

Report and Evaluation

World Wetlands Day 2005, Australia

“Water for Wetlands – Water for Life”

Introduction:

World Wetlands Day (WWD) is celebrated each year on the 2nd of February. It marks the anniversary of the signing of the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar Convention) in Ramsar, Iran, on 2 February 1971.

WWD was first celebrated in 1997. Since this time government agencies, non-government organisations and community groups have celebrated WWD by undertaking actions to raise public awareness of wetland values and benefits and promote the conservation and wise use of wetlands. These activities include seminars, nature walks, festivals, launches of new policies, announcement of new Ramsar sites, newspaper articles, radio interviews and undertaking wetland rehabilitation.

This report and evaluation has been coordinated by the Department of the Environment and Heritage (DEH) to document the activities organised across Australia to celebrate WWD 2005. It also includes an evaluation of the national communication products provided by the Department.

It is hoped the information presented within this report will encourage and guide future planning. The information gained in relation to the national communication products will assist the Department in planning future production and distribution.



*Above: Maranoa Balonne Landcare and Catchment office display for WWD.
Photographer: Lisa Pendergrast*

Summary of Activities:

The theme for WWD 2005 was “Cultural and Biological Diversity of Wetlands”. The total number of activities across Australia, that the Department was asked to include in its WWD events calendar, was 16 events spread across most States/Territories (NSW 1; NT 2; QLD 1; SA 1; Tas 5; Vic 5; and WA 1). Reports from some of these events and more are outlined within this report.

We also acknowledge the contribution made through displays and smaller scale events, including distributing information through local newsletters and to school students. For example, the Gosford City Council, NSW, provided static displays in the Gosford and Woy Woy libraries. The Gosford library also held some story time with preschoolers on the WWD theme. The Maranoa Balonne Landcare and Catchment, Queensland, also provided a display in their office foyer during World Wetlands Week. The display was viewed by visiting colleagues, members of the public and landholders.



Australian Government

Production and coordination of this report and evaluation: Australian Government Department of the Environment and Heritage
Individual events are organised voluntarily by each organisation, and funded through various mechanisms.

WWD Reports (from activity organisers)

Corangamite Catchment Management Authority, Victoria

The Corangamite Catchment Management Authority in collaboration with Parks Victoria, Colac Otway Shire and Greening Australia, hosted a WWD community festival (see the program, below and opposite page; and flier, page 4). The event commenced with a breakfast and a series of field trips to wetlands of significance and continued with a




festival on the foreshore of Lake Colac. It included stalls promoting NGO's and government agencies, dancing by the Gunditjmara Dance Group, and Didgeridoo and African Community Drumming performances. Numerous children's activities were held throughout the day; Neil Murray provided live music; and the evening concluded with a screening of wetland films. Whilst the inclement weather resulted in fewer attendees than expected the day was considered a success.



Above: Corangamite CMA and Greening Australia; WWD tour to Vaughan Island, Lake Corangamite.

Mallee Catchment Management Authority, Victoria

Overall, our day went really well, with an estimated 300-350 people attending. Similar days have been run for the past two years and the popularity of the day has increased each year, probably due to the variety of activities/attractions, the fact that all activities are free and promotion of the day in the local media, schools and posters and fliers displayed in shops. Activities on the day included a BBQ lunch and showbags for children (on completion of the Wetland Treasure Hunt - a big success!). Other

World Wetlands Festival	<p>•Culture and biological diversity•</p> <p>Kids Craft Zone</p> <p></p> <p>Free face painting— Come and experience an extreme makeover by being transformed into one of our many unique wetland creatures.</p> <p>Badge making— Create your very own personalised badge or create one for that someone special.</p> <p>Community collage— Come and place your own unique touch on the community wetland collage to be displayed at COPAC.</p> <p>Brolga boogie— Come and boogie with the Brolgas! Learn how these exceptional birds do a unique dance of love as well as many other fascinating facts. Finish with making your very own Brolga mobile.</p>	<p>Kanang Takeeyn (Wetland meal of friendship) Wetlands Festival Lake Colac</p> <p></p> <p>World Wetlands Day 2005</p>
	<p>Twilight Program</p> <p>Moonlight cinema— To finish off the perfect day with the perfect night bring a picnic rug and come and view the hauntingly beautiful cinematography of 'Traveling Birds' by moonlight. Located at the Lake Colac Angling Club.</p> <p>Live music performances— Why not bring a picnic to the park! While you dine enjoy listening to the beats of the African Drummers or the sweet tunes of Neil Murray and others.</p> <p>Dreaming Time discovery— Discover how Lake Colac indigenous community lives in harmony with the land and wildlife. Become immersed in this mesmerizing dance performance.</p> <p></p> <p>For further information contact the Corangamite CMA t:5232 9100</p>	



Greening Australia
Victoria Inc.



