

CEPA Focal Point Webinar

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Christine Prietto

Ramsar CEPA NGO Focal Point, Australia
Ramsar Officer, Hunter Wetlands Centre Australia
Newcastle, NSW
christine.prietto@gmail.com



My home wetland is Hunter Wetlands Centre in the
Hunter River Estuary, Newcastle NSW,
Australia's 7th largest city.

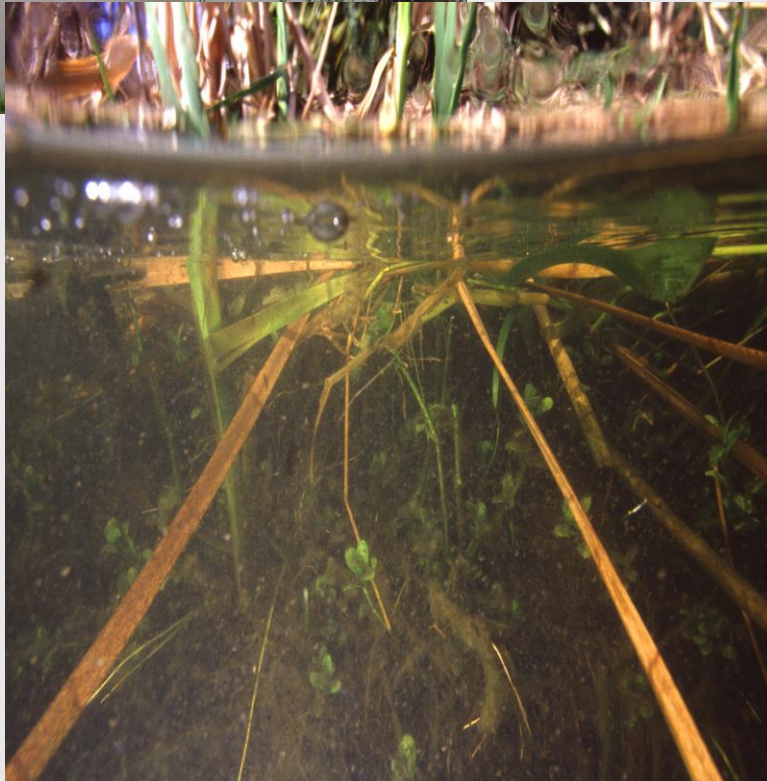


Shortland Wetlands, drained and developed as school sporting complex, restored as wetland habitat and education facilities, 1986.





- In 2002 the whole of the Shortland Wetlands Centre complex was Ramsar listed in 2002 as an extension to the 1984-listed Ramsar site.
- The whole of the Ramsar site was renamed as The Hunter Estuary Wetlands Ramsar site.
- Our first WWD as a Ramsar site 2003



**The wetland educator's
challenge:
Explaining the wet, the
dry and the invisible...**

My CEPA Focal Point History

Appointment of CEPA FPs was recommended in the Ramsar Convention's first education programme, The Outreach Programme, COP7, San Jose Costa Rica 1999. I was appointed as Australia's first NGO CEPA FP in 2001.

I have remained in this position since that time.

Based at Australia's first wetlands centre, my priority was to connect with:

- other wetland educators located at wetlands centres in Australia
- leading Australian-based wetland NGOs
- encourage networking opportunities.

I have maintained these connections over all these years.

Due to a convergence of opportunities, I was able to work directly with Ramsar Secretariat Communications Officers as:

- Member of CEPA OP from 2006-2018
- CEPA Focal Point for STRP 2006-2015

Observations/Advice

How you benefit from any CEPA resources, support or structure provided by the Convention?

Beyond the updating of the CEPA Handbook and special CEPA FP side events at COPs, I cannot think of much in my time that has supported this role. This webinar is a great step forward

Advice to anyone who is a new focal point: My advice is particular to NGO FPs

- Be confident of your value to the CP
- Build and maintain your own networks
- Look for opportunities to bring grass-roots organisations up to speed with International Activities
- Do not count on being kept in the loop

Moment in time for CEPA in the Convention:

- Integration of CEPA tools and activities into next Convention Strategic Plan