

# Community Bulletin

## Woori Yallock Creek Improvement Works

Fulton Hogan Ecodynamics (FHE) on behalf of Melbourne Water will soon commence a major project to improve a 12 km stretch of the Woori Yallock Creek upstream of the Yellingbo Nature Conservation Reserve.

The Yellingbo Nature Conservation Reserve (YNCR) and the Woori Yallock Creek corridor is an area rich in biodiversity as well as rare and threatened plants and animals. This work will protect and improve these existing values.

### Protecting Platypus

The Woori Yallock Creek upstream of Yellingbo is a priority area for platypus. This project will enhance the existing habitat for this iconic animal, as well as habitat for other native species.

In order to minimise disturbance to breeding cycles and nursing of young platypus, a 5km reach of large-scale willow removal has been programmed from January to March 2014.

Control of other exotic weed species, such as blackberry, honeysuckle and red cestrum will be targeted over the course of the four year project. Natural regeneration, along with planting over 4000 native plants will establish native vegetation where weeds have been removed.

These works are part of Melbourne Water's Healthy Waterways Strategy which aims to improve the values of Melbourne's waterways by removing weeds and providing better habitat for animals such as birds, platypus and fish.

### What will I see?

The willows to be removed will be poisoned. Excavators will be used to remove and stockpile the poisoned willows. These piles will be chipped when weather conditions are suitable.

The majority of the other weed control work will be undertaken by crew members using hand held herbicide spray equipment.

At times our crews will need to use local tracks and roads to access the waterway. We apologise for any inconvenience caused as we work towards improving the health of your waterway.

## How can I get involved?

If you see a platypus on site, you can record your platypus sightings via the PlatypusSPOT website, a community driven database run by our research partner cesar. PlatypusSpOT will help ecologists gain a more complete picture of Melbourne's platypus population, which is essential for effective management and conservation of platypus. <http://platypusspot.org/>

For more information on this project, please call David Reed on 9724 3112 or for more general information on projects to enhance life and liveability please visit [melbournewater.com.au](http://melbournewater.com.au) or call 131 722.

