



WetlandLink - March 2009

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

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Wetland Management

\$5.4 million for atlas of ecosystems dependent on groundwater

Media release, Minister for Climate Change and Water, Senator the Hon. Penny Wong

Minister for Climate Change and Water, Senator Penny Wong, announced funding of \$5.4 million to develop a comprehensive national atlas of groundwater-dependent ecosystems. "We need to better understand the relationship between groundwater and the health of the rivers, streams and wetlands that support vulnerable ecosystems.... this will give water managers vital information about the ecological requirements of the groundwater systems they deal with" Senator Wong said.

Funding for the project is from the National Water Commission's \$82 million National Groundwater Action Plan, which undertakes projects to improve knowledge of groundwater and guide groundwater reforms agreed to under the National Water Initiative. Further information on the project can be found at www.nwc.gov.au

[Read the media release '\\$5.4 million for atlas of ecosystems dependent on groundwater'](#)

<http://www.environment.gov.au/minister/wong/2009/pubs/mr20090302b.pdf>

Sustainable floodplain management in the Nambucca and Bellinger catchments (NSW)

WetlandCare Australia has been successful in attaining funding through the Australian Government's Caring for Our Country Landcare Program to increase awareness and implementation of best practice floodplain management in the Nambucca and Bellinger catchments.

The program will run over three years and will include on-ground works demonstrating best practice floodplain management. Floodplain landholders in the Nambucca and Bellinger Catchments who are interested in being involved in the program are encouraged to contact WetlandCare Australia.

[Read more about the 'Sustainable floodplain management in the Nambucca and Bellinger catchments' project](#)

http://www.wetlandcare.com.au/Content/templates/news_detail.asp?articleid=725&zoneid=1

Wetland Restoration

Riparian management assistance program (NSW)

The Sydney Catchment Authority is providing assistance aimed at helping property owners protect and conserve riparian zones and wetland areas in a number of sub-catchments that are identified as high priority concerns to maintain water quality. For more information please contact Jacob Adams, Riparian Project Officer, Sydney Catchment Authority on (02) 4886 9412, 0428254558 or Stuart Naylor, Program Coordinator on (02) 4724 2325.

[Click here for more information on the Riparian management assistance](#)

- [become a sponsor](#)
- [make a bequest](#)

For more information go to [WetlandCare Australia's website.](#)

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[program](#)

<http://www.sca.nsw.gov.au/publications/publications/riparian-management-assistance-program>

Drinking to success – wine for wetlands (SA)

Christine Williams, ECOS Magazine

Banrock Station winery was established in 1994 with the aim of rehabilitating an area of wetland along the River Murray system in South Australia which had been degraded by decades of overgrazing. The company's makes a donation to an environmental conservation project for every bottle of wine sold and to date has invested almost \$6 million in more than 100 environmental projects in 13 countries where its wine is sold. The showpiece is the 1000-hectare wetland which was listed as a 'Wetland of international importance' by the Ramsar Convention in 2002.

[Read the full article 'Drinking to success - wine for wetlands'](#)

http://www.ecosmagazine.com/?act=view_file&file_id=EC147p25.pdf

Wetland partnership to protect and restore Belmont Wetlands State Park (NSW)

WetlandCare Australia and the Hunter-Central Rivers Catchment Management Authority (HCR CMA) are undertaking a wetland protection and rehabilitation project at Belmont Wetlands State Park under the HCR CMA Partnerships Program. The project aims to address weed and pest animal threats which impact on the areas biodiversity values.

WetlandCare Australia will engage key stakeholders and the wider community to be involved in managing the threats to this significant area of wetlands at Belmont Wetlands State Park.

[Read more about the wetland partnership to protect and restore Belmont Wetlands State Park](#)

http://www.wetlandcare.com.au/Content/templates/news_detail.asp?articleid=730&zoneid=1

Wetlands under Threat

Grave future for gum trees (NSW)

Marian Wilkinson Environment Editor, Sydney Morning Herald

River red gums, some hundreds of years old, are dying in vast numbers in the central NSW wetlands of the Lachlan River with one large delta experiencing an 85 per cent mortality rate in the past 12 years, a new study has found.

Professor Richard Kingsford and Jessica Armstrong, of the University of NSW, blame the crisis in large part on the long history of irrigation in the region, combined with drought and climate change. The annual flows of water reaching the Booligal wetlands from the town of Forbes have fallen 50 per cent over the past century. In the past 25 years, the number of large floods drenching the wetlands, a nationally recognised water-bird colony, have also halved, the study concludes.