Colac Otway
Shire
"Naturally Progressive"



children's activities included face-painting and badge making. We also tried to include attractions for adults, including wine tasting, a jazz band and wetland information displays (the level of information in the displays was varied, in an effort to attract both adults and children). There were self-guided walks with manned information stations, linked to a quiz (aimed at adults, but many children completed it too) and a prize draw. There were only about 30 entries in the quiz, much lower than we'd expected. However, well over 30 people did the walk, so perhaps greater emphasis on the quiz/prize draw would have increased quiz entries.

Ballarat Branch Library, Victoria










The session went very well, and although the numbers were small, the kids that came really enjoyed it and provided very positive feedback.

The session went for an hour and a half and we began by discussing what wetlands are (swamps, marshes, billabongs etc) and then reading stories set in wetlands and talking about the wildlife you can find in wetlands. The boys were very interested in

the frog and snake life and talked very knowledgeably about the different types and their different poisons!

They then decorated paper snakes, and took them into a room we'd set up like a wetlands area (swathe of water with lillipads, frogs etc, trees full of birds), and the posters on the walls. A creative dance and yoga teacher led a 'wetlands' dance - the kids danced like storks, swans, water rats, snakes, crocodiles, butterflies, frogs and wallabies coming down to drink. We ran slides of wetland images while the kids were dancing. Images included...Kakadu, water lillies, butterflies, egrets, crocodiles, swamps, swans on nests, frogs, tadpoles, geese flying from swans etc. We talked a lot about our local wetlands.

Afterwards we talked again about wetlands, the animals that lived there, and the threats. The kids came back into the library to finish colouring in their snakes and to do wetland collages - using the Steve Parish wetland stickers. All the kids received stickers, fridge magnets, cards and information sheets to take home.

<p>Events Program</p>	<p>Tours</p> <p> Birdo's Breakfast <i>Weighing only a few ounces, shorebirds complete annual migrations of up to 50,000kms round trip. During their migration, shorebirds depend on a few distantly separated, vital wetland stopover sites.</i> <i>Come on a journey with us and discover the important role wetlands play in shorebird migration and learn key characteristics to identify these visitors. You'll have the opportunity to view a variety of waders as they flock to the wetlands.</i> <i>Your guide for this tour will be Robert Missen a local bird expert. This session will conclude with a complimentary breakfast.</i> Bookings essential as limited places available t: 52329100 Meet at Colac Bird Reserve, Church St Vaughan Island wetland wonders <i>You won't want to miss this one!! Vaughan Island a one of a kind. Privately owned this site is one of the states few pelican breeding colonies .</i> <i>So come and take advantage of this rare opportunity!</i> <i>Your guides for this tour will be Karl Dickson from Greening Australia, John Clarke from Parks Victoria and Rebecca Sheldon, Corangamite CMA's wetlands officer.</i> Bookings essential as limited places available t: 523 29100</p>	<p>Kids Corner</p> <p> Wetland mini beast safari— with a scoop net and bucket hunt for minibeasts in the swamp. What weird and wonderful creatures can you find?</p> <p> Wings and things— Whoa! That's one freaky looking bird! A wetland safari with a difference! Discover wetland birds adaptations, feeding habits and unusual funny facts about them through environmental hands on activities and games.</p> <p> Froggy fun— Listen and learn to recognize frog species from their calls. Mimic our different local frogs and try to get them to fall in love with you by singing their song! Finish the activity with making you very own origami jumping frog and competing in the froggy foot race.</p> <p> Skip Jack theatre— Interactive theatre with a "Green Theme". Children and adults can become active participants with these hands on theatre performers, with a special guest appearance from Wally the Water skink.</p> <p> Following the footprints of the frog scavenger hunt — A one off afternoon event aimed to please. Become detectives, work out the facts and unravel the clues that will lead you to the ultimate hidden treasure.</p> <p> Enviro fun & games— Come and enjoy the excitement and fun of this crazy session! Learn about the importance of caring for the diversity of animal and plants in their habitats through heaps of fun activities and exciting games.</p> <p> Story time— Come and listen to the funny and mischievous stories of a variety of wetland creatures in our special story time session.</p>	<p>There's wealth in wetland diversity !</p>
<p>Kanang Takeeven</p>	<p>Green Fair Stalls</p> <p> <i>A number of interesting display and stalls from environmental organizations from around the region. Heaps of free giveaways for all!</i> Stalls include: Jirralinga wildlife centre, Corangamite CMA, Fish Care, Greening Australia, Colac Otway Shire, DSE, Ecologic , Wetland Creations, and many more!! <i>Heaps of free giveaways and prizes for all!!</i> Located on the grassed area between the Colac angling and rowing clubs</p>		

