



WetlandLink - April 2009

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

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A project designed to improve the passage and movement of fish throughout the state's river systems has entered into its final stage. Coordinated by the NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI), funded by the Southern Rivers Catchment Management Authority (CMA) and supported by local councils, the initiative involves a field audit of road crossings and on-ground works to help fish move freely in their natural habitat.

[Read the full article *Why did the fish cross the road? Fish crossings improve biodiversity*](#)

<http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/aboutus/news/recent-news/fishing-and-aquaculture/fish-crossings>

First Commonwealth environmental water to benefit South Australian wetlands (SA)

Media release, 24 March 2009

Minister for Climate Change and Water, Senator the Hon. Penny Wong and The Hon Karlene Maywald, Government of South Australia Minister for the River Murray

The first release of Commonwealth water for the environment has started at wetlands in South Australia, to be followed by further releases at other sites around the Basin over coming months. Minister for Climate Change and Water, Senator Penny Wong, and South Australian Minister for the River Murray, Karlene Maywald, said the first watering events to commence today marked a new chapter in the restoration of the Murray-Darling Basin.

"These releases of environmental water are the first dividends from the Australian Government's \$3.1 billion water buyback program under its Water for the Future plan," Senator Wong said.

Minister Maywald said the water would benefit several significant South Australian wetlands.

[First Commonwealth environmental water to benefit South Australian wetlands](#)

<http://www.environment.gov.au/minister/wong/2009/pubs/mr20090324.pdf>

Wetland Management

North Queensland's contribution to world wetlands plan

Nathalie Fernbach, ABC North Queensland Rural Report, Townsville
A James Cook University academic who specialises in wetlands and agriculture has been appointed to the scientific panel of the worlds international wetlands convention - Ramsar. George Lukacs has worked for the Australian Centre for Tropical Freshwater Research at JCU for the past 15 years, and will attend a meeting of Ramsar's Scientific and Technical Review panel in Switzerland to help develop global guidelines for managing wetlands.

Mr Lukacs says Australia has a lot to offer in terms of wetlands management, but also a lot to learn. "I think there's a very good case in point just south of Townsville... at Bowling Green Bay. And up stream is an agricultural area. What we need in that agricultural area, and what we are developing there is best practice approaches to how we manage pollutants, how we manage wildlife, how we manage the use of the water in that agricultural area to maintain the values of the downstream area."

<http://www.abc.net.au/rural/qld/northqld/>

Healthy Wetlands for Healthy Catchments in the Southern Rivers Region (NSW)

A new mapping project has begun in the Southern Rivers area of NSW which will build on WetlandCare Australia's already extensive mapping database. This project is supported by the Southern Rivers Catchment Management Authority, through funding from the Australian Government's Caring for our Country. WetlandCare Australia will map, classify and prioritise wetlands found in the Southern Rivers catchment management

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[Read the full article 'Healthy Wetlands for Healthy Catchments in the Southern Rivers Region'](#)

http://www.wetlandcare.com.au/Content/templates/news_detail.asp?articleid=733&zoneid=1

Improving wetland understanding and management with MIKE SHE

Many catchment management problems such as wetland restoration, conjunctive use of groundwater and surface water, groundwater dependant eco systems, salinity, land-use planning, require modelling tools with realistic linkages between surface water and groundwater. MIKE SHE is an advanced integrated hydrologic model that includes overland flow, unsaturated flow, vegetation-based evapotranspiration, groundwater flow, fully dynamic channel flow, pipe flow, irrigation demand and water quality. MIKE SHE is a modular modelling framework that includes both simple and advanced numerical methods for each of the hydrologic processes. This allows you to solve problems across the full hydrologic spectrum - from single soil columns to detailed wetland studies to basin-wide water resource management studies.

It is currently being applied across Australia in areas as diverse as plantation and wetland interactions in South Australia, salinity drainage management in Western Australia, groundwater related urban flooding in New South Wales, recharge estimation in the Northern Territory, and land use impacts (ACT) as well as internationally in the USE, UK, Belgium, Botswana and Greece.

