



WetlandLink - October 2009

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Wetland Restoration

\$8 million project launched to restore local waterways (Qld)

The Healthy Country project was officially launched on the 23rd of September by Minister for Primary Industries, Fisheries and Rural and Regional Queensland, the Honourable Tim Mulherin. The Healthy Country project is supporting communities, farmers and scientists to work together to improve water quality in South East Queensland catchments and Moreton Bay.

[Read the full article '\\$8 million project launched to restore local waterways'](#)

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<http://www.cabinet.qld.gov.au/mms/StatementDisplaySingle.aspx?id=6651>

Water Hyacinth Control Project set to benefit wetlands (NSW)

Media release: 24 September 2009

The Gwydir wetlands are set to benefit with \$131,564 of funding provided for Water Hyacinth management and control within the Gingham Wetlands. Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water (DECCW), Rivers Environmental Restoration Program (RERP) Manager, Jeff Hillan said supporting our wetlands through improved conservation management is vital.

[Read the full story 'Water Hyacinth Control Project set to benefit wetlands'](#)

<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/media/DecMedia09092402.htm>

\$30 Million scheme launched to cut Murray salinity and boost wetland health (SA)

Joint media release: 3rd September 2009

Minister for Climate Change and Water, Senator Penny Wong, and South Australian Minister for the River Murray Karlene Maywald today launched the construction of a \$30 million scheme to keep salt out of the Murray in South Australia's Riverland region. The salt interception scheme, to be built at Murtho near Renmark, will stop an estimated 99.4 tonnes of salt a day from entering the river and will boost the ecological health of the nearby Riverland Ramsar wetland site.

[Read the full media release '\\$30 Million scheme launched to cut Murray salinity and boost wetland health'](#)

<http://www.environment.gov.au/minister/wong/2009/mr20090903.html>

Wetlands under Threat

Wetlands cope with depot blaze toxins (SA)

The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) says toxic chemicals have now cleared from the Barker wetlands in Adelaide's northern suburbs, two weeks after a large fire at a Kilburn plastics recycling depot. Peter Dolan from the EPA says the wetlands were able to process the contaminants before water reached the Port River.

[Read the full article 'Wetlands cope with depot blaze toxins'](#)

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/09/29/2699548.htm?section=justin>

Death knell looms for southern bell frog (NSW)

Sarah Clarke, ABC News, AM

The Southern Bell Frog is fighting for survival as water dries up in the lower Murray-Darling Basin wetlands in south-western New South Wales. Although some rain has fallen in the north of the river system, the lower end is still as dry as a bone in places, and the wetlands area is the hardest hit. As the wetlands dry up, the animals, birds and plants that live there are disappearing.

[Read the full article 'Death knell looms for southern bell frog'](#)

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/09/28/2698192.htm?site=news>

After the dredging (Vic)

Peter Ker

Port Phillip Bay is a changed place in the wake of the controversial dredging project. Experts say big changes are occurring in seagrass beds around Port Phillip Bay and although light penetration to the beds remained good throughout the process, the effects of the dredging may not be seen for years.

[Read the full article 'After the dredging'](#)

<http://www.theage.com.au/environment/after-the-dredging-20090923-g2p1.htm>

Poisoned wetlands a threat to birdlife (Qld)

Thousands of migratory birds risk being poisoned or starving to death in the Gulf of Carpentaria if the environmental toll on the region continues unabated. Almost 40 Gulf wetlands, which have been listed by the Australian Government as being regionally significant, are suffering from toxic water and depleted native grass levels as a result of the floods earlier in the year.

[Read the full article 'Poisoned wetlands a threat to birdlife'](#)

<http://www.northweststar.com.au/news/local/news/general/poisoned-wetlands-a-threat-to-birdlife/1624590.aspx>

Wetland Education and Resources

NEW Newsletter on global freshwater research

Dr. Kev Warburton (an adjunct member of the School of Environmental Sciences, Charles Sturt University) recently launched *Freshwater Research News* (FRN), a free newsletter designed to increase understanding of aquatic issues by bringing recently-published research findings to a general audience. FRN contains brief, easy-to read summaries of the background and significance of freshwater research projects from around the world. The subject range is wide, with an emphasis on key physical and ecological processes, and on transferable ideas and applications.

To add your name to the list, email Kev at K.Warburton@uq.edu.au

Free wetland assessment training in the Southern Rivers (NSW)

The Southern Rivers CMA and WetlandCare Australia would like to invite all interested people to attend a free, two day, Wetland Assessment Technique training workshop to be held at Pambula on the 22nd and 23rd September. If you are interested in attending this free training or require further information, please contact Southern Rivers CMA, Helen Davies on 02 6491 8200 or email helen.davies@cma.nsw.gov.au

[Read the full article 'Free wetland assessment in the Southern Rivers'](#)

http://www.wetlandcare.com.au/Content/templates/news_detail.asp?articleid=760&zoneid=1

Rocky Shorelines Education and Protection Project (NSW)

The Rocky Shores Protection and Education project aims to increase the level of protection of rocky shores in northern NSW by fostering community awareness and appreciation of the ecological significance of these ecosystems, the threats they face, and actions that can be taken to reduce these threats.