WORLD WETLANDS DAY



Celebrate World Wetlands Day with the Corangamite CMA!

The Corangamite CMA, in collaboration with Colac Otway Shire, Parks Victoria and Greening Australia Victoria, are hosting a FREE twilight community festival featuring:

- free face painting
- moonlight cinema
- kids craft zone
- Neil Murray
- birdo's breakfast
- free prizes and giveaways
- scavenger hunt
- Skip Jack Theatre
- storytime
- & heaps more!
- community collage
- live music & bands
- free wetland bus tours
- magic for kids
- Wally the Waterskink
- badge making
- stalls & displays
- wetland mini beast safari
- Indigenous dance troupe performance

When: Saturday, February 5, 2005

Time: 3pm

Where: Lake Colac
between the angling and rowing clubs



FREE TWILIGHT COMMUNITY FESTIVAL

For further information call
the Corangamite CMA on 5232 9100
or visit www.ccma.vic.gov.au


CORANGAMITE CMA
HEALTHY CATCHMENTS
- HEALTHY WATERWAYS

**Department of the Environment and Heritage
Supervising Scientist Division, NT
World Wetlands Day 2005 Public Presentation**

On 2 February, the Supervising Scientist Division (SSD) coordinated a WWD public presentation and display at Casuarina Library. It was a rather wet day and initial fears that no one would attend were unfounded. Tida Nou was kept busy fending off children from the displays before they could be set up properly. Over the two hours about 30 people came to listen to some excellent presentations. Paul Lloyd from Greening Australia spoke about wetlands of the Darwin Region. Maria-Grazio Bellio presented a great feature talk on Waterbirds of the Top End: Values and Threats. She had done her first studio radio interview that afternoon with ABC Radio Darwin who has identified her as 'fantastic talent'. Well done Maria! Graeme Sawyer from NT Frogwatch gave a talk on Cane Toads and was inundated with questions from the audience. Claudia Sauerland gave the final presentation of the night, and spoke about SSD's role in monitoring the wetlands of Kakadu. She did a fantastic job. Thanks to all staff who participated in making this event successful. A special thanks to Tida for organising displays, taking photos and ensuring everything ran smoothly.

Below: Presentations and getting out in the field were part of the activities organised by the Supervising Scientist Division on World Wetlands Day 2005



Department of Environment and Heritage scientists Tida Nou (left) and Maria-Grazio Bellio take a closer look at Marrara Swamp yesterday. Picture: BRAD FLEET

Wild wetlands of amazing creatures

By GREG McLEAN

Look after your wetlands or look forward to a Top End minus its biodiversity.

That is the message for Territorians today as the NT celebrates World Wetlands Day.

Although the Top End is regarded as home to some of Australia's most pristine wetlands — including the World Heritage-listed Kakadu National Park — the threat to delicate ecosystems is just as real.

Introduced weeds, saltwater

intrusion, changing climate and fire all impact on the biodiversity of wetlands.

Feral animals such as buffalo, pigs and more recently cane toads also cause damage, while the spread of development is another threat to wetlands.

Department of Environment and Heritage senior scientist Rick Van Dam said wetlands are often the best indicator of the overall health of the environment.

"They play a very big role in determining the health of the

environment because they can be real biodiversity hot spots," he said.

"Wetlands also play a significant part in flood mitigation and are a refuge for many fish, animal and reptile species in the Top End, particularly during the Dry."

World Wetlands Day will be celebrated in Darwin with public presentations about the wetlands around Darwin, waterbirds and the monitoring of Kakadu's wetlands at Casuarina Library from 5pm.

