



WetlandLink - October 2008

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Wetland Restoration

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Contact:

WetlandLink Coordinator -
Kate Heyward
PO BOX 114
Ballina NSW 2478
Telephone:
(02) 66816 169
kateheyward@wetlandcare.com.au



WetlandCare Australia would like to acknowledge the Australian Government NHT for initiating this project.

Bio-Filter Wetland opens at Holmesglen Valley

Monash Bulletin

Monash Mayor, Paul Klisaris and State Member for Burwood, Bob Stensholt were joined by students from Malvern Valley Primary School in a ceremonial planting last month to celebrate the completion of the first stage of the Holmesglen Valley Bio-filter Wetland at Ashwood.

[Read more about the new Bio-filter at Holmesglen Valley](#)

Proposed Afton Street wetland environmentally significant

Moonee Valley Council Media Release

Moonee Valley City Council has approved for community consultation the draft plans for the Afton Street Conservation Park Wetland, which is set to improve the water quality of the Maribyrnong River. Mayor, Cr Paul Giuliano, said that Council recognised the value of Moonee Valley waterways and was committed to protecting and improving water quality in the Municipality.

[Read more about the Afton Street wetland](#)

Kids build wetland

Kate Bonsack, Williamstown, Altona, Laverton Star

Williamstown High School students will develop a wetland to protect Port Phillip. Students will soon begin landscaping their school grounds and the adjoining Jawbone Conservation Reserve with a \$425,000 wetland that will treat run-off water from a Council-owned drain next to the school. The school's principal, Steve Cook, said the wetland would provide a unique educational opportunity for the students and the community.

[Read more about the 'Kids build wetland' story](#)

Wetland Management

Action plan to target Lake Eyre Basin

ABC News

Scientists and graziers have met in Longreach, in central western Queensland, to develop a five-year action plan for the Lake Eyre Basin. Professor Stuart Bunn from the Australian Rivers Institute says the crisis in the Murray-Darling system has highlighted the importance of careful planning.

[Read more about the Lake Eyre Basin action plan](#)

Scientists, managers and the community gather at Yanga Wetlands

NSW DECC Media Release

Over 60 participants from around the State attended a workshop hosted by the Department of Environment and Climate Change (DECC) to inform and facilitate discussion on the latest science, research and projects devoted to supporting the Yanga wetlands. DECC Rivers and Wetlands Manager, Neil Saintilan, said the meeting provided the opportunity for wetland managers, researchers and members of the community to investigate ways to improve wetland management through the Rivers Environmental Restoration Program (RERP).

[Read more about the Yanga wetlands workshop](#)

Partnerships to improve wetland management

NSW DECC Media release

The protection of wetlands on private property is set to advance in the Macquarie, Gwydir, Lachlan and Murrumbidgee valleys with three new Wetland Conservation Officers on board with the Department of Environment and Climate Change (DECC). DECC Rivers Environmental Restoration Program (RERP) Manager Jeff Hillan said "We recognise the significant contribution to the sustainable management of the wetlands landholders are already making. We want to build on this to ensure that wetlands will continue to survive, despite the challenges we are facing."

[Read more about the 'partnerships to improve wetland management' story](#)

Wetland lovers brave cold

The Guyra Argus

A group of intrepid wetland lovers from the New England Tablelands braved freezing and wet conditions to learn more about the importance of our endangered lagoons and swamps. Upland wetlands, peats and swamps of the New England Tableland are listed as endangered ecological communities under the NSW Threatened Species Conservation

Act 1995. WetlandCare Australia hosted three field days at lagoons and swamps around Uralla, Arding, Torrington and Tenterfield and plan to host two more of these days near Guyra and Ebor, during November. Contact [Nic Cobcroft](#) from WetlandCare Australia.

[Read more about the New England field days](#)

Wetlands Under Threat

Garrett's options fast drying up

Bill Phillips, The Canberra Times

The mouth of the Murray River in South Australia is facing an impending crisis. Expert opinion is that unless this declared Wetland of International Importance receives serious water by this coming summer there is a strong possibility it will go into ecological free fall and be irreversibly damaged. Efforts to find, acquire and deliver the water needed in time seem doomed to fail, so the fate of this critical site rests in the hands of the weather patterns.

[Read the full 'Garrett's options fast drying up article'](#)

Signs of life in drought-hit wetlands

Alex Parry, ABC News

River red gums have been sprouting in the Banrock Station wetlands next to the Murray, in the South Australian Riverland. Banrock's manager Tony Sharley says birds, fish and plant species are returning since environmental flows resumed in June.

