

## Peel-Harvey Catchment Council

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*People Working Together for a Healthy Environment*

## Media release

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For immediate release



**Image: Peel-Harvey Catchment Council staff Jordan Garbellini and Dr Ryan Hooper connecting with our wetlands and waterways.**

### Wake Up to World Wetlands Day

Living next to an internationally important wetland system is something Peel residents can treasure and celebrate on 2 February 2015 during World Wetlands Day. The date is celebrated around the world each year to mark the anniversary of the signing of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance in Ramsar, Iran, on 2 February 1971.

Peel-Harvey Catchment Council chairperson Jan Star urged people to connect with Peel's wetlands and waterways on World Wetlands Day.

"Our Peel-Yalgorup system is Number 482 of the internationally Ramsar listed wetlands, so we are suggesting people post their World Wetlands Day activity on social media and hashtag #Ramsar482 on 2 February 2015 to celebrate our patch," Jan Star said.

## Cont...2 Wake up to World Wetlands Day

“Take a walk around the inlet, get onto the waterways on a canoe or a boat, or take a picnic, a camera and photograph our shorebirds. We have a limited edition of Peel Yalgorup Ramsar #482 t-shirts available from our Sutton Street office as well as other Wetlands souvenirs.”

Western Australia has 12 wetlands listed as being of international importance under the Ramsar treaty which is dedicated to the conservation and wise use of wetlands. The theme for World Wetlands Day 2015 is *Wetlands for Our Future*.

“Since European settlement Western Australia has lost, and continues to lose, much of its wetlands. Wetlands are a litmus test for the broader environment – healthy wetlands are indicators of healthy land around them. Be aware that our Ramsar 482 Wetlands need your help and pick up litter before it enters our water ways. Good management of wetlands is an important part of protecting our environmental assets of the State for the benefit the future generations,” Jan Star said.

To celebrate World Wetlands Day, the Ramsar Convention Secretariat is also running a photographic competition for 15-24 year olds. The winner will receive a free flight to a famous wetland of their choice anywhere in the world. To enter, take a picture of your favourite wetland with your phone or digital camera between 2 February and 2 March 2015, and upload it to the Ramsar Convention Secretariat’s World Wetlands Day 2015 website <http://www.worldwetlandsday.org/en/>

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