

All Things Sustainability Spring 2023



In this edition...

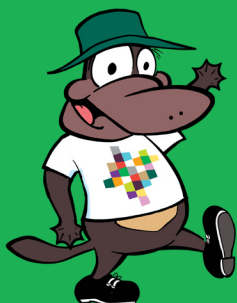
We celebrate the National Tree Day plantings, examine Environmental Upgrade Finance opportunities, look at our upcoming Biodiversity Month events, learn the Scarlet Robin, and discuss saving water in the garden. We invite you to explore our newsletter and share to your contacts. If you have any enquiries, please reach out to the Natural Landscapes and Health Team at 1300 735 025 or sustainability@qprc.nsw.gov.au

National Tree Day

Partnering with Queanbeyan Landcare, we hosted a huge tree planting event for National Tree Day on Sunday July 30. We had over 150 volunteers from across the community, including ANU Intrepid Landcare, Liberty Tree for Iran, Sia Organisation of the ACT, and Khalsa Aid Australia. We planted, mulched, guarded, and watered about 350 trees and shrubs. Other activities included educational walks conducted by Queanbeyan Landcare, and a scavenger hunt for kids. Thanks to all our fantastic volunteers!



Citizen Science: Report Your Platypus and Rakali Sightings



Did you know there are several platypus in QPRC's rivers? You might see the distinctive ring-shaped ripples in the water first, that means they're diving for food. Keep your eyes peeled and get a camera ready! You might also see one of our resident rakali in the river – look for the distinctive, white-tipped tail.

Do a bit of citizen science and help us look after our unique wildlife! Record your sightings at our website at bit.ly/QPRC-Platypus-Rakali or contact our team at platypus@qprc.nsw.gov.au.



Events

Queanbeyan Landcare and QPRC hosted a walk up Mount Jerrabomberra to celebrate World Wattle Day and Biodiversity Month. We learned about our native wattle species and saw a pair of Crimson Rosellas setting up a nest! We have a few more events coming up for Biodiversity Month - we hope you can join us!

Mount Jerra Walk with Queanbeyan Landcare

Sunday 10 September, 10am

Come along for a walk around Mount Jerrabomberra to learn about our local biodiversity.

Find out more at <https://bit.ly/QPRCBioMonth>



Waterbug Survey at Turallo Creek

Sunday 24 September, 10am

Join us at Turallo Creek in Bungendore for some fascinating citizen science activities. We'll take some water samples and look for aquatic macroinvertebrates (waterbugs), and learn how they are important for water health. Find out more at <https://bit.ly/QPRCwaterbugs>

Environmental Upgrade Finance

Did you know making sustainability upgrades to your building could save your business money? Businesses in QPRC have access to affordable capital for environmental upgrade projects. It's called Environmental Upgrade Finance, and it's a unique type of loan that is enabled by your QPRC and repaid quarterly through your council rates. Whether it's solar panels on the roof, replacing appliances, or improving building insulation, this program is designed to help you make building upgrades without any out-of-pocket costs.

So how does it work? It's pretty simple! Your business scopes out an environmental upgrade project for an existing building, and apply for a EUA. An EUA provides up to 100% of the upfront project cost, which you (or your tenant) make quarterly repayments on over periods of up to 20 years to QPRC aligned to your usual rates notices.

This program is designed to help businesses become more sustainable. Most upgrade projects are cashflow positive from day one—where their savings are higher than their repayments. Apply today at <https://bit.ly/QPRCEUF>

Scarlet Robin (*Petroica boodang*)

Watch out for Scarlet Robins this spring! A vulnerable species that lives in eucalyptus forests and open woodlands across QPRC, they are also common visitors to backyards looking for food. You can usually spot them on the ground or in foliage looking for insects. Male robins have a bright red chest, with a black back and head, and a distinctive white patch above the beak. Females have a dull red chest, and a brown back and head. Try to get a picture and report any sightings to <https://canberra.naturemapr.org/> and contribute to conservation science. You can also help the Scarlet Robin by keeping your cat indoors, and planting some insect-attracting plants in your garden!



Be Waterwise in the Garden

As the weather gets warmer, here's a few simple steps to save water in your garden.

Step one: mulch your garden beds! Mulch keeps your soil cool and protects your plants from extreme heat during the summer, while also reducing soil evaporation by up to 70%. This means you need to water your plants less often.

Step two: water smart! Many plants prefer less frequent watering. This helps the roots grow further underground in search of water – making plants better at coping with hot days, and less reliant on watering. Always check if your plants need water before watering them: push your finger into the soil and if it is moist below the surface, you don't need to water. When it's time to water, only water between 6pm and 9am, avoiding the hottest part of the day.

Step three: choose the right plants! Using Water Conservancy's Plant Finder you can find the best plants for your water efficient garden.

