



COMMUNITY  
PARTNERSHIP  
PROGRAM



# What is a wetland?

## & World Wetlands Day

### 2 February (annually),

### a United Nations International Day

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# Aims of this R.D.'s 'Wetlands' PD.

The basic aims of this PD are to raise awareness of :

- what a wetland is
- the many different types of wetlands, especially those within personal experience
- the annual World Wetlands Day (2 February)
- And the potential that any local wetland may need care/restoration

This powerpoint provides information on:

- The Australian government **definition** of 'wetlands'
- **World Wetlands Day 2023**, its theme 'Wetland Restoration'
- **Activities** :
  - On-line from the Wetland Restoration theme
  - An introduction to the concept of wetlands
  - Shared use of any wetlands students have visited (and passively observed) over holidays
  - Australian on-line resources for wetlands learning



*These activities in this PD may also be useful for teachers as a **preliminary to River Detectives 2023**, e.g. in discussions of*

- *site selection,*
- *rationale for monitoring*
- *and actions that may later be felt to be worth doing at such a site.*

# Definitions of a wetland

A wetland is an area of land where water covers the soil - even for only part of the year. They can be natural or artificial. The water in them can be still or flowing, fresh, salty or in-between. Wetlands are found in all kinds of places - along the coast, in the mountains, in dry areas, and even underground. Many of them are connected by rivers. Some are

## Broad types of wetlands by origin:

- Linked to the sea - Marine and coastal zone
- Linked to streams and lakes in inland regions
- Human-made wetlands - in urban or natural environments

## Broad types of wetlands by environment:

- **Arid** :saltlakes, springs and temporary streams, lakes and waterholes
- **Alpine**: narrow mountain creeks and bogs, lakes / pondages, and waterfalls
- **Inland** rivers with floodplain features: billabongs, swamps, marshes, lakes... ponds, and waterfalls
- **Marine / coastal**: lagoons and estuaries (tidal river mouths) with mudflats, mangrove forests and saltmarshes



Definition source: Aust Govt 2018, Dof SEWP&C *Wetlands and World Wetlands Day* at [www.environment.gov.au/wetlands](http://www.environment.gov.au/wetlands)

For a detailed list of the wetlands see: [Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia – DAWE](http://www.awe.gov.au/water/wetlands/australian-wetlands-database/directory-important-wetlands) or <https://www.awe.gov.au/water/wetlands/australian-wetlands-database/directory-important-wetlands>

# World Wetlands Day 2023 and its resources



Downloadable, ready to use materials at <https://www.worldwetlandsday.org/material#> include:

- A colouring picture of the above
- The logo above, which could generate discussion about how the living things and tools relate to restoring wetlands.
- Four infographics for discussion: Why it is time?; 7 best practises; 7 benefits; 7 key players
- Wetland Restoration Ppt, including how to, why to, who to involve, and personal actions
- Wetland Restoration Video

# 'What is a wetland?' Concept activity

Draw or write about a personal experience of a wetland over the holidays - including:

- the type of environment in which it was located
- the plants and creatures living in this water place
- the uses the plants and creatures made of it
- any action humans should take to look after or improve /restore this water place

Yarriambiack Creek as a wetland, © J.Clark, 2005, enviroed4all®

# More 'wetlands' activities

Do students have photos, drawings or descriptions they could share of wetlands they visited during the holidays that they can sort in to wetland types?

Eg lake –inland,. for these three Wimmera sites.



The Department of Sustainability, Environment,

Water, Population and Communities has some wetland teaching resources at

<https://www.dcceew.gov.au/water/wetlands/publications/discovering-wetlands-australia> :

- 1 For literacy – some word games
- 2 For art/ maths (symmetry) – origami – Choice of three animals ready to print: frog, turtle and pelican. Have a go first- can be tricky!
- 3 If you have enough time, there is a **full 'teaching unit'** *Discovering Wetlands in Australia- A primary classroom resource'* at <https://www.dcceew.gov.au/sites/default/files/env/resources/21499ab3-dbc5-445d-ab82-ed727019de31/files/classroom-resource.pdf> from which you might choose a chapter:

- 1 What is a wetland?
- 2 Water and wetlands
- 3 Types of wetlands
- 4 Wetlands and forests
- 5 Indigenous values and perspectives of wetlands
- 6 What is a Ramsar site?

# Wetland PD evaluation



What is a 'wetland'? and World Wetlands Day, 2 February  
 T1 2023 RD online PD - date completed: .....

The topic of this online PD fits immediately into the first week of the 2023 school year and could be an introduction to exploring water places, through River Detectives. Your feedback on it is most appreciated as this is an annual day and it might be a useful introduction every year.

Please take time to fill in this survey and return it to me. Your PD attendance certificate will then be issued to you. Your comments are confidential but are important to RD's/CMA for planning future events.

- Before this training, what was your level of knowledge of wetlands and World Wetlands Day?  
 None      Some      Reasonable      Good      Excellent
- How much has this training improved your knowledge of wetlands and World Wetlands Day?  
 Not at all      Slightly      Moderately      Reasonably      Considerably
- Please note any additional aspects to this topic that you would have liked included.
- After this training, how likely are you to include parts of this topic in your classroom activities?  
 Not at all      Unlikely      Uncertain      Likely      Definitely
- Please briefly outline what you might do:
- Please describe what limiting factors may prevent you from including these activities in your classroom:
- Please assess how suitable this training was for you. If you did not use any part, please indicate this, by putting a line through it.

VL = Very Low    L = Low    M = Medium    H = High    VH = Very High

Part of the training	Quality of information					Length		
	VL	L	M	H	VH	VL	L	M
What is a Wetland? (ppt p3)	VL	L	M	H	VH	VL	L	M
World Wetlands Day (ppt p4)	VL	L	M	H	VH	VL	L	M
Linked classroom activities (ppt p4-6)	VL	L	M	H	VH	VL	L	M

8. How could we improve training like this?



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What is a wetland? WWD2023 p7.  
 photos © J. Clark Warracknabeal 2023



River Detectives, T1 2023.  
 On-line and in-your-time  
 Professional Development

## What is a wetland? World Wetlands Day, 2 Feb

A **DOCX** copy of this form has been attached to the email for you to use if you decide to do this PD. Whenever you choose to do this PD, please **complete** the evaluation form and **email** it back to me (or email me for a new one if needed).

Your **feedback** on this **PD** is essential.

A **PD certificate** will be sent to you on my receipt of your evaluation form.

Thank you  
 Jeanie Clark



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