



MEDIA RELEASE

14 August 2015

Keeping track of native and pest animals

The Western Port Biosphere invites residents of Yaringa, Cannons Creek, Warneet and Blind Bight to join in an animal survey which starts in August this year.

“We need baseline data about what animals are living in this area” said Cecelia Witton, Executive Officer of the Western Port Biosphere. “Residents of this area can help us with this important work by recording what native and pest animals they see on their properties and in neighbouring areas.”

The Western Port Biosphere is using motion sensing cameras in reserves and has been able to record birds, wallabies, echidnas and possums; as well as foxes, dogs and cats. However, the Biosphere is keen to extend the range of data collected, and observations by residents can be a vital data source.

The data about native and pest animals is used to develop pest animal control programs. This animal survey program is part of the Western Port Biosphere’s work as a partner in the Port Phillip and Westernport Catchment Management Authority’s “Protecting the ecological values of the Western Port Ramsar site” project, which is funded by the Australian Government.

Interested residents can join this animal survey by downloading forms from www.biosphere.org.au or by contacting Sally Jacka, Project Officer on 5979 2167.

Animal survey information: Sally Jacka, Project Officer, 5979 2167 (Wednesdays and Thursdays)

Media information: Eleanor Bridger, 0411 209 189 (Tuesdays and Thursdays)