[Read the full "Signs of life in drought-hit wetlands" article](#)

Around the World

Korea Prepares to Host Ramsar Conference (Korea)

Arirang News

The Ramsar Conference is dedicated to conserving wetlands hosting rare species and plants. Unlike other environment-related conferences, the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands has a long history. Established in 1971 in the Iranian city of Ramsar with 18 countries involved, the convention now has 158 member states. The convention is held every three years. The 10th Ramsar Conference will start on October 28th for a week in Changwon, South Gyeongsang Province.

[Read the full "Korea Prepares to Host Ramsar Conference" article](#)

World's common birds 'declining' (UK)

Mark Kinver

The populations of the world's common birds are declining as a result of continued habitat loss, a global assessment has warned. The survey by BirdLife International found that 45% of Europe's common birds had seen numbers fall, as had more than 80% of Australia's wading species.

[Read the full "World's common birds declining article](#)

Paine Field wetland bank earns first Washington accreditation (USA)

Environment News Service

The Washington Department of Ecology extended its highest honor to both Snohomish County and Paine Field Airport Deputy Director Bill Lewallen for innovation and leadership in successfully completing the first fully accredited wetland mitigation bank in the state.

[Read more on the Paine Field wetlands bank](#)

World Heritage Status Sought for Biblical Garden of Eden (Iraq)

Environment News Service

The United Nations is moving to list the Marshlands of Mesopotamia in Iraq as a World Heritage site. At the same time, the government of Iraq is moving to designate this wetland area as a national park. Believed to be the location of the Biblical Garden of Eden, these once vast wetlands were 90 percent destroyed by the Saddam Hussein regime. The plan to designate the Marshlands as a World Heritage site was agreed at a meeting in Kyoto, Japan. Iraqi Environment Minister Narmin Othman, who is in Japan for the event, said, "I am very happy that we are now going to work towards making the Marshlands a national park and a globally important World Heritage Site".

[Read more about the Iraqi Marshlands of Mesopotamia](#)

[Chinese Non Government Organisation steps in to save rare gull \(China\)](#)

Tetsuya Suetsugu, The Daily Yomiuri

In a bid to protect the endangered Saunder's Gull, a nongovernmental organization is promoting the world's largest breeding wetland for the bird, in Liaoning Province, China, as a bird-watching spot. The Saunder's Gull Protection Association of Panjin is hosting an eight-day international event at the wetland to publicize the area as a tourist spot. Local residents formed the NGO, the first of many that now exist in China, to protect the bird and its marshland habitat, which has faced threats in the past due to environmental degradation caused by development.

[Read the full 'Chinese Non Government Organisation steps in to save rare gull' article](#)

[Atlanta airport opens bird sanctuary \(USA\)](#)

Juanita Cousins, Fort Mills Times

Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, the world's busiest airport has taken time to transform a dried lake bed into a 56.5-acre Sams Lake Bird Sanctuary park. US federal law required the airport to complete the wetlands restoration project after constructing its fifth runway, which paved through 14 acres in the Flint Basin. "The idea of man creating wetlands is a very new and modern idea," said Kathryn Masters, the airport's lead engineer on the \$5 million restoration project. "It is going to be fun to watch it grow over the next 20 years."

[Read more about the bird sanctuary at Atlanta airport](#)

[Redesigning nature to clean it \(Italy\)](#)

Elizabeth Rosenthal, New York Time

In many parts of the Mediterranean coast of Italy along the coastal region southeast of Rome and northwest of Naples, canals dumping effluent into the Mediterranean from farms and factories coexist with fishermen and beachgoers. There is little doubt that this area would need considerable work to return to a more pristine state. A new breed of landscape architect is recommending a radical solution: not so much to restore the environment as to redesign it.

[Read more on redesigning nature to clean it](#)

Wetland Resources

[SmartCane Riparian Booklet now available](#)

Canegrowers Australia in conjunction with the Bureau SES, have launched a series of Best Management Practice guidelines for sugar cane farmers, including 'Riparian and Wetland areas on Cane Farms' written by Bob Smith of WetlandCare Australia. To obtain a copy of this useful resource contact WetlandCare Australia on (02) 66 816 169.

[Read more about the SmartCane Riparian Booklet](#)

[Frogs of Australia website](#)

An extremely useful website and an ever-growing project aiming to provide descriptions, distribution maps, images, breeding calls, and field guide entries for every frog in Australia. You can search the site and a powerful regional guide system allows you to easily find the frogs of your area.

