



Working with communities to protect, promote and restore wetlands since 1991

WetlandCare Australia held 13 events at various locations from Townsville in northern Queensland through to Sydney, NSW to celebrate World Wetlands Day 2012. Three feature events included:

The WetlandCare Australia National Art and Photography Competition Award Ceremony and Opening Exhibition was held at the CSIRO Discovery Centre in Canberra on World Wetlands Day. The competition, held annually to celebrate World Wetlands Day, attracted hundreds of fantastic entries from every state and territory in Australia, with artists and photographers of all ages and experience levels competing for a share in the \$17,000 worth of cash and product prizes on offer. A total of 45 prizes were awarded in art and photography categories for children, adolescents, and indigenous artists.

The winners hailed from places as far afield as Perth to Arnhem Land, Bowen to Launceston, and many other places in between, demonstrating the national interest and concern for wetlands and their future.

The theme of the competition was Wetlands, Tourism and Recreation, which reflected the 2012 international World Wetlands Day theme of Wetland Tourism. The winning entries explored this theme in diverse ways, conveying the timely message of the importance of wetlands to all Australians for recreational pursuits and the tourism industry.

A Boat Tour of the Nambucca River was one of the many events held to showcase WetlandCare Australia's Coastal 20 Wetlands project. The \$2.5 million Coastal 20 wetland restoration project is a pivotal initiative that is harnessing the collective knowledge and passion of community, government and industry to undertake the restoration of 20 iconic coastal wetlands spanning 1000km of the southern Queensland and Northern NSW coastlines. The Coastal 20 Wetlands project is funded by the Australian Government's Caring for Our Country program.

WetlandCare Australia also held a wetland planting and public lecture on shorebirds at the Hunter Wetlands Centre in the Hunter Region of NSW. The event was attended by community volunteers and local land managers.

In total, over 1000 people were directly involved in World Wetlands Day activities held by WetlandCare Australia, experiencing, touching and learning about their local wetlands.