



3 Day Wetland Plant Identification and Ecology Course 2025-26

With Damien Cook and company

Places strictly limited

Observe the changing seasons, water depths and ecological drivers of the wetlands at Wirra-lo, the stunning conservation reserve managed by Wetland Revival Trust in association with the local First Nations community, over a six-month period.

Each of the three days will focus on a different wetland habitat and different phase of the wetting and drying cycle and associated plant communities. This course in wetland plant identification and ecology, now in it's 10th year, is for both enthusiastic amateurs as well as trained professionals.

2025-26 Course Dates

Each day is 9.00am – 5.00pm

Stream 1 - Wednesdays x 3

Day 1: Wednesday 29 Oct 2025

Day 2: Wednesday 10 Dec 2025

Day 3: Wednesday 25 Mar 2026

Stream 2 - Thursdays x 3

Day 1: Thursday 30 Oct 2025

Day 2: Thursday 11 Dec 2025

Day 3: Thursday 26 Mar 2026

"Fantastic introduction to wetland vegetation and ecology. If I can do the course and identify plants afterwards, anyone can!"

Greg Fletcher, Planning & Policy Officer Water, Wimmera CMAs



Day 1: October (Spring)
Sedges, Rushes and Grasses



Day 2: December (Summer)
Aquatic Plants



Day 3: March (Autumn)
Mudflat specialist plants



3 Day Wetland Plant Identification and Ecology Course

Course Structure

Each day is divided into: field trip using the coloured field guide to identify wetland plants and class time for presentations, discussion and practice using floral keys.

Lunch, morning and afternoon tea provided. All food will be organic, GF and vegetarian.

Course Content

- Participants will be provided with a 150 page colour wetland plant Identification field guide developed by Damien Cook and Elaine Bayes. This guide is designed to assist with easy identification of the most common wetland plants with practice using floral keys.
- At least 60% of the course will be run in the field identifying plants and discussing ecological drivers.
- Examine different wetland vegetation zones, the plant types that grow within them and what influences them (hydrology, soil type, water chemistry etc).
- Observe the same sites as they transition through the hydrological phases of; full, draw-down and drying.
- Wetland plant ecology links to fauna, wetland connectivity, temporal variability (seasonal and annual) and nutrient cycling

Course Location

Based at Wirra-lo, a 200ha property undergoing restoration by Wetland Revival Trust in partnership with the local First Nations community. Field work will be conducted at the creeks and lagoons traversing the property. Course dates are timed to follow environmental water delivery to ensure wetland plants are at their peak.

Need more information?

Go to <https://wetlandrevivaltrust.org/what-we-do/services/education-and-training/>.

Costs in 2025

\$1,500 plus GST - Corporate/Government

\$1,050 plus GST - NFP/Landcare

How to Register

Scan the QR code to register:



To pay for and register for the course go to: www.trybooking.com/DCKNI

For alternative payment methods please contact chris@wetlandrevivaltrust.org

For more information visit www.wetlandrevivaltrust.org

Course Presenter

Damien Cook is one of Victoria's leading wetland experts. Damien provides wetland expertise in the form of plant surveys, wetland condition assessments and biodiversity planning for organisations across Victoria. He has been instrumental in planning and delivering some of the largest and most complex ecological restoration projects to date in Australia. Damien has been recognised with an award for restoration excellence by the Society for Ecological Restoration Australia. He is currently a Director of Wetland Revival Trust.

Damien will be joined by co-presenter seasoned in wetland ecology (TBA).

About Wetland Revival Trust

The Wetland Revival Trust (WRT) is a non-profit, charitable organisation dedicated to wetland restoration. It was formed in 2019 by Damien Cook and Elaine Bayes. WRT undertakes wetland monitoring and restoration throughout northern Victoria with Traditional Owners particularly focused on the land of the Barapa and Wamba people. All surplus funds are dedicated to wetland conservation. This has allowed the purchase, restoration and management of the 20x hectare Wirra-lo wetland in Murrabit West.

To find out more about WRT or to donate towards wetland restoration projects visit wetlandrevivaltrust.org.

Booking changes: You may nominate an alternative attendee for the course or any day of the course should you not be able to make it. Unfortunately, no refunds or partial refunds will be made for any cancellation made less than fourteen (14) days before Day 1 of the course, or for non-attendance at the course. We are unable to defer or carry over bookings to a future year.



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