[Go to the Frogs of Australia website](#)

[Climate ready estuaries website](#)

Water and Wastewater News

US EPA's Climate Ready Estuaries (CRE) recently announced its new website at www.epa.gov/cre. The CRE website is designed to provide users with information about the importance of coastal adaptation to climate change and to provide tools for adaptation in its toolkit. More specifically, the online toolkit features resources related to coastal vulnerability, adaptation planning, smart growth, data and monitoring, and sustainable financing, serving a range of needs - from community members to coastal managers.

[Read more about the US 'climate ready estuaries' program](#)

[Call for Queensland wetland inventory](#)

Natural resource managers are invited to upload new or existing wetland

inventory into a new online data capture system developed by the Queensland Wetlands Programme. The Programme has developed a [proforma](#) that allows registered users to collect and upload bulk inventory into the system.

For more information about the system, contact project manager [Noleen Kunst](#) on 3404 3351.

Documentary: Harvest to Restore

The Daily Comet, Louisiana, USA

[Harvest to Restore](#), a documentary examining the fight to fortify Louisiana's vanishing coastline premiered in the United States recently. Harvest to Restore, a co-production of the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program, Louisiana Public Broadcasting, and Côte Blanche Productions, Inc, looks at the new methods being used to try and save the state's rapidly disappearing coastline and wetlands.

[Read more on the premiere of 'Harvest to Restore' in the USA](#)

Recommended Ramsar reading

Those interested in wetland management may like to access the first volume in Springers Wetlands: Ecology, conservation and management series called "The Becher wetlands – A Ramsar Site". This book is a fascinating compendium of information about one particular Australian Ramsar Site, a wetland (or wetland system) which is not the biggest, or the most spectacular, but is typical of most of the worlds wetlands!! The book then analyses this system, from its setting, geomorphology, sedimentology, hydrology, hydrochemistry, vegetation and – critically vegetation history, and then brings it all together in a synthesis, which serves as a synthesis for management choices and ideas.

The full reference is:

Semeniuk, C. 2007. The Becher Wetlands – A Ramsar Site. Evolution of wetland habitats and vegetation Associations on a Holocene Coastal Plain, South-Western Australia. Springer, Dordrecht. ISBN 1-4020-4671-5

Other Wetland News

NGO members from the Australian Wetland Alliance and Government meet at Wetlands Forum

In a two day "Wetlands Forum" NGO members of the Australian Wetland Alliance met with representatives from the Department of the Environment, Heritage and the Arts and the NSW, Qld and South Australian Governments in Sydney. The Forum aimed to facilitate communication between NGOs and Government toward integrated action in wetland protection, management and rehabilitation. It also assisted with preparations for the upcoming Ramsar International Wetlands Conference of the Parties (COP10) which is to be held in Korea from the 28th of October.

[Read more about the Wetland Forum](#)

World Wetlands Day 2009 Art Competition launched

To celebrate World Wetlands Day 2009 on 2 February, WetlandCare Australia is hosting our 2nd annual Australia-wide art competition. There are various categories for both children and adults and for the first time a Primary School Prize will also be offered.

[Download the entry form and view the competition prizes here](#)

National Water Week 2008

National Water Week is being held from 19-25 October 2008. This year's theme is "Clean Water: Essential for Life!" which gives us an opportunity to appreciate how lucky we are to have easy access to clean water. Good clean water is essential for life, and that means plants and animals too.

By coordinating a National Water Week event, you're helping to spread the message and encourage people to get involved in water-focused activities. Register your event now at www.nationalwaterweek.org.au.

Or if you would like some ideas or helpful advice in how to run an event, the [National Water Week website](#) has a great guide to running an event. National Water Week 2008 is sponsored by the Australian Water Association, Smart Approved WaterMark and Sydney Water.

Hunter Wetlands Centre school holiday activities

The Hunter Wetlands Centre Australia offers a range of school holiday activities including supervised programs, canoe adventures and children's

theatre. Activities will accommodate the weather and most will go ahead rain, hail or shine.

[See what's on at the Huner Wetlands Centre](#)

Mick Olsen (1917-2008)

WetlandCare Australia would like to acknowledge the passing away of Mick Olsen, our inaugural Chairman and one of Australia's pioneers in fisheries research. Mick was Chairman from 1992 to 1993 and a Director from 1993 to 1998. Mick provided invaluable leadership and energy in establishing our not for profit group despite a busy life in which he will be long remembered for a visionary and precautionary approach to fisheries management and for his major contributions to school shark life history and fisheries biology.