*Right: NT News, Wednesday
2 February 2005. Article
courtesy of Northern
Territory News.*

World Wetlands Day Report - Conservation Volunteers Australia - 2005

Tasmania

Launceston “Riverside Lake”

A day of activities for Riverside High School students to spend the day planting wetland sedges, rushes and reeds into a degraded wetland site that is being rehabilitated. Along with planting, the volunteer team set up an “out-door” classroom for the students to get a feel of learning in the “outdoors”.

Tamar Island Wetlands

This is a high profile wetland site which houses the Tamar Island Wetland Education Centre. Revive our Wetland volunteer teams filled 300 sandbags and used them to block an inlet to a small lagoon, allowing the lagoon to dry temporarily and kill the invasive exotic pest fish, *Gambusia holbrooki*. By removing *Gambusia* the protection of aquatic biodiversity in this part of the reserve will be markedly improved allowing native fish and frogs to breed freely.

Victoria

Point Cook Coastal Park Cheetham Wetlands “Revive Focus site”

Projects were scheduled to involve local community volunteers in a continuing boxthorn (*Lycium ferocissimum*) weed removal program for Parks Victoria. The teams also spent time monitoring and recording information from “Sand pad surveys”. The Sand pads are installed to track movements of birds, animals, trail bikes, and horses, as an initiative of Birds Australia.

Namatjira and Epsom Wetlands

These urban wetlands are located in the Melbourne council area of Kingston. Due to urban impact, pressures on the wetland ecosystem are high, largely from polluted waterways feeding into the wetlands providing a great haven for invasive weeds. Activities have enabled a large area of weeds to be controlled, helping to increase the area of natural regeneration.

Lake Batyo Catyo – St Arnaud

Lake Batyo Catyo is located 30kms west of St Arnaud in north western Victoria. The wetland is largely used for passive recreation and education. One of the major aims of the project was to involve the local community in learning to appreciate the wetland and be part of its ongoing future rehabilitation and maintenance. Conservation Volunteer teams assisted with public access areas, eg paths, installed posts for the boardwalk construction and carried out some revegetation of important wetland fringe areas.

South Australia

SE Coastal Salt Lakes

From late January through until mid February 2005, working in conjunction with the South Australian Museum, a series of insectivorous Bat surveys were carried out by Revive our Wetlands volunteer teams. Little is known about the use of wetlands by these bats and the program involved collecting base line data for future research on impacts of current land use management on bat species. Approximately 15 – 20 different wetlands sites were surveyed.

New South Wales

Dee Why and Curl Curl Lagoons (Sydney)

Both of these wetlands are listed as Endangered Ecological Communities on Sydney’s Northern Beaches. The sites are heavily impacted on by a range of threats which include urban encroachment, hard pollution, vandalism, nutrient loaded water leading into the lagoons and invasive weeds. Revive volunteer teams worked alongside a large group of locals to restore habitat for frogs, birds and other native wildlife.

The Wetlands Centre – Newcastle

The Wetlands Centre was initiated in 1986 with two overriding objectives 1) to rehabilitate a degraded wetland and 2) to increase understanding of and appreciation for wetlands through communication, education and public awareness.

Situated in the lower Hunter Valley it was the first successful wetland rehabilitation project; paving the

way for three other significant wetland projects in the ensuing years. It is Australia's only dedicated Wetlands Centre managed by a community organisation. Revive our Wetlands teams undertook selective removal of Alligator weed, an invasive aquatic weed.

Werri Lagoon – Gerringong (South Coast) ***“Revive Focus site”***

Werri Lagoon comprises an important catchment area for surrounding rural landholdings. Volunteer teams worked alongside local farmers and the community to assist in rehabilitation activities including weed control, seed collection for a community run nursery, dune stabilisation and revegetation of creek banks.

Tom Thumb Lagoon – Wollongong – *“Revive Focus site”*

This small saltmarsh lagoon is a breeding ground for the Threatened Green and Golden Bell Frog and provides habitat for migratory birds under international agreements. The wetland is all that remains of a once 500ha coastal wetland, now largely resumed for industrial operations and a major port. The site has substantial tidal areas but is predominately saltmarsh. Volunteer teams carried out important bush regeneration work to control and remove weeds that impact on native regeneration.

Cattai Wetlands – Taree *“Revive Focus site”*

North east of Taree these wetlands have been impacted on by the agricultural practice of draining “boggy or wet areas”, resulting in acid sulphate soils, combined with grazing, which has destroyed sensitive wetland flora and affected the habitat for a number of threatened and migratory bird species. This project is an important test case for the remediation of acid sulphate soil issues and will be documented over the life of the program. Cattai Wetlands spread along the Cattai Creek and south to the Manning River. Project work included carrying out a flora survey in conjunction with Greater Taree City Council, weed control and other habitat protection.

