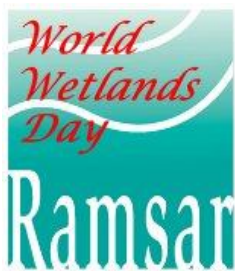


World Wetlands Day 2015



Habitat Conservation Info Report 1/2015
1 February 2015

Field and Game Australia
Metropolitan Branch



The aim of this simple report is to inform, educate and promote partnerships, alliances with people and groups from all walks of life.

The Convention on Wetlands, signed in Ramsar, Iran in 1971, is an intergovernmental treaty which provides the framework for national action and international cooperation for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources.

Ramsar Sites

- There are presently 168 (member countries) to the Convention,
- 2,186 wetlands of international importance,
- Covering 208,449.277 hectares,
- Official list is available online:
 - www.ramsar.org/sites-countries/the-ramsar-sites

The theme for World Wetlands Day 2015 – “Wetlands for our Future”

There are seven ways in which wetlands provide for our future;

1. Wetlands ensure fresh water for all of us.
2. Wetlands purify and filter harmful waste from water.
3. Wetlands feed humanity.
4. Wetlands are bursting with biodiversity.
5. Wetlands act as nature's shock absorbers.
6. Wetlands help climate change
7. Wetlands provide sustainable livelihoods and products.

Visit the Ramsar website - www.ramsar.org

General Report - 1 February, 2015.

On arriving at the Marshlands at Plenty Gorge Park, Marshlands, Parks Victoria rain was steadily falling. We removed rubbish which had blown onto the wetlands and cleaned out 23 Nest Boxes in preparation of the next breeding season later this year at Plenty Gorge Park, Marshlands, Parks Victoria, Australia.



The marshlands at this time are dry but later in the year Parks Victoria will redirect storm water into the wetlands which will encourage the waterfowl to return to the shallow warm water with the aim to creating the opportunity to stimulate a waterfowl breeding event.

To improve nest box breeding efficiency in our case Ducks and Parrots, straw is placed in the nest boxes which has proven to encourage our native birds to breed.



Six Eastern Rosellas – *Platycercus eximius* Breeding Results are Impressive.

Since European settlement much of the vegetation around wetlands has been removed. The pictures above from a previous breeding season show how Nesting Boxes can be of great benefit to wildlife in areas of human habitation where habitat such as tree hollows have been lost.

Field and Game Australia – Our History

The Victorian Field and Game Association was established in 1958 at Sale. We have a proud history in game management and care for our valuable wetland.

Many of the wetland reserves in Victoria owe their existence to the Shooters License, which today raises over \$4 million annually. A new Game License introduced in 1990 raises another \$1.25 million each year.

Field and Game Australia has over 17,000 members who undertake voluntary conservation projects using its own financial and human resources. These projects may involve building and maintenance of water control structures, revegetation works, pest animal control, waterfowl monitoring, construction and installation of duck and native bird nesting boxes and research.

Recognition of these efforts came in 1978 when the Association won the Conservation Council of Victoria's prestigious prize for the organisation that had contributed the most to conservation over a 5-year period.

The Wetland Environmental Task Force (WET - Public Fund)



The Wetland Environmental Task Force (Public Fund) "WET" was formed in 2001.

The formation of WET recognised the desperate need to preserve and maintain Australia's remaining wetlands and the essential habitat that they provide for a wide variety of unique native flora and fauna.

WET is an approved charitable, environmental trust established to conserve and protect the natural environment, particularly as it relates to wetlands.

WET offers every Australian an opportunity to take positive action to protect and enhance Australia's remaining wetlands.

Feel free to visit the website - www.wet.org.au

Mission Statement

"To be the most effective organisation in the promotion of hunting, recreational shooting and habitat conservation".



Our Metropolitan branch has over 700 members. The Habitat Conservation support supplied by Latrobe University Lifeskills Program (who have built our nest boxes), Parks Victoria, the City of Whittlesea, is appreciated and allows us to continue this important volunteer work.

“Don’t just talk about Habitat Conservation, get out there and do it”

Look forward to seeing you in a wetland 2015.

John Caven
Conservation Officer/Secretary

For further information about Field and Game Australia and our volunteer activities log onto our website www.fga.net.au