[Read the full media release 'Grave future for gum trees'](#)

<http://www.smh.com.au/national/grave-future-for-gum-trees-20090225-8hzo.html>

Wetlands threatened as Yamba plans to develop floodplain (NSW)

Elicia Murray, The Canberra Times

The holiday hamlet of Yamba is one step closer to a huge development project that will turn a flood plain at the mouth of the Clarence River into a busy residential area. The Clarence Valley Council voted this week to adopt a local environment plan to rezone the 690-hectare West Yamba site in the northern NSW town. Plans to turn the land into a residential area are advancing even though coastal design policies caution against building on land subject to rising sea levels and floods.

[Read the full article 'Wetlands threatened as Yamba plans to develop flood plain'](#)

<http://www.canberratimes.com.au/news/national/national/general/wetlands-threatened-as-yamba-plans-to-develop-flood-plain/1445599.aspx>

Wetland Education and Resources

Wetlands in warrior's good hands

Cait Bester, Daily Mercury

Through Mackay's first Queensland Wetlands Program warriors curriculum, 170 Year 8 Pioneer State High School students will learn to protect, conserve and manage local wetlands over the next 10 weeks.

During a role-playing session yesterday, students learnt how wetland systems work and how they should be maintaining the health of our natural environment, with a focus on the Great Barrier Reef. The curriculum, which was trialled in Townsville last year, encourages students to become 'warriors' or protectors of wetlands.

[Read the full 'Wetlands in warrior's good hands' article](#)

<http://www.dailymercury.com.au/story/2009/02/27/wetlands-in-warriors-good-hands/>

Murder Under the Microscope!

The NSW Department of Education and Training's "Murder Under the Microscope - Crisis on the Coast" program is now available. WetlandCare Australia was given the privilege of producing several catchment fact sheets for the program.

Murder under the Microscope (MuM) is an interactive environmental investigation game for school students. It involves student detective groups investigating potential environmental 'victims', 'villains' and 'crime sites' via the latest technology. It will run for approximately 10 weeks in term 2, (April-July) 2009 for years 5 to 10 and is accessed through the website: www.microscope.edu.au

WetlandCare Australia News

Upcoming FREE FIELD DAYS in the montane wetlands of the New England tablelands (NSW)

WetlandCare Australia, with funding from the Northern Rivers Catchment Management Authority, will be holding two field days on the 13th and 14th of March 2009 looking at the unique montane wetlands of the New England tablelands.

[Find out more about the FREE FIELD DAYS in the montane wetlands of the New England tablelands](#)

http://www.wetlandcare.com.au/Content/templates/news_detail.asp?articleid=728&zoneid=1

Landholder wetland workshop information sessions in Red Rock and Deep Creek (Valla) (NSW)

WetlandCare Australia, with funding provided through the Northern Rivers Catchment Management Authority by the Australian and NSW Governments, is currently seeking expressions of interest from landholders in the Red Rock and Deep Creek (Valla) areas to be part of a project to protect and rehabilitate wetlands.

WetlandCare Australia will be holding two wetland information sessions for landholders in the Red Rock and Deep Creek areas. Landholders will be able to obtain further information about the current Priority Wetlands funding opportunity available in their areas.

[Find out more about the 'Landholder wetland workshop information sessions in Red Rock and Deep Creek \(Valla\)'](#)

http://www.wetlandcare.com.au/Content/templates/news_detail.asp?articleid=731&zoneid=1

View the online gallery of the WetlandCare Australia National art competition

The winning works from the WetlandCare National art competition can now be viewed online at the WetlandCare Australia website by clicking here. There are also pictures from the opening of the exhibition, attended by many of the winners from around Australia, and representatives from our major sponsoring organizations. Photographer Steve Parish also attended, giving an inspiring talk on the positive outcomes of combining art and conservation.

WetlandCare Australia would like to thank everyone who entered this year's competition, and also extend our thanks to our generous sponsors.

[View the online gallery by clicking here](#)

[http://www.wetlandcare.com.au/Content/templates/news_detail.asp?articleid=720&zoneid=1"](http://www.wetlandcare.com.au/Content/templates/news_detail.asp?articleid=720&zoneid=1)

FREE Wetland workshops on the South Coast (NSW)

The Southern Rivers Bushcare Network and the Small Farms Network in partnership with WetlandCare Australia, will be hosting a series of free community wetland workshops in April 2009 on the South Coast of NSW. All Bushcare or Landcare volunteers as well as small landholders managing wetlands are invited to attend.

[Find out more about the 'Free wetland workshops on the South Coast](#)

<http://www.wetlandcare.com.au/Content/anmviewer.asp?a=729&z=1>

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