Queensland

Cairns Coastal Wetlands

Three locally important wetlands in and around Cairns include Holloways Beach, Cairns Central Swamp and Freshwater Creek. The remnants that remain of these wetlands are all under threat from weed invasion and unmanaged access. Volunteers planted 500 seedlings and removed weeds to decrease their percentage of cover and stop further seed set. The sites will be maintained by local school students and community volunteers

Western Australia

North Lake (Beeliar Regional Park, Perth) ***“Revive Focus site”***

In the midst of suburban Perth from Melville to the Cockburn area, is situated a chain of wetlands, originally called the Beeliar Wetlands. The wetlands have high conservation value due to the rich diversity and complexity of ecosystems which are limited in distribution across the Swan Coastal Plain. The wetlands form one of the most important systems of wetlands remaining within the Perth Metropolitan area. One of these sites is North Lake where volunteer teams worked with the partner agency to remove a large area of invasive weeds to preserve wetland biodiversity.

Below: Cattai Wetlands, new fence to exclude cattle from the wetland. Photographer: Paul Price.



Feedback and Ideas to Consider for Future World Wetlands Day/Week Activities and Promotional Products:

The success of World Wetlands Day has been evaluated taking into consideration the comments and feedback received from participants/organisers of events. This has largely focussed on the products and services provided by the Department to implement WWD activities as identified under the *Wetlands Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA) National Action Plan: 2001-2005*. The products and Action Plan are available from www.deh.gov.au/water/wetlands. The following pages provide feedback received for each of the specific WWD products. The products were assessed by participants according to how valuable they were for the WWD activities they undertook.

The wetlands sticker series was ranked as the most valuable, closely followed by the WWD magnet, website and poster. Many participants also found local media/promotion very effective to encourage people to attend events.

The comments below are taken from WWD feedback forms.

Generic

- One disadvantage was the arrival of the package of materials just before the WWD. The distribution to students before the end of the preceding school year would be an advantage.
- The distribution of materials that do not refer to the specific day could be better used throughout the school year.
- It was a huge bonus to get all this material free of charge. Designing and printing advertising materials for the day proved quite time consuming, so it was great to have some ready-made promotional materials. Our budget was also quite limiting, as we wanted to make the day as cost-free as possible for the participants.

World Wetlands Day event calendar website (www.deh.gov.au/water/wetlands/day/index.html)

- Good to know local information and have local contacts.
- This is a useful resource, however it is probably only used by people that know about it, or are particularly interested in WWD. More extensive and high profile promotion of the day and the website would be helpful.
- All products proved popular however materials and events could be better utilised if provided earlier in December. This would assist in the problems with organising events in January when many staff are on

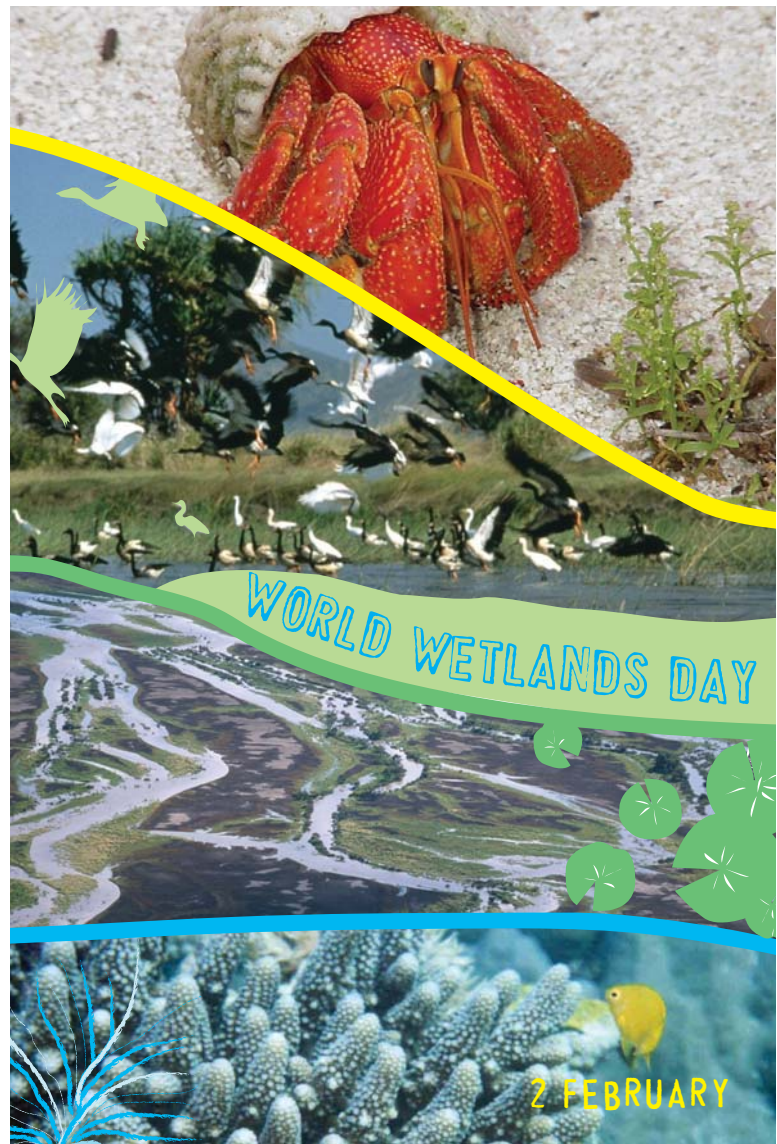
Christmas breaks.

