Celebrating World Wetlands Day

Did you know that Corner Inlet is noted on the prestigious ‘Ramsar List’ as a wetland of international importance?

Next Monday (2 February) is World Wetlands Day, celebrated on 2 February each year to mark the 1971 adoption of the Ramsar Convention on the shores of the Caspian Sea in Ramsar, Iran.

Australia is one of 168 countries that has committed to take the steps necessary to ensure that the ecological character of its designated wetlands are maintained. Wetlands included in the List acquire a new national and international status: they are recognized as being of significant value not only for the country or the countries in which they are located, but for humanity as a whole.

“Corner Inlet has outstanding environmental values and as a result is recognised under the Ramsar Convention,” explained Martin Fuller, CEO of the West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority (WGCMA). “It is a feeding, nesting and breeding area for thousands of waterbirds and migratory shorebirds. There is also an amazing array of fish and fish habitat that contributes to tourism and recreation in the area”

“Through our Corner Inlet Connections partnership, we are committed to improving the health of Corner Inlet and have created a Water Quality Improvement Plan which has a detailed eight year plan of on ground works and actions.”

Celebrate World Wetlands Day by:

- Entering the photo contest (open to contestants aged 15-24). Simply visit a wetland site near you and take a photo between 2 February and 2 March and upload it to www.worldwetlandsday.org
- Telling others about the importance of wetlands
- Talking with WGCMA to see what you can do to keep Corner Inlet and Bald Hills healthy.
- Getting social with Ramsar to promote our beautiful wetlands to the world by tweeting your photos and comments to @RamsarConv.

“We all can also make everyday decisions with the environment and our wetlands in mind,” added Skye Radcliffe-Scott, South Gippsland Shire Council’s Sustainability Officer. “It can be as simple as buying sustainably raised or caught seafood, organic produce and meat, using water wisely, sorting and recycling household trash and using organic fertilizers and mulch in your garden. Planting native plants that are indigenous to the area means they will be hardier and require less watering and additives. Every small action can have a big impact long term.”

“Water is a vital part of our ecosystem, contributing to the health of our environment and community, as well as providing food and habitat for native fauna, migratory birds and fish. Wetlands are beautiful spaces to spend time in with many interesting plants and animals,” said Skye. “Tread carefully while you are there though, keeping to defined tracks and taking your rubbish with you so they continue to be healthy and great places to visit.”

END