

The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands

World Wetlands Day 2012



This Years Theme
"WETLANDS and TOURISM"
(www.ramsar.org)

Field and Game Australia
Metropolitan Branch

Habitat Conservation Info Report No.1/2012

Subject: Maintenance of Nest Boxes, Tanunda Wetlands in the City of Whittlesea, Victoria, Australia

Purpose: The following report is aimed to inform, educate and promote partnerships and alliances with people and groups from all walks of life.

World Wetlands Day Held: Sunday 5 February 2012 at Tanunda Wetlands, Parks Victoria.

Weather: Just great.

Commenced Working Bee: 9-40am – **Completed** 11.45am

Background

What is Ramsar?

2 February each year is World Wetlands Day. It marks the date of the adoption of the Convention on Wetlands on 2 February 1971, in the Iranian city of Ramsar on the shores of the Caspian Sea. Each year since 1997, government agencies, non-governmental organisations, and groups of citizens at all levels of the community have taken advantage of the opportunity to undertake actions aimed at raising public awareness of wetland values and benefits in general, and the Ramsar Convention in particular.

www.ramsar.org

The Convention Today;

- Contracting Parties – 160
- List of Wetlands of Importance – 1,995
- Total Surface Area of designated sites (hectares) – 192,078,656

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The wildlife of today is not ours to dispose of as we please. We have it in trust. We must account for it to those who come after.
King George VI

Volunteers attending working bee, from the left : Anthony Rutter, Jim Groden, Stephanie Rutter, Nicholas Rutter, Harold Hodge, and John Caven taking the photo.



General Report

The days working program was to clean out each nest box, and replace straw.

In the main the Tanunda Wetlands comprises of what we call "Hilton Deluxe" nest boxes mounted on poles in the water with some small parrot nest boxes fixed to trees. From members experienced in nest boxing since the formation of FGA in 1958 we have learnt that by the design of the "Hilton Deluxe" nest box, their sighting in a north easterly direction slightly leaning forward and preparing the box with straw, the efficiency of the breeding of both waterfowl and parrots can be enhanced.

The morning was a great success with the ongoing benefits of our habitat conservation using nest boxes seen by all attending.

View of the Tanunda Wetlands.



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Stephanie and Anthony Rutter preparing straw for each nest box.



Harold Hodge preparing nest box



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Summary

Since Field and Game Australia were formed in 1958 members have enjoyed a proud history of wetland restoration. Field and Game Australia undertake voluntary conservation projects using its own financial and human resources. These may involve water control structures, revegetation, vermin control, waterfowl counts and nesting boxes.

Until next time,

"Don't just talk about Habitat Conservation get out there and do it"

Regards,

John Caven
Conservation Officer/Secretary,
Metropolitan Branch

Mission Statement

Field and Game Australia is a voluntary organisation formed by hunters. We partner with Government and the community in the management and sustainable utilisation of Australia's wetlands for future generation by protecting game habitats through conservation. We promote responsible firearm ownership, ethical hunting and clay target shooting. (www.fga.net.au)