- Most important information tool but again it's targeted at a small user audience and is only used by those who really show interest in wetlands but always a good link into the site.
- Will come in useful prior to the 2006 WWD for ideas.
- Was utilised by our committee. Unfortunately we have no way of measuring the influence this may have had on visitors if at all. Will utilise the service in the future again.
- Very useful in pulling information together for public handout.
- Excellent, resourceful, useful starting point.
- Attractively layed out and very informative. Easy to use as well.
- Found this the most useful World Wetlands Day resource. It is useful to see what has been done in terms of activities the previous years.
- Events calendar is very useful. It would be great to have 2006 calendar available by Nov/Dec 2005.
- It would be useful to provide links to and from this website to other organisations websites promoting WWD.
- The website contained lots of interesting information. It was very attractive and informative and easy to navigate.
- It may be of value to include a photo of each individual event site on the corresponding calendar

information, to further promote each event. Also the ability to provide a review of the event/activity which can equally be used to promote the event the following year.

World Wetlands Day postcard (right)

- The postcard was quite eye catching, however the year (although small) means that any leftovers cannot be used in future years. Also more information could be provided on the back - realistically no one uses them for 'real' postcards - background on the day, importance of wetlands etc.
- Promotional postcards are a useful resource, as so many people pick them up and I have seen them around Melbourne in previous years in the free postcard racks in lots of restaurants, bars and shops. While this years design was colourful and attractive, it was rather marine-orientated, although that does highlight that the Ramsar definition includes coastal and marine areas.
- New idea, bit early to tell as yet but seemed to be popular (we have none left).
- Good handout for people participating in celebration.
- Postcards were not as popular with any of the age groups. We provided them along with other items as part of packages. There was no attempt by the majority of peoples to obtain any.
- Wasn't as popular or useful. No information presented on it (like stickers/magnets).
- Very attractive.
- Didn't receive this prior to World Wetlands Day, but could have used it around the schools for promotion.
- We used these to send to our participating land-holders to thank them and ask them to appreciate their wetland areas.
- The kids loved the postcards. They were nice and bright and colourful and the information on the back was good.
- Received well by the community.



- The promotional postcard was not a success with very few being taken by the general community.

World Wetlands Day fridge magnet

- Good, especially because no year therefore leftovers can be used again next year.
- Very useful - functional, people are more likely to keep them. As they are highly visible, they are likely to make people remember the day for next year - the date on the magnets was a good idea and no "2005" means extra ones can be used again next year. I think, however, that a "nicer" picture would have been better, maybe a wetland scene or wetland-dependent species.
- Extremely popular.
- Really only taken by a targeted audience and there

never seems to be a great demand for these.

- Good handout for people participating in celebration.
- Popular with children and parents for the refrigerator. They were part of a package of information handed out.
- Very popular and good reminder/incentive to come along to event.
- Useful.
- The magnets were not as big a hit as the stickers. I thought they were of a suitable presentation to promote WWD.
- Great for school groups and freebies on display. Quantities were excellent.
- These were good, but the colours weren't as bright as the postcards and so not as attractive to the kids.
- Received well by the community.

