

Hunter Wetlands Centre Australia



Celebrating World Wetlands Day in the Hunter

The Hunter Wetlands Centre Australia, part of the Hunter Estuary Wetlands Ramsar site became a buzz as approximately 500 people came to celebrate the beauty of the wetland and the exciting program of events that were on offer.

We couldn't have asked for more perfect weather – the sun shone, a light breeze blew and the birds appeared in their usual diversity in around the water of the Hunter Wetlands Centre.

The day had been especially designed around the theme ***fish today for tomorrow*** and the invaluable role wetlands play in the supply of fresh fish and sustainable fish practices.

It was a **free** day for the whole family with lots of special activities as well as the regular attractions the Hunter Wetlands Centre provides.

Highlights of the day included: a fish cooking demonstration, hosted by the Commercial Fisherman's Co-operative and assisted by a Dietician from the Hunter Valley Private Hospital; habitat canoe tours along the Ironbark Creek Catchment hosted by Ocean Watch, this activity proved to be extremely popular with our visitors; the Aboriginal Liaison Officer from National Parks & Wildlife highlighted the importance of wetlands in providing food, tools, shelter, recreation and medicine in Aboriginal Culture. Other activities included Workshops, Interactive Catchment Models, Newcastle City Council Waste Management Puppet Making, (educating people about the harmful products that get into the waterways), kids nature craft activities (creating fish mobiles and masks), face painting, seaweed and shark theme characters mingling with the crowd and handing out relevant information and sweets for the children, and much more to tempt the appetite.

People's comments as they left for the day were a great inspiration for future World Wetlands Day events:

- ❖ There were lots of handy information, very nice surroundings with the sounds of birds chirping and ducks swimming. I felt close to nature here.
- ❖ It was a beautiful and relaxing day.

- ❖ Had a great day with the kids!!
- ❖ Very nice and a wonderful day, we learnt lots of new things.

Pauline Price
Visitor Centre Manager



A puppet creation made from waste materials



Children gather to create fish mobiles, masks & nature craft activities.



Fishcare Touch Tank & Information Trailer



Cutting of the World Wetlands Day Cake

Photo credits: Hunter Wetlands Centre Australia