

## Explore biodiversity and birdlife during National Science Week at the Art Gallery

The significance of black swans and other birds to the local area will be at the heart of three programs being hosted by the Wagga Wagga Art Gallery during this year's National Science Week, from 12 – 20 August.

Swan Song features a series of three programs including a panel discussion, cultural river walk, and printmaking workshop.

The three programs aim to educate participants about the significance of black swans and other birds that once thrived on the banks of the Murrumbidgee River in the Wagga Wagga area but have disappeared due to the destruction of their habitat by human intervention.

The Art Gallery will present a panel discussion, on Saturday 12 August from 11am, exploring biodiversity.

The panellists are specialists in the fields of science, ecology, creative practice, and history including Wagga Wagga Art Gallery's Environmental Thinker in Residence, Dr Chris Orchard from Charles Sturt University, Threatened Species Officer Dr David Hunter from the Department of Planning and Environment, Curator from the Museum of the Riverina Michelle Maddison and Council's Environmental Education Officer and local artist Christina Reid.

Join Wiradjuri/Wiradyuri Elder Uncle James Ingram for a cultural knowledge river walk along the Murrumbidgee River on Sunday 13 August from 11am, starting at the Wagga Beach.

Uncle James Ingram will share his knowledge of the local ecology, bird life and the cultural significance of the river and its inhabitants to the Wiradjuri/Wiradyuri people.

On Saturday 19 August from 1pm, join artist and Environmental Education Officer Christina Reid for a printmaking workshop.

Participants will create relief printed bookmarks depicting the feathers of bird species now lost or threatened. The printed bookmarks will serve as mementos of the black swans which once lived on the river and lagoons of the Murrumbidgee.

For more information and to book for these events, visit the programs page at [www.waggaartgallery.com.au](http://www.waggaartgallery.com.au)

*National Science Week is made possible by a grant from Inspiring Australia, an Australian Government Initiative.*

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## MEDIA OPPORTUNITY

**What:** Hear about Swan Song, a series of programs for National Science Week at the Wagga Wagga Art Gallery.

**Who for interview:** Dr Christopher Orchard, Wagga Wagga Art Gallery Environmental Thinker in Residence and Astrid Reed - Gallery Programs Officer.

**When:** Wednesday 9 August at **12pm**

**Where:** Wagga Wagga Art Gallery – Main Gallery via lower entrance

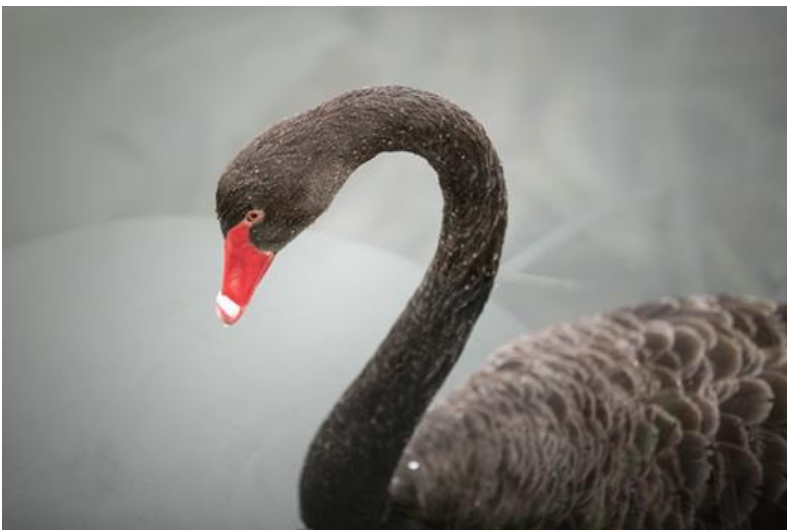
### Programs:

Swan Song Panel Discussion  
Wagga Wagga Art Gallery  
Saturday 12 August, 11am-12:30pm  
\$5 (+bf) | RSVP essential

Cultural River Walk with Wiradjuri/Wiradyuri Uncle James Ingram  
Wagga Wagga Beach  
Sunday 13 August, 11am–1:30pm  
\$5 (+bf) | RSVP essential

Printmaking Workshop with Christina Reid  
Wagga Wagga Art Gallery  
Saturday 19 August, 1-4pm  
\$20 (+bf) | RSVP essential

### Media images:





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Contact 6926 9190 or [media@wagga.nsw.gov.au](mailto:media@wagga.nsw.gov.au)

## About Wagga Wagga City Council

Wagga Wagga City Council serves more than 68,000 residents across an area of 4825 square kilometres with an overall budget of more than \$236M.

The organisation manages more than \$2.48 billion in assets, including a 2300km road network, Wagga Wagga Airport, Livestock Marketing Centre and the Oasis Aquatic Centre.

Council also provides important community facilities such as Wagga Wagga Art Gallery, Wagga Wagga City Library, Museum of the Riverina and Civic Theatre, as well as maintaining countless parks, playgrounds and sporting facilities to ensure Wagga maintains its reputation as 'the City of Good Sports'.

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