[Read more about the 'Rocky Shorelines Education and Protection Project'](#)

http://www.wetlandcare.com.au/Content/templates/projects_living_detail.asp?articleid=758&zoneid=54

Wetland Events

Longreach prepares for Legends, Larrikins and Landcare conference

Longreach is to welcome hundreds for Legends, Larrikins and Landcare – the 2009 Queensland Landcare Conference, and Desert Channels Queensland and local Landcare groups are putting the final touches to a program that will provide everyone with a memorable experience. For further information or to register visit the Queensland Landcare Conference website www.landcare.org.au/Conference.htm

Emerging Wetland Issues for the Oceania Region Conference

The Wetland Link International conference is a chance for those involved in wetlands, wetlands centres and CEPA (Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness) to come together to share, learn and re-energise their work. The conference will be held from Wednesday 28th - Friday 30th October 2009.

[For more information go to the Hunter Wetlands Centre special events webpage](#)

Around the World

Alarming plan to mine Russia's peat

Wetlands International is concerned about the plans of the Russian government to support and allow large scale peat mining for energy. Using peat causes much larger carbon dioxide emissions than fossil fuels, will ruin precious nature and disrupt the hydrology of large areas.

[Read the full article 'Alarming plan to mine Russia's peat'](#)

<http://www.wetlands.org/NewsandEvents/NewsPressreleases/tabid/60/articleType/ArticleView/articleId/1869/Alarming-plan-to-mine-Russias-peat.aspx>

Flamingo paradise becomes largest Andean Ramsar wetland

Celebrations were held in La Paz, Bolivia marking the recognition of an

area of southern Bolivia as a Wetland of international importance (or Ramsar Site), the largest declared in South America's 7,000 km long Andes Mountains chain. At 1.4 million hectares or about one third of the size of Switzerland, the Los Lipez wetlands complex encompasses 23 high altitude lakes and lagoons as well as geothermal springs and flooded grasslands, known as "bofedales", which are unique to the southern Andes. The site is also important for the conservation of South American flamingo species ranging over Argentina, Bolivia, Chile and Peru.

[Read the full article 'Flamingo paradise becomes largest Andean Ramsar wetland'](#)

http://www.panda.org/wwf_news/?174641/Flamingo-paradise-becomes

Confidential report Indonesia: alarming emissions from peatland loss

The Indonesian government has come forward with figures that confirm that the country is the third largest emitter of greenhouse gasses; for 80% due to deforestation and peatland loss. The ancient soil carbon stocks of peat swamps are rapidly lost in Southeast Asia due to drainage for logging, agriculture, palm oil and pulp plantations. Once drained, microbiological processes turn the organic carbon into the greenhouse gas carbon dioxide.

[Read the full article 'Confidential report Indonesia: alarming emissions from peatland loss'](#)

<http://www.wetlands.org/NewsandEvents/NewsPressreleases/tabid/60/articleType/ArticleView/articleId/1875/Default.aspx>

Drought in eastern Africa worsened by wetland loss

Climate change is now named as the cause of the severe drought in eastern Africa. While this may be true, poor wetland management, especially unsustainable use of water resources, is the root cause of the totally drying up of normally wet areas. This situation currently threatens millions of people in the region and has already caused mass starvation of cattle and wildlife.

[Read the full article 'Drought in eastern Africa worsened by wetland loss'](#)

<http://www.wetlands.org/NewsandEvents/NewsPressreleases/tabid/60/articleType/ArticleView/articleId/1871/Default.aspx>

WetlandCare Australia News

Wetlands, Biodiversity and Climate Change - enter the WetlandCare Australia National Art Competition 2010

The WetlandCare Australia National Art and Photography Competition, to celebrate World Wetlands Day, is now accepting entries. The competition has categories in art and photography for children and adults, with some great prizes to be won, including the \$1250 Department of Environment, Water Heritage and the Arts Open Art Prize. This is an excellent opportunity to explore your local wetlands and waterways, essential elements of our environment and endless sources of inspiration.

The competition closes on the 4th of December, 2009. For more information and entry forms, go to www.wetlandcare.com.au or call 02 6681 6169.

Free Riparian Zone Training in Oxley Park (NSW)

Greening Australia and WetlandCare Australia would like to invite all interested people to attend a free workshop on the 31st of October, on creek-side (riparian) ecosystems and how to care for them. To register contact Greening Australia's Renee on 02 9560 9144.

[Read the full article 'Free Riparian Zone Training in Oxley Park'](#)

http://www.wetlandcare.com.au/Content/templates/news_detail.asp?articleid=759&zoneid=1

Wetland Mapping and Classification community review workshops (NSW)

WetlandCare Australia and the Southern Rivers Catchment Management Authority invite all community members and stakeholders to attend a workshop to assist us with your local knowledge of the wetlands in your area and provide us with feedback on the mapping and classification of the wetlands on the draft maps. Sessions will be held from the 9th to the 12th of November at Wollongong, Nowra, Batemans Bay and Bega.

[For more information read the full article 'Wetland Mapping and Classification community review workshops'](#)

http://www.wetlandcare.com.au/Content/templates/news_detail.asp?articleid=761&zoneid=1

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