

# Around the lakes



The borrell-a-kandelop project newsletter



## World Wetlands Day 2010 Photography competition

No.24 edition Summer edition

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### In this Issue

- World Wetlands Day 2010
- Summer bird surveys
- DSE Dams to Habitat Program Growing Grass Frog
- Article from Wetlands Australia National Wetlands Update 2010
- Photographs from WWD photo competition
- Contacts

World Wetlands Day was celebrated this year with a wetland photography competition. Over 50 photographs were entered in the Senior category with the theme of wetland landscape, flora or fauna. Photographs were displayed at Lava Arts Gallery in Camperdown and there was a launch on Tuesday the 2nd of February which is Internationally recognised as World Wetlands Day. The exhibition encouraged a greater appreciation of the wetlands, by photographers and attendees, at both the landscape scale and close up. Some 36 adults and 80 school students attended the exhibition.

We are hoping to run the competition next year for 2011 World Wetlands Day.

Congratulations to all the place getters. A big thank-you to everyone who entered, to Melanie Faith Dove who was the judge and to the Lava Arts Gallery. We received some fantastic entries.



Congratulations to Barry Mousley for taking this winning photograph of two Corangamite Water Skinks.

### **Summer Bird surveys in the Lake Corangamite area**

Rob Clemens from Birds Australia has sent some bird count information from the Lake Corangamite area for the past 3 years.

Volunteers collected this information as part of the Shorebird 2020 project. This data is collected in the Summer months when migratory birds come to our area.

From Rob Clemens, "The lack of water in inland Victoria is not surprisingly leading to changes in the distribution and abundance of wetland dependent shorebirds. These changes may be affecting the populations of many of the migratory shorebirds that visit Australia each year, but there are many threats to shorebird populations. There is increasing evidence that migratory shorebird populations throughout the world are declining. Shorebirds using the East-Asian Australasian Flyway are under threat from widespread habitat destruction, especially prevalent at staging areas in East Asia. Australia, home to 38 species of migratory shorebird during the non-breeding season, is uniquely placed to assess the impacts of these threats on shorebird numbers.

Shorebird monitoring has been carried out by various groups at key sites around the country since 1981. Shorebirds 2020 is a program designed to reinvigorate and coordinate national shorebird monitoring in Australia in order to detect population trends nationally and at individual areas. We need to conduct annual counts at over 150 key shorebird areas in order to detect national population trends. We also hope to be able to discover what is driving any population changes, both locally and throughout Australia."

For more information on the Shorebird 2020 project and to learn more about Birds Australia go to this website:

[www.shorebirds.org.au](http://www.shorebirds.org.au)

<b>SUMMER</b>			
Species	Lake Corangamite area 08	Lake Corangamite area 09	Lake Corangamite area 10
Asian Dowitcher			
Australian Pratincole			
Banded Lapwing			
Banded Stilt			
Bar-tailed Godwit			
Beach Stone-curlew			
Black-fronted Dotterel			
Black-tailed Godwit			
Black-winged Stilt	157	40	121
Broad-billed Sandpiper			
Bush Stone-curlew			
Common Greenshank		0	1
Common Sandpiper			
Curlew Sandpiper	143		
Double-banded Plover			
Eastern Curlew			
Great Knot			
Greater Sandpiper			
Grey Plover			
Grey-tailed Tattler			
Hooded Plover			
Latham's Snipe	3		
Lesser Sandpiper			
Little Curlew			
Long-toed Stint			
Marsh Sandpiper			2
Masked Lapwing	155	168	408
Oriental Plover			
Oriental Pratincole			
Pacific Golden Plover			
Pectoral Sandpiper			
Pied Oystercatcher			
Red Knot			
Red-capped Plover	131	472	206
Red-kneaded Dotterel			
Red-necked Avocet	17	15	34
Red-necked Stint	8799	2791	2177
Ruddy Turnstone			
Ruff	1		
Sanderling			
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	2162	592	2698
Sooty Oystercatcher			
Terek Sandpiper			
Wandering Tattler			
Whimbrel			
Wood Sandpiper	2		
Unidentified small wader			
Unidentified medium wader			
Unidentified large wader			
<b>Max summer TOTAL</b>	<b>11570</b>	<b>4059</b>	<b>5647</b>
<b>No. of species</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>8</b>

## Department of Sustainability and Environment - Dams to Habitat program

The Department of Sustainability and Environment's 'Dams to Habitat' program is currently in its second year of investigating the potential of increasing Growling Grass Frog habitat across the Victorian rural landscape.

The Growling Grass Frog, otherwise known as the 'Growler' is a large mottled green and brown frog. Its very distinct call (craw-ark-craw-ark-croc-croc) over the warmer months of the year has been noted as akin to a dirt bike changing gears! Due to habitat loss, degradation and the fungal disease chytridiomycosis, their population has declined extensively, and the frog is listed as a threatened species.