For further information please contact Dr Graeme Cox at gjc@dhigroup.com or go to www.dhigroup.com.au

More support for a long-term solution for the Coorong and Lower Lakes

Minister for Climate Change and Water, Senator Penny Wong, has announced progress in helping South Australia secure an enduring ecological outcome for the Coorong, Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth. "The Australian Government has signed over up to \$10 million for the feasibility study now underway. The study is a crucial step in developing a long-term solution for the Coorong and Lower Lakes," Senator Wong said.

[Read the full article 'More support for a long-term solution for the Coorong and Lower Lakes'](#)

<http://www.environment.gov.au/minister/wong/2009/pubs/mr20090309.pdf>

Wetlands under Threat

Rudd Government Helping with Moreton Bay Clean-up (Qld)

The Rudd Government will immediately provide \$2 million to help local community groups and natural resource management bodies continue the clean-up of Moreton Bay, following last week's oil spill.

Environment Minister Peter Garrett and Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Tony Burke said the funds would help with the restoration of the Moreton Bay wetlands and coastal environment.

It will be provided through the Coastcare program, under Caring for our Country. It follows an increase in funding for similar work to protect sensitive environmental sites, productive farming land and water resources in fire-affected areas of Victoria.

[Read the full media release 'Rudd Government Helping with Moreton Bay Clean-up'](#)

<http://www.environment.gov.au/minister/garrett/2009/pubs/mr20090316.pdf>

Wetland Education and Resources

NEW Publication features fishers making fish naturally

Minister for Primary Industries Ian Macdonald said recreational anglers who are putting something back into their sport by improving fish habitat are featured in a new free publication from NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI). "The real-life case studies in [Recreational fishers make fish happen!](#) will inspire other fishers to get involved in making more fish, naturally," said Minister Macdonald.

Also featured is Cassie Price, Senior Projects Coordinator, WetlandCare Australia.

Download [Recreational fishers make fish happen!](#)

http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0005/276224/Recreational-fishers-make-fish-happen.pdf

[Read the full article 'NSW DPI Publication features fishers making fish naturally'](#)

<http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/aboutus/news/recent-news/fishing-and-aquaculture/making-fish-naturally>

NEW Book - Australian Saltmarsh Ecology

Australian Saltmarsh Ecology presents the *first* comprehensive review of the ecology and management of Australian saltmarshes. Leading experts in the field outline what is known of the biogeography and geomorphology of Australian saltmarshes, their fish and invertebrate ecology, the use of Australian saltmarshes by birds and insectivorous bats, and the particular challenges of management, including the control of mosquito pests, and the issue of sea-level rise. They provide a powerful argument that coastal saltmarsh is a unique and critical habitat vulnerable to the combined impacts of coastal development and sea-level rise.

[Read more about the NEW Book - Australian Saltmarsh Ecology](#)

<http://www.publish.csiro.au/nid/20/pid/6008.htm>

Find out how wetlands work!

The Queensland Wetlands Program has a new series of models showing how coastal zone wetlands function. The models can be used by anyone, as complex ecological, hydrological and geomorphic processes and management challenges are explained in an easy-to-understand manner. The models are a great resource for planners, consultants, teachers, landholders and on-ground workers. A 'make your own model' tool is also available to help students explore wetland connectivity.

To view the models visit [WetlandInfo](#)

<http://www.epa.qld.gov.au/wetlandinfo/site/ScienceAndResearch/ConceptualModels.html>

WetlandCare Australia News

Artworks Travelling to Regional Exhibitions

The winning Art and Photography from the WetlandCare Australia National Art Competition is currently on display at the Dorrigo Rainforest Centre, at Dorrigo National Park. The show will run until the end of April, when the works will travel on to Sea Acres Rainforest Centre in Port Macquarie. After this show, the works will then go to Dubbo and other regional locations in central west NSW till the end of August.

The locations of exhibitions will be updated monthly in WetlandLink. All the winning Art and Photography can be seen on the on-line gallery on the WetlandCare Australia website www.wetlandcare.com.au – just click on the link to the Art Competition.

<http://www.wetlandlink.com.au>

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