org.au](mailto:bronwyn@platypus.org.au) no later than Thursday 29th September.

**End of release**

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