



WetlandLink - November 2008

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Wetland Restoration

Improving southern bell frog habitat at Geelong (Vic)

Sophie Smith, Geelong Advertiser

Southern bell frogs inhabiting the banks of the Barwon River will be happier thanks to a new environment initiative. The [Shell EcoVolunteers \(Geelong\) program](#) aims to increase the quality and extent of the amphibians' habitat by creating a series of wetlands along the edge of the waterway.

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

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[Read the article about this EcoVolunteers program](#)

http://www.geelongadvertiser.com.au/article/2008/10/31/27775_news.html
<http://www.conservationvolunteers.com.au/shellecovolunteers/>

[First vertical fishway in Queensland Basin nears completion \(Qld\)](#)

The first vertical slot fishway in the Queensland part of the Basin will soon be operating at Loudoun Weir on the Condamine River. The fishway project has taken two years and will perform an important function as the centre point of the Dalby Demonstration Reach for which preliminary planning is underway.

[Read more about the project involving the vertical fishway](#)

http://www.mdbc.gov.au/communications/s-scribe/eLetter_menu/e-letter_october_2008

[Gippsland's Lakes Task Force \(Vic\)](#)

The [Gippsland Lakes Task Force](#) independent chairman, Barry Hart, is disappointed in recent newspaper articles implying that the lakes are on the verge of "dying", and states that there is now considerable evidence that the overall ecological health of the lakes is quite good. The taskforce is a partnership of the relevant catchment and lakes management agencies, with responsibility for implementing the State Government's Gippsland Lakes Action Plan. In its six years, the taskforce has co-ordinated more than \$20million of state funding. Go to the Gippsland Lakes Task Force website for further information.

[Read more about the project involving the vertical fishway](#)

<http://www.theage.com.au/opinion/gippslands-lakes-are-changing-yes-but-far-from-dying-20080920-4kn0.html>

<http://www.gippslandlakes-taskforce.vic.gov.au/index.htm>

Wetland Management

[Projects to protect South Australian wetlands and wine district \(SA\)](#)

South Australia's fragile wetlands and the internationally-renowned Padthaway wine growing district will be better protected under projects funded through the Caring for our Country initiative. Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts, Peter Garrett, and Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Tony Burke, said the Caring for our Country package would support eight projects around the state in 2008-09. A total \$18.9 million will be shared between the state's eight Natural Resource Management boards.

[Read the full media release on the project to protect SA wetlands and wine district](#)

<http://www.environment.gov.au/minister/garrett/2008/pubs/mr20081020a.pdf>

[Salisbury Stormwater Project to reduce Murray River reliance](#)

Adelaide's reliance on the River Murray will be reduced through a stormwater harvesting project at Salisbury that will receive \$6.5 million in funding from the Rudd Government. "The Salisbury Stormwater Harvesting Project will re-use up to 6.3 billion litres of stormwater each year that is currently discharged to Gulf St Vincent," Minister for Climate Change and Water, Senator Penny Wong, said.

[Read more about the Salisbury Stormwater Project](#)

<http://www.environment.gov.au/minister/wong/2008/mr20081008.html>

[Water-dependent ecosystems position statement](#)

The National Water Commission has published a position statement on water-dependent ecosystems in which it says protection of these ecosystems, including the recovery of over-allocated systems, continues to be a major challenge in implementing the National Water Initiative.

[Read more about the 'water-dependent ecosystems position statement'](#)

<http://www.nwc.gov.au/www/html/861-water-dependent-ecosystems.asp?intSiteID=1>

[Murray-Darling Basin wetlands checked for acid sulfate soils](#)

More than 1000 wetlands throughout the Murray-Darling Basin are being assessed to determine the risk posed to them by acid sulfate soils, the Murray-Darling Basin Commission (MDBC) announced recently. Chief Executive Dr Wendy Craik said the project was assessing the extent of, and risk posed by, acid sulfate soils at key wetlands in Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia. Read a [fact sheet](#) on the project.

[Read more about the acid sulfate soil assessments](#)

http://www.mdbc.gov.au/communications/s-scribe/eLetter_menu/e-letter_october_2008

http://www.mdbc.gov.au/_data/page/915/Acid_Sulphate_Soils_Risks_FactSheet.pdf

Around the World

Fighting global warming through wetlands protection and restoration

During the 10th meeting of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands' Conference of Contracting Parties, an original and ambitious partnership agreement aimed at fighting global warming has been entered into by the Ramsar Convention, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the Danone Group. The purpose of this innovative program is to capitalize on the essential role played by wetlands ecosystems, especially mangrove swamps, in carbon capture.

[Read the full "Fighting global warming through wetlands protection and restoration" article](#)

<http://www.unep.org/Documents.Multilingual/Default.asp?DocumentID=548&ArticleID=5965&l=en>

Keep up-to-date with Ramsar Convention on Wetlands

As the [Ramsar Convention on Wetlands](#) draws to a close, go to the Ramsar Bulletin Board for the latest daily news from Changwon, Republic of Korea, host of the 10th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties (COP10).