Wetlands sticker series

- Very vibrant and good messages. The Ramsar Secretariat stickers were also good.
- These are great, attractive designs and pictures, as well as a printed message. No year date means they can be distributed throughout the year and left-overs used next year.
- Popular but I really have no idea as to how they work and if in fact they get the wetland message/s across at all. You see them often but I always feel that they get put up or whatever and then have little impact in regards to getting the wetlands theme/messages across.
- Good handout for people participating in celebration.
- Well received amongst younger visitors. Were handed out with cautionary advice regarding responsible sticker locations and disposal of adhesive backing.
- Public were very excited about seeing the series of stickers - not to mention kids.
- People loved the sticker series. The use of different themes was a good idea.
- Good variety of colour.
- These were great. They were easy to use in activities. Appealed to all ages and had interesting and appropriate photos (the ones with frogs went down well). The range of colours was good and the

kids loved taking them home.

- Received well by the community.

World Wetlands Day poster: DEH poster and Ramsar Secretariat poster

- Both were great, although would have been good to have more to give to schools (although schools were encouraged to contact DEH directly), or even making posters a little smaller (A3) so that they could be photocopied or provide as electronic files for printing.
- Both very attractive posters, although the DEH poster was probably more attention-grabbing. The printed caption on the Ramsar poster ("Like this? Or like this?") may not have been understood by some at first glance; probably more appropriate for displays on the day, rather than to promote the day in advance. They came in very useful to promote the day in local shops and schools. Slightly smaller versions (maybe A3) would be useful, as many places did not have the room for such a large poster. Also used both posters in an information display at the tourist information centre.
- Very popular - in particular for events, schools etc.
- These seem to have the most effect of all the material available as the visual effect is really most confronting and it really spells out all the issues currently facing our ever diminishing wetlands and as they say a picture is worth a thousand words.
- Created a lot of interest on the notice board.
- We only had the one poster to display; therefore it provided a back drop for the stall among other posters, banners and logos.
- Extremely useful in publicising the event.
- Very colourful.
- These were great for my display and after I had them laminated they looked even more eye-catching.
- Comments on the Ramsar poster suggested that people thought it was related to the tsunami. I did not think the images were of a good choice to represent the theme.
- Great for displays, eye catching.
- These were great. We still have them up for display and many people have shown interest. The before/after pictures were very effective and both posters were very attractive.

- The Ramsar poster didn't have any wetland images that applied to our area.

Factsheets: *Australia's Ramsar sites and Subterranean wetlands*

- Information on the importance of wetlands, such as these documents could be added to community mail outs, such as the game licence renewal mailouts.
- These are great for School groups and Uni students and are always in demand and are popular with user groups and special interest groups.
- Good handout for people participating in celebration.
- Useful as handout to media.
- Interesting and would be useful for our students when studying wetlands.

- The Ramsar sites factsheet was well presented and quite popular. Perhaps a factsheet on the diversity of Australian wetlands would be good. A brief explanation and photo of our major wetland types could be included.

- Not really applicable to western Queensland. Perhaps more mention of dry wetlands, lakes, dams, creeks and rivers.
- These were a little too old for the kids I was dealing with. I gave them all one and we did look at where wetlands are in Australia. I'm hoping their parents were interested. For an older age group they would probably have been great.
- A bit technical for the general community.
- Suggest providing some factsheets on some of the local/state locations in addition to those sheets relating to general wetlands information.

Conclusion:

Firstly, thank you to all who organised and coordinated activities for WWD 2004. Also, thank you to those who took the time to provide us with summaries of these activities and feedback/comments on ways to improve WWD in Australia. The comments and feedback will be taken into consideration when coordinating production of communication products for future WWDs. We hope this report will provide people with ideas and enthusiasm to continue celebrating WWD.

If you would like further information please contact Alison Beard on (02) 6274 2555 or alison.beard@deh.gov.au.

Information sources

Department of the Environment and Heritage WWD website:

www.deh.gov.au/water/wetlands/day/index.html

Ramsar Convention Secretariat's WWD website:

www.ramsar.org/wwd_index.htm

International reports for WWD 2004:

www.ramsar.org/wwd2004_reports.htm

WWD 2005:

www.ramsar.org/archives_trans_wwd2005.htm



Natural Heritage Trust

Helping Communities Helping Australia

An Australian Government Initiative