



WetlandLink - December 2011

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WetlandCare Australia: *Supporting the community to protect, promote and restore wetlands since 1991*

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## WetlandCare Australia News

### Art and Photography Competition now closed (AUS)

The WetlandCare Australia National Art and Photography Competition is now closed. Thank you to everyone who took the time to enter. It is always inspiring to see the diverse art and photography submitted from across Australia that celebrates our wonderful wetlands and World Wetlands Day. The winners will be notified before 23rd December, and publicly announced on Wednesday February 1st at the Award Ceremony and Exhibition at the CSIRO Discovery Centre in Canberra.

[To find out more visit WetlandCare Australia](#)

### Seasons Greetings from WetlandCare Australia

#### Seasons Greetings from WetlandCare Australia



The WetlandCare Australia team thanks you for your support throughout 2011 and wishes you and your loved ones a safe and happy festive season.

Photo: *Amylotheca dicycophleba*, a rainforest mistletoe species of northern NSW. Adam Gosling



## Wetland Restoration

### Three more floodgates opened at Hexham Swamp (NSW)

The Department of Planning and Infrastructure has granted approval for the Hunter-Central Rivers Catchment Management Authority to commence stage 3 of the Hexham Swamp Rehabilitation Project by opening three additional floodgates on Ironbark Creek. Re-opening and managing the floodgates on Ironbark Creek will re-introduce tidal flows into Hexham Swamp and restore this degraded wetland into a thriving fishery and nursery ground as well as providing habitat for migratory birds and other marine life.

[Read the full article 'Three more floodgates opened at Hexham Swamp'](#)

### \$8 million for bush regeneration projects (NSW)

Community groups are invited to apply for funding for large-scale bush regeneration projects under a new Environmental Trust program. NSW Environment Minister Robyn Parker said the \$8 million Community Bush Regeneration Large Project Stream is offering grants of between \$200,000 and \$250,000 for projects that will run for up to six years. Applications for projects which include partnerships, collaboration, other funding sources and contributions are encouraged. Applications close on 31 January 2012.

[Read more about 'Community Bush regeneration Large Project Stream'](#)

### **Environmental water flows boost water levels to benefit wetlands (NSW)**

The NSW Office of Environment of Heritage (OEH) is taking advantage of recent high water flows in the Murrumbidgee River to deliver environmental water to hundreds of wetlands along the Murrumbidgee River. OEH Waters, Wetlands and Coast Director Derek Rutherford said by delivering the environmental water when river levels are high we have the best chance for maximum benefits for the wetlands. "Up to 100,000 megalitres of environmental water will be released to fill hundreds of small wetlands located along the Murrumbidgee River from Gundagai through to the confluence with the Murray River. "The environmental water flow will build on the benefits from the water inflows into these wetlands earlier this year.

[Read the full article 'Environmental water flows boost water levels to benefit wetlands'](#)

## **Wetland Management**

### **Draft Murray-Darling Basin plan now available and 20 weeks of consultation begins (ACT)**

The Murray-Darling Basin Authority Chair, Craig Knowles said the draft Basin Plan was the next step in restoring balance to the basin. "After nine months of talking to people across the Basin and listening to their ideas I am confident we can move toward a sensible and balanced plan." "This is simply the next step in the ongoing journey of water reform and builds on a lot of good work that has already been done. I urge people to take the time to read the draft and get involved in the consultations and have their say."

[Click here to view copies of all documents](#)

## **Wetland Education and Resources**

### **Northern Rivers Catchment Action Plan 2012–2022 (NSW)**

The Northern Rivers Catchment Action Plan (CAP) is being updated. Community input into the CAP review process is vital to ensure the new CAP reflects the aspirations of the Northern Rivers community for the future management of its precious natural resources. This is your opportunity to participate in the planning process and help develop a new CAP that will set strategic direction for Natural Resource Management (NRM) investment in the Northern Rivers region for 2012–2022. We encourage you to get involved! The surveys will remain open until mid January 2012.

[Click here to view more information on CAP](#)

## **New online tools for wetland management (Qld)**

The Queensland Government has recently released guidelines highlighting to graziers, landowners and extension officers the benefits of using land management practices that protect the health of coastal wetlands. *Grazing for Healthy Coastal Wetlands: Guidelines for managing coastal wetlands in grazing systems* provides information and practical guidelines on how land managers can achieve productive grazing enterprises while still maintaining the long-term health of Queensland's wetlands.

[Find out more about 'New online tools for wetlands management'](#)

## **Wetland Events**

### **World Wetlands Day 2012**

World Wetlands Day is celebrated internationally each year on 2 February. It marks the anniversary of the signing of the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Convention) in Ramsar, Iran, on 2 February 1971. The Australian Government produces a web-based Calendar of Events for World Wetlands Day each year. If you have a World Wetlands Day activity that you would like advertised before 2 February, please contact [wetlandsmail@environment.gov.au](mailto:wetlandsmail@environment.gov.au). World Wetlands Day 2012 activities for each State or Territory will be available in early January 2012.

[Click here for more information about World Wetlands Day 2012](#)

### **52nd Floodplain Management Association Conference (NSW)**

The 52nd Floodplain Management Association Conference (formerly known as the Floodplain Management Authorities Conference) is being held at the Batemans Bay Soldiers Club, Batemans Bay from 21 - 24 February 2012. The theme for this year's conference: *Riding the Flood of Change - turning risk into opportunity*. The conference attracts attendees from across Australia and overseas who work in or are interested in floodplain management and related fields.

[Click here to find out more about the 52nd Floodplain Management Association Conference](#)

## **Wetlands Around the World**

### **Wild Shores of Singapore – Blue Carbon: mangroves, seagrasses and other marine life (Singapore)**

The oceans are the largest active carbon sink on Earth, absorbing 26% of all carbon dioxide emissions. Five United Nations agencies are working on 'Blue Carbon' as a new form of tradable carbon market. The ocean's "biological pump" removes carbon dioxide, changing it into living matter and distributing it to the deeper water layers. Out of all the biological carbon captured in the world, 55% is taken up at sea by marine living organisms, and thus called 'blue carbon'. At least half of this is captured by the ocean's vegetated habitats - mangroves, salt marshes, seagrasses, and seaweed. These cover less than 0.5% of the seabed, but play an important role in regulating the climate and mitigating climate change.

[View the full article 'Wild Shores of Singapore – Blue Carbon':](#)

[mangroves, seagrasses and other marine life'](#)

### **Durban Climate Summit enables carbon cuts from peatlands (S. Africa)**

The Durban Climate Summit has delivered an overall rather meager agreement. A positive outcome has though come forward to reduce emissions from peatlands, both in REDD+ from developing as under the Kyoto Protocol for developed countries. Peatlands represent 6% of global emissions and until now, no incentive existed under the UNFCCC for reduce these.

[View the full article 'Durban Climate Summit enables carbon cuts from peatlands'](#)

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