[Go to the Ramsar Bulletin Board](#)

http://www.ramsar.org/index_bulletin.htm
<http://www.ramsar.org/index.html#top>

More than 2 million acres are now enrolled in USDA's wetlands reserve program

Under Secretary of Natural Resources and Environment Mark Rey recently announced landowners have enrolled more than 2 million acres in [U.S. Department of Agriculture's Wetlands Reserve Program](#), a significant contribution toward increasing the Nation's wetlands.

[Read the full article on the USDA's wetland reserve program](#)

http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/!ut/p/.s.7_0_A7_0_1OB?contentidonly=true&contentid=2008/10/0271.xml

http://www.nh.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/Farm_Bill/WRP/WRP.html

Wetland Education and Resources

Local wetland work: CEN's Wetland Education Project

The Community Environment Network (CEN) is in the final stages of its Wetland Education Project. The project's main aims are to increase community awareness of wetlands on the Central Coast region of NSW, and to deepen public understanding of the important role wetlands play in the environment. A large part of the Wetland Education Project involved the development of a wetland website which provides information such as the location, size, ecological values, land tenure and level of protection of over 100 local wetlands.

To find out more about this successful education project go to the [CEN website](#).

<http://www.cen.org.au/wetlands>

New Report highlights opportunities to deliver 'Wetlands for our Future'

A new report, *Wetlands for our Future: Meeting national and international wetland commitments in the Murray-Darling Basin*, was released during October by the Australian Conservation Foundation and the Inland Rivers Network. The report calls on the Federal Government to initiate a National Wetlands Initiative to integrate wetlands management with Basin-wide water management processes and renew Australia's commitment to the Ramsar Convention.

[Read the media release and download the report 'Wetlands for our Future'](#)

http://www.acfonline.org.au/articles/news.asp?news_id=2037

Improve on-farm wetlands and your bottom line

The Queensland Wetlands Programme has produced five case studies highlighting the benefits of wetlands in improving farm management and income. The case studies detail how the farmers improved their farms and provide a detailed cost benefit analysis. The case studies relate to the sugarcane, dairy, cotton, ginger and nursery industries.

[Download electronic versions of the case studies at WetlandInfo](#)

New manual to help communities improve waterways

The Queensland Community Waterway Monitoring Manual is a practical new tool to help check the health of the state's watercourses. The Manual aims to help regional Natural Resource Management bodies and community groups work together with other organisations to protect Queensland's waterways. The manual is available online on the [Queensland Waterwatch website](#), or as a CD by contacting the [State Community Waterway Monitoring Team](#).

[Download the Queensland Community Waterway Monitoring Manual here](#)

<http://www.qld.waterwatch.org.au/>
waterwatch@nrw.qld.gov.au

Wetland Research

Research shows tropical wetlands hold more carbon than temperate marshes

OADRC News

In one of the first comparisons of its kind, researchers have demonstrated that wetlands in tropical areas are able to absorb and hold onto about 80 percent more carbon than can wetlands in temperate zones.
<http://www.ag.ohio-state.edu/~oardcrss/story.php?id=4857>

[Read the full "tropical wetlands hold more carbon than temperate wetlands" article](#)

The world's largest wetland and waterbird survey is underway

View the progress of the world's largest wetland and waterbird survey, across Australia, on the Australian wetland and rivers website. On this fantastic website you can zoom in to detailed survey routes, read observer journals and see photographs of survey sites updated daily!

[Go to the Australian Wetlands and rivers website now](#)

http://www.wetrivers.unsw.edu.au/docs/rp_nws_home.html

Keeping carp out!

South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI) researchers are confident they have found a way to keep Banrock Station wetland virtually carp free using carp capture cages designed by SARDI Aquatic Sciences. Called wetland carp separation cages, the cages which contain specialised combination carp jump/push traps, are being trialed in a project funded by the Invasive Animals Cooperative Research Centre, at the Kingston-on-Murray wetland in South Australia's Riverland, following its refilling in early June.

[Read the full media release "Keeping carp out!" on the SARDI website](#)

http://www.sardi.sa.gov.au/pages/organisation/media_products/media_releases/2008/keeping_carp_out.htm:sectID=1232&tempID=1

WetlandCare Australia News

Postcards from the Republic of Korea, Convention on Wetlands

Cassie Price, supported by WetlandCare Australia, is representing the Australian Wetland Alliance at the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, held in Changwan, Republic of Korea. Read about her experiences at this international wetland conference...

[Read Cassies postcards here](#)

http://www.wetlandcare.com.au/Content/templates/news_detail.asp?articleid=688&zoid=1

WetlandCare Art Competition closing soon

The WetlandCare National Art Competition 2009 is still open for submissions, with entries closing on **Friday, December 5**. The competition is offering a fantastic range of prizes. Artists and photographers of all ages are encouraged to take advantage of this exciting opportunity to link art and environment.

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

Free wetland health assessment training (NSW)

WetlandCare Australia, with the aid of funding from the New South Wales Environmental Trust, is conducting Wetland Health Assessment workshops at Belmont, Port Macquarie and Nowra. The workshops are aimed at all Land Managers. Places are limited...

[Find out more about the free wetland health assessment training](#)

http://www.wetlandcare.com.au/Content/templates/news_detail.asp?articleid=686&zoid=1

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