In an attempt to increase the Growler population and buffer the species against prolonged drought and climate change, DSE in partnership with Greening Australia is increasing Growling Grass Frog habitat through enhancements around farm dams. Initially, farm dams are surveyed to determine why frogs use some farm dams and not others. Dams that are not being utilised by the Growler are then considered for enhancement. So these dams are still available for standard farming practices, 1/3 of the dam is fenced and enhanced by adding emergent/submerged aquatic vegetation and refuge habitat on the banks. By creating dam habitat for Growlers, other biodiversity gains are also likely, including an increase in aquatic invertebrates, and waterbirds.

If you think that you have Growlers in your dam, creek or wetland and would like to know more or be involved in the project please contact Garry Peterson from the Department of Sustainability and Environment. Contacts: 5561 9915 or email [gary.peterson@dse.vic.gov.au](mailto:gary.peterson@dse.vic.gov.au)



Growling Grass Frog photograph taken by Laura Dodd DSE

## Waders of The Crater Lakes by Ammie Jackson

**\*article published in the Wetlands Australia National Wetlands Update 2010 - issue No. 18 Annual Update for Australia's Wetland community**

The Lunette lakes of the Western District Lakes Ramsar site in Victoria, shaped by volcanic activity, provide the perfect habitat for migratory birds and waders. Situated on the Victorian Volcanic Plains 150 kilometres south west of Melbourne and covering about 180,000 hectares, the site contains nine lakes, including Lake Corangamite, the largest permanent saline lake in Australia.

The lakes vary in salinity from brackish to hyper-saline. The value of this site to water birds and to Indigenous cultural heritage is reflected in the title of a conservation project: "borrell-a-kandelop" or "resting place for water birds." This project, a partnership between Greening Australia (Victoria), the Corangamite Catchment Management Authority and Parks Victoria, works with landholders to protect the lake values and vegetation types such as saltmarsh, grasslands and grassy woodlands, sedgy wetlands and stony rise woodlands.

A number of threatened flora and fauna species occur in the area and borrell-a-kandelop staff are working in conjunction with the Department of Sustainability and Environment threatened species officers to protect and enhance habitat for the striped legless lizard and the critically endangered Corangamite water skink, as well as helping to map existing populations and report new populations of spiny pepper-creep and salt-lake tussock grass.

The education and awareness-raising aspect of the project involves annual adult education field days and workshops. Past events have included wetland ecology training and identification of wetland plants, grassland plants, weeds, frogs and birds.

The school program centres on threatened species such as the sharp-tailed sandpiper. Four local primary schools learn about the species throughout the year and are involved with activities around this species such as writing poems, stories, illustrations and banner design. Students then come together for a planting event and barbecue to celebrate National Threatened Species Day.

Project achievements so far include working with more than 100 landholders to fence about 130 kilometres of lake frontages and waterways feeding into the lakes, and planting more than 172,000 indigenous plants.

Over the years, up to eight schools have been involved in project activities, Green Corps teams have been engaged in revegetation and rubbish clearing activities, international students have helped with revegetation and local volunteers have provided their time.

During its eight years the project has faced many changes and challenges including the permanent lakes drying out as a result of the drought. Working through a detailed Conservation Action Planning process, specific objectives have been identified.

In 2010 the project will continue with fencing, vegetation enhancement and revegetation works adjoining the lakes, but will focus on controlling invasive weeds and pest animals. Work has commenced to form a Brolga Action Group consisting of landholders who regularly have brolgas visit and nest in their wetlands and who are passionate to protect this species. The borrell-a-kandelop project will assist landholders with fox control, wetland enhancement and grazing advice in an attempt to successfully fledge brolga chicks and protect brolga populations.

# Some of the wonderful photographs entered in the World Wetlands Day Competition 2010



Left and Right Photographs by Cheryl Heynemann Entrant in the Senior Photography Category



Photographs above by Tony Mahoney entrant in the Senior Photography competition



By Georgia DeKoning Junior category



By Sofia DeKoning Junior category

## Contact List

### **borrell-a-kandelop Project Office**

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### **D.S.E—Corangamite Water Skink**

Garry Peterson. Threatened species, Ph: 55619915

### **Parks Victoria**

John Clarke, Team leader, Ph: 0428355772

### **Cundare-Duverney Landcare Group**

Campbell Nelson, President. Ph: 5238 8287  
Bill Charles, Secretary. Ph: 0408 584 262

### **Corangamite CMA**

Donna Smithyman, Wetlands, Ph: 5232 9100  
Chelsey Langley, PlainsTender Project Leader,  
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### **Corangamite Shire**

Lyall Bond, Planning and Environment Officer,  
Belinda Bennett, Environment Officer.  
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### **Surfcoast Shire**

Leanne Rolfe, Environment Officer,  
Ph: 5261 0519

### **Lismore Land Protection Group**

Karen O'Keefe, Landcare Coordinator,  
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### **Lake Corangamite Management Committee**

Graham Turner, Ph: 5596 4254

### **Leslie Manor Landcare Group**

Rick Horspole, President. Ph: 5594 8251

### **Colac-Otway Shire**

Stewart Anderson, Environment Co-ordinator  
Andrew Barber, Social Justice Program and Environment Projects Officer  
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### **Borrell-a-kandelop**

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### **Want to be a contributor ?**

**Do you have an item of interest or story that you'd like to share? If so, call the b-a-k Project  
Office on 5231 6910**

