

## For the latest news in Wetlands.

### In this issue:

#### Wetland Restoration

- [More dead wood a good thing for native fish](#)

#### Wetland Management

- [Macquarie Marshes purchase praised \(NSW\)](#)
- [Lower lakes birds surveyed \(SA\)](#)

#### Wetlands Under Threat

- [Crunch time for the Gippsland Lakes \(Vic\)](#)
- [Murray River 'cancer' creeps northward \(Qld\)](#)

#### Around the World

- [International Effort Keeps Cranes Flying High \(Vietnam\)](#)
- [Preserving China's wetlands with United Nations Volunteer know-how](#)
- [Puerto Rico will create task force to improve wetlands](#)

#### Wetland Resources

- [South East Queensland Healthy Waterways News direct to your inbox](#)
- [Get the Facts on Mangroves](#)

#### Other Wetland News

- [World Wetlands Day 2009 Art Competition launched](#)
- [Mine proponent appeals against environmental rejection](#)

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#### Contact:

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



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

## Wetland Restoration

### More dead wood a good thing for native fish

#### *Murray Darling Basin Commission*

Getting 'snagged' can be frustrating for anglers, but 3000 extra woody habitats laid in the Murray River over the last 3 years are now paying dividends for native fish. Dr Wendy Craik AM, Chief Executive of the Murray-Darling Basin Commission which funds the project, said the return of snags to the river was already proving successful for native fish despite the ravages of drought.

[Read more about the 'snagging' project](#)

## Wetland Management

### Macquarie Marshes purchase praised (NSW)

ABC News

Land-holders near the Macquarie Marshes say the purchase of land to extend the nature reserve is one of the most progressive moves made by government for a long time. The state and federal governments yesterday announced the purchase of nearly 2,500 hectares of private property, along with its water entitlements, in central western New South Wales.

[Read more about the purchase of the Macquarie Marshes](#)

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/08/07/2326865.htm>

### Lower lakes birds surveyed (SA)

ABC News

A survey of River Murray wetlands in South Australia and Victoria shows the lower lakes are sustaining the most birds. [Read more about the survey of the Lower lakes birds.](#)

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/08/12/2332983.htm>

The Wilderness Society's Peter Owen commented saying the birdlife survey highlights what will be lost if the lower lakes are cut off from the river and flooded with sea water. [Read the full "Murray sea plan threatens birdlife" article.](#)

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/08/13/2333509.htm>

## Wetlands Under Threat

### Crunch time for the Gippsland Lakes (Vic)

Carmel Egan, *The Age*

The future of Australia's largest inland waterway is in jeopardy. Mr Scott, a former state bureaucrat and river management consultant believes this is the ecological tipping point for Australia's largest inland lake and wetlands system. The Gippsland Lakes, he predicts, are heading towards the same fate as the Coorong in South Australia; not enough clean fresh water, ever higher salinity levels, alien algal blooms and pollution that kills even the hardy barnacles.

[Read more about the Gippsland Lakes](#)

<http://www.theage.com.au/national/crunch-time-for-the-gippsland-lakes-20080823-40xe.html>

### Murray River 'cancer' creeps northward

Pia Akerman, *The Australian*

THE "cancer" of the Murray, acid sulphate soils, has spread to the river system's northern catchments in Queensland where up to 200 sites are under investigation by scientists. The Murray-Darling Basin Commission ordered the investigation in southern Queensland amid mounting evidence that wetlands and rivers in the north of the system were succumbing to the poisoning that threatened to overwhelm the Murray's lower lakes in South Australia. Acid sulphate soils can occur when river and lake beds are exposed to the air as water levels fall, triggering a toxic chemical reaction.

[Read the full "Murray River 'cancer' creeps northward" article](#)

<http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au/story/0,25197,24264492-30417,00.html>

## Around the World

### International effort keeps Cranes flying high (Vietnam)

Gil Halsted, *Voice of America News*

The dry season on the southwestern coast of Vietnam is crane-counting time. Near a small village on its border with Cambodia, wildlife ecologists from the International Crane Foundation in Wisconsin and researchers from Ho Chi Minh City stake out the ponds and marshes where the Eastern Saurus cranes gather to feed. Tracking the crane population in Vietnam and protecting their habitat is a joint effort.

[Read the full "International effort keeps Cranes flying high" article](#)

<http://www.voanews.com/english/AmericanLife/2008-08-18-voa23.cfm>

### **Preserving China's wetlands with United Nations Volunteer know-how (China)**

The Ruorgai Wetlands Nature Reserve (Sichuan Province, China) is the home of many rare species such as the black-necked crane and the white-tailed eagle. The United Nations Volunteers are studying China's wetlands to help preserve its' biodiversity. The Wetland Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use in China programme has involved five national and four international UNV volunteer conservation specialists and is also run in four other provinces. In partnership with United Nations Development Programme, the Global Environment Facility and the State Forestry Administration of China, it aims to collect information on marsh ecosystems and strengthen relations between local governments, non-government organisations and the media on environmental issues.

[Read more on UNV and preserving China's wetlands](#)

<http://china.unv.org/news-resources/unv-in-china/doc/preserving-chinas-wetlands-with.html>

### **Puerto Rico will create task force to improve wetlands**

*Environment News Service*

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Puerto Rico Land Authority have reached a settlement that requires the creation of a task force to identify, monitor and protect wetlands in Puerto Rico. The Puerto Rico Land Authority will pay a \$25,000 penalty and set up a \$100,000 fund which will be used to establish a wetlands management program. The settlement resolves a 2007 complaint issued by the EPA alleging the Puerto Rico Land Authority had violated the Clean Water Act by allowing wetlands to be filled without the appropriate permits.

[Read the full "Puerto Rico will create task force to improve wetlands" article](#)

<http://www.ens-newswire.com/ens/aug2008/2008-08-11-092.asp>

## **Wetland Resources**

### **South East Queensland Healthy Waterways News direct to your inbox**

SEQ Healthy Waterways has launched a new monthly e-newsletter packed full of great articles about events and activities going on in the catchment. The first edition of Healthy Waterways News is available online or you can visit the [SEQ Healthy Waterways](#) website to subscribe.

[Go to the SEQ Healthy Waterways website](#)

<http://www.healthywaterways.org/>

### **Get the Facts on Mangroves**

The Department of Primary Industries has recently released a new Primefact which presents a comprehensive summary of mangroves and their importance in NSW, and includes options and techniques for their rehabilitation.

[Download the DPI Mangroves factsheet here](#)

<http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries/habitat/publications/aquatic-habitat--protection/mangroves>

## Other Wetland News

### 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](#)

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

### Mine proponent appeals against environmental rejection

A Perth-based company that failed to gain environmental approval to develop a salt mine on the Exmouth Gulf, has appealed against the decision on 72 grounds. The Environmental Protection Authority found Straits Resources' proposal to produce and export four million tonnes of salt per year posed unacceptably high risks of environmental harm. The main argument against the \$200 million project was the classification of the area as a wetland of national importance.

[Read the full "Mine proponent appeals against environmental rejection" article](#)

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/08/14/2335238.htm>