In an account of his life John Stevens wrote "He was an environmentalist, uncompromising, and well ahead of his time in his thinking". To read more about Mick's amazing achievements and foresight in Australian natural resource management, written by John Stevens go to [the CSIRO Alumni website](#).

Wetland Restoration
Bio-Filter Wetland opens at Holmesglen Valley (Vic)
<http://www.monash.vic.gov.au/news/bulletin2008/bulletin-02sep08p8.htm>
Proposed Afton Street Wetland Environmentally Significant (Vic)
http://www.mooneevalley.vic.gov.au/Page/Page.asp?Page_Id=1630

Kids build wetland (Vic)
<http://www.senews.com.au/story/63457>
Wetland Management
Action plan to target Lake Eyre Basin (QLD)
<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/09/17/2366858.htm>

Scientists, managers and the community gather at Yanga Wetlands (NSW)
<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/media/DecMedia08090903.htm>

Partnerships to improve wetland management (NSW)
<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/media/DecMedia08091701.htm>

Wetland Lovers Brave Cold (NSW)
<http://guyra.yourguide.com.au/news/local/news/general/wetland-lovers-brave-cold/1272683.aspx>

Wetlands Under Threat
Garrett's options fast drying up
<http://www.canberratimes.com.au/news/opinion/editorial/general/garretts-options-fast-drying-up/1265800.aspx>

Signs of life in drought-hit wetlands
<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/09/05/2356017.htm>
Around the World
Korea Prepares to Host Ramsar Conference (Korea)
<http://english.chosun.com/w21data/html/news/200809/200809080008.html>
World's common birds 'declining' (UK)
<http://www.earthportal.org/news/?p=1714>
Paine Field Wetland Bank Earns First Washington Accreditation (USA)
<http://www.ens-newswire.com/ens/sep2008/2008-09-24-091.asp>

World Heritage Status Sought for Biblical Garden of Eden (Iraq)
<http://www.ens-newswire.com/ens/sep2008/2008-09-05-01.asp>

Chinese Non Government Organisation steps in to save rare gull (China)
<http://www.yomiuri.co.jp/dy/world/20080914TDY04302.htm>
Atlanta airport opens bird sanctuary (USA)
<http://www.fortmilltimes.com/124/story/297052.html>

Redesigning nature to clean it (Italy)
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/09/22/world/europe/22marsh.html?_r=1&partner=rssnyt&emc=rss&oref=slogin
Wetland Resources
SmartCane Riparian Booklet
<http://www.wetlandcare.com.au/Content/anmviewer.asp?a=681&z=1>
Frogs of Australia
<http://frogs.org.au/frogs/index.html>

Climate ready estuaries website
<http://www.wvn-online.com/articles/67098/>
<http://www.epa.gov/cre/>

Calling for wetland inventory
http://www.epa.qld.gov.au/wetlandinfo/resources/static/pdf/WICTools/QLD_EPA_WICSurveyProforma_PILOT_v2_5.pdf
noleen.kunst@epa.qld.gov.au

Recommended Ramsar Reading
The full reference is:
Semeniuk, C. 2007. The Becher Wetlands – A Ramsar Site. Evolution of wetland habitats and vegetation Associations on a Holocene Coastal Plain, South-Western Australia. Springer, Dordrecht. ISBN 1-4020-4671-5

Harvest to Restore
[http://www.dailycomet.com/article/20080922/HURBLOG/809229931/1223?](http://www.dailycomet.com/article/20080922/HURBLOG/809229931/1223?Title=Wetland_restoration_documentary_premieres_tomorrow)
Title=Wetland_restoration_documentary_premieres_tomorrow
<http://www.lpb.org/programs/harvesttorestore/>
Other Wetland News
Australian Wetland Alliance Wetlands Forum
[http://www.wetlandcare.com.au/Content/templates/news_detail.asp?](http://www.wetlandcare.com.au/Content/templates/news_detail.asp?articleid=684&zoneid=1)
articleid=684&zoneid=1

WetlandCare Australia WWD Art Competition
<http://www.wetlandcare.com.au/Content/anmviewer.asp?a=679&z=1>

National Water Week 2008
<http://www.nationalwaterweek.org.au/>

Hunter Wetlands Centre School Holiday Activities
[http://www.wetlands.org.au/templates/wetlands_content.aspx?](http://www.wetlands.org.au/templates/wetlands_content.aspx?pageID=4903)
pageID=4903

Mick Olsen (1917-2008)

<http://c.yourmembership.com/sites/www.csiroalumni.org.au/resource/collection/5156758D-F89F-466D-AD14-A5930AA5D615/OLSEN2.pdf>

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