



The

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# WETLANDS' VITAL ROLE



FREE POSTER WITH TODAY'S EDITION:P2

DID you know last Tuesday, February 2, was World Wetlands Day?

This day of celebration marked the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Convention) in Ramsar, Iran, on February 2, 1971.

But the Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service are celebrating throughout the month of February with a range of activities and competitions at the Tamar Island Wetlands Centre.

They include a photo competition, colouring-in/ drawing competition, a scavenger hunt and guided tours with discovery rangers.

You can find out more here:

[parks.tas.gov.au/be-involved/news-and-events/world-wetlands-day-2021](http://parks.tas.gov.au/be-involved/news-and-events/world-wetlands-day-2021)

The Tamar Island Wetlands Centre, in Launceston, is a Children's University Tasmania learning destination, so members can earn hours in their passports for visiting the centre.

But you don't have to visit to get involved.

The colouring-in competition sheet can be downloaded from the PWS website.

Fresh and saltwater wetlands are areas of land that are flooded by water, either permanently or at certain times of the year.

They include swamps and marshes, lakes, lagoons, saltmarshes, mudflats, mangroves, coral reefs, bogs and peatlands.

There are even underground wetlands.

Wetlands store and filter freshwater, provide us with food, help the international economy, as well as being an important home for a large percentage of all the plant and animal species



on Earth. Wetlands also protect our shores from waves, prevent floods and store vast amounts of carbon.

Australia has 66 listed Ramsar wetlands.

To be included on this list wetlands must be considered of international significance in terms of "biodiversity and uniqueness of their ecology, botany, zoology, limnology or hydrology".

As a challenge, you might like to research what all these terms mean and why they are important.

The Ramsar criteria also considers the importance of wetlands to waterbirds and fish species.

There are important wetlands in all regions of Tasmania.

Ten Tasmanian wetlands are listed as Ramsar wetlands: Apsley Marshes, East Coast Cape Barren Island Lagoons, Flood Plain Lower Ringarooma River, Interlaken Lakeside Reserve, Jocks Lagoon, Lavinia, Little Waterhouse Lake, Logan Lagoon, Moulting Lagoon and Pitt Water–Orielton Lagoon.

For an additional challenge, see if you can find out the location of these wetlands.

For example, Logan Lagoon is located on the south-east corner of Flinders Island.

An interesting fact about Logan Lagoon is that most of the water that flows into it is groundwater.

It supports a number of vulnerable or endangered species, including dwarf galaxias, fairy terns, wedge-



RAISING AWARENESS: The Tamar Island Wetlands Centre is celebrating the 50th anniversary of World Wetlands Day for the entire month of February.

tailed eagles and forty-spotted pardalotes.

A total of 21 migratory wader birds have been recorded at the site.

The wetland is an important part of the East Asian-Australasian Flyway, which we learnt about in *The Wonder Weekly* on October 19 last year.

You can find this edition, and all others from 2020, here:

[www.utas.edu.au/underwood-centre/publications-and-resources/the-wonder-weekly](http://www.utas.edu.au/underwood-centre/publications-and-resources/the-wonder-weekly)



"Education perhaps more than anything else is a passport to a better life." - Peter Underwood AC

# Inseparable

Water, wetlands and life.



World  
Wetlands Day

2 February 2021

Wetlands and water



Join us - visit [WorldWetlandsDay.org](http://WorldWetlandsDay.org) #RestoreWetlands