



WetlandLink - July 2008 - Issue 11

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## WetlandLink goes National

Welcome to the July 2008 issue of WetlandLink. As a result of recent changes in funding arrangements, WetlandLink is expanding! You may notice some changes to our newsletter over this transition period during the next few months. We will now include wetland news from around Australia and selected international articles.

To keep up-to-date with events WetlandLink will now be emailed monthly (please note that hard-copies will no longer be mailed out). WetlandCare Australia would like to acknowledge the Australian Government's National Heritage Trust in supporting WetlandLink to date. WetlandCare would also like to thank Liza Schaeper for the tremendous job she has done in managing WetlandLink for the past three years.

WetlandCare Australia welcomes articles for WetlandLink which can be forwarded by email to the [WetlandLink Coordinator](#) (details above).

## Wetland Restoration

### Water, cash used in bid to restore wetland

A not-for-profit organisation is using donations of both water and money to restore water flows back into South Australian wetlands currently struggling because of the drought. <http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/06/21/2281742.htm>

### Murray fishways set ecosystem restoration standard

A review of the Murray Darling Basin Committee's 'Sea to Hume' program of fishway construction along the Murray has found the 10 new 'fish ladders' are setting a new worldwide standard for ecosystem restoration. The MDBC has just released the report of a team of freshwater fish scientists from three Basin states (NSW, Victoria, South Australia) which has quantitatively assessed fishway performance and associated longer term benefits from improved fish passage. <http://envirocentre.com.au/enviroinfo/newsletter.php#8883>

## Wetland Management

### Pipeline dream for advocates of Lake Mokoan

PARTS of the parched Lake Mokoan area in north-east Victorian will be sold to help finance the Brumby Government's \$20 million restoration of the soon-to-be decommissioned reservoir. Up to 1500 hectares of land, with an estimated value of \$3 million, will be sold as part of a plan to create a wetlands area. <http://www.theage.com.au/national/pipeline-dream-for-advocates-of-lake-mokoan-20080619-2tjx.html>

Proudly supported by:



Australian Government

This is an NHT project funded by the Australia Government



## **Over Two Thirds of French Island declared State Park**

French Island is located in Westernport Bay, to the south-east of Melbourne. Remarkably, French Island has escaped development over the years, thus its many natural attractions have been preserved. The island's coastline is predominantly salt marsh with flourishing mangroves on the mudflats. Recently two-thirds of the land mass of the Island have been declared a State Park. <http://www.theage.com.au/news/victoria/french-island/2005/02/17/1108500206464.html>

## **Catchments Council backs wetlands protection plan**

The Peel-Harvey Catchments Council has welcomed moves to ensure the preservation of wetlands south of Mandurah. Western Australian Environment Minister David Templeman has released a management plan for the Lake McLarty Nature Reserve which will protect the 220 hectare area. The reserve is part of the Peel-Yalgorup system which is included on a list of internationally recognised wetlands. <http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/06/09/2269086.htm>

## **Fitzroy Basin Association acid sulfate soils mapping project**

A new fact sheet from the Fitzroy Basin Association (FBA) reveals the threat to the Capricorn Coast from acid sulfate soils and how the risk can be avoided. Copies of the FBA Acid Sulfate Soils Mapping project Fact sheet are available from the FBA website. <http://www.fba.org.au/>

## **Wetlands Under Threat**

### **Gold mining poisons Victoria's dolphins**

Due to the losses of wetlands in some of Victoria's water catchments, mercury from gold mining is washing straight into the Gippsland Lakes and Port Phillip Bay. A serious consequence of this is the high levels of mercury that are being found in the dolphins living there. <http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/06/06/2267603.htm>

### **Corroboree frogs teeter at the edge of extinction**

Corroboree frogs used to abound in a 400km<sup>2</sup> area of the alpine spaghnum moss bogs of the NSW and Victoria highlands. The amphibian chytrid fungus, combined with the devastating fires of 2003, has left less than 200 individuals. The good news is that researchers have successfully bred them in captivity, leading to hopes that they will be able to be reintroduced into the wild. <http://www.abc.net.au/stateline/act/content/2006/s2262011.htm>

### **Cane toads take on crocodiles and win...**

Cane toads have caused a 75% drop in freshwater crocodile numbers in the Northern Territory's Victoria River district. While both freshwater and saltwater crocodiles are known to prey on cane toads, saltwater crocodiles appear to have some resistance to the toxin. This is thought to be due to the saltwater crocodile's historical co-evolution with other toad species similar to cane toads. <http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/06/05/2266432.htm>

## Around the World

### Shocking decision of Kenya to convert precious wetlands

Wetlands International is shocked by the decision of the Kenyan government to convert large tracts of the Tana wetlands in Kenya into sugarcane-for-ethanol plantations. This dramatic development confirms the NGO's recent outlook '[Biofuels in Africa](#)', which shows that biofuel production in Africa will lead to loss of wetlands and rainforest.

<http://www.wetlands.org/news.aspx?id=53b214e6-5e84-4dfc-a276-3a7340f3f032>

### UN Biodiversity summit pays strong attention to wetlands

The UN Convention on Biological Diversity (Bonn, 19-30 May 2008) has paid a lot of attention to wetlands issues of great importance. The relevance of wetland loss for climate change and the importance to avoid wetland loss in biofuel production are incorporated in the final decisions. <http://www.wetlands.org/news.aspx?ID=f37f9cfa-2c1f-4a86-b49e-53066000c84b>

## Wetland Resources

### WetlandInfo - Find all your wetland information in the one location

WetlandInfo is a comprehensive information website for anyone with an interest in the management, protection conservation research or study of wetlands in Queensland. All information in WetlandInfo is free. <http://www.epa.qld.gov.au/wetlandinfo/site/index.html>

## Other Wetland News

### WetlandCare Australia National Art Competition Winners Tour

The inaugural WetlandCare Australia National Art Competition was held to celebrate World Wetlands Day 2008 and was a huge success, with entries being received from across Australia. The artwork and photography winning entries are currently touring. [http://www.wetlandcare.com.au/Content/templates/news\\_detail.asp?articleid=670&zoneid=1](http://www.wetlandcare.com.au/Content/templates/news_detail.asp?articleid=670&zoneid=1)

### WetlandCare Australia National Art Competition 2009 Sponsorship Opportunities

WetlandCare Australia will be hosting the 2nd annual national art competition to celebrate World Wetlands Day 2009, with categories for both children and adults. Opportunities still exist for organisations to sponsor the WetlandCare National Art Competition 2009. Sponsorship applications close 17 July 2008.

[http://www.wetlandcare.com.au/Content/templates/news\\_detail.asp?articleid=671&zoneid=1](http://www.wetlandcare.com.au/Content/templates/news_detail.asp?articleid=671&zoneid=1)