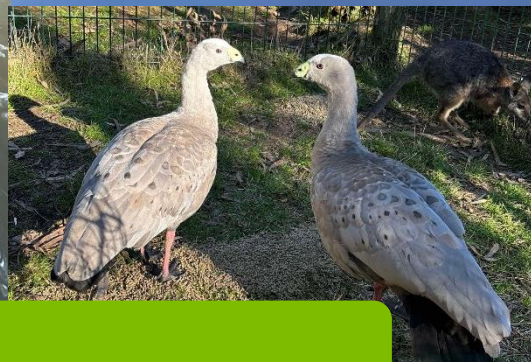
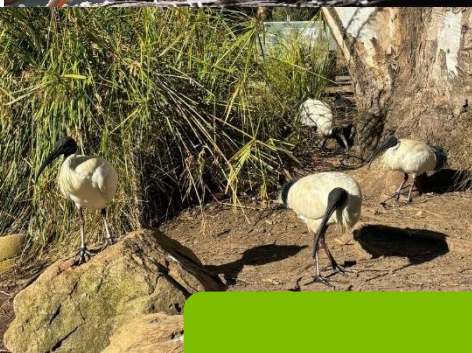


Gumnut Gazette

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Wetland Birds

Wicked Wetlands

Wetlands are unique and important ecosystems. When healthy, wetlands have a high variety of plants and animals.

Wetlands can be permanent or temporary areas covered with water. Waterbirds often move around to different areas depending on what water is where.

At Cleland Wildlife Park we have our very own wetland area and Swamp Aviary with a great variety of birds that call it home.

Dive into this month's edition of the Gumnut Gazette to find out just how cool wetlands can be.



A variety of birds at Cleland's Wetlands
All photo credit: Cleland Wildlife Park Staff Members.

Acknowledgement to country

The Department for Environment and Water acknowledges Aboriginal people as the First Peoples and Nations of the lands and waters we live and work upon and we pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging. We acknowledge and respect the deep spiritual connection

and the relationship that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have to Country.

The Department works in partnership with the First Peoples of South Australia and supports their Nations to take a leading role in caring for their Country.

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MUST KNOW FACT

South Australia's Coorong and Lakes Alexandrina and Albert became a Ramsar-listed wetland 37 years ago.



Where are the Wetland Birds?

Find-a-Word

G	E	O	L	D	U	C	K	D	T	I	R	T	I
S	E	I	P	G	A	M	N	A	C	I	L	E	P
D	N	G	I	N	G	N	D	E	A	E	N	K	C
N	D	U	P	P	O	O	S	B	N	L	W	I	A
A	M	A	C	L	O	O	R	S	W	E	I	I	P
L	C	O	O	T	S	E	M	D	W	A	E	G	E
T	B	P	E	S	E	C	D	S	I	A	O	O	B
E	P	C	O	R	M	O	R	A	N	T	N	B	A
W	L	I	M	O	O	R	H	E	N	T	A	O	R
S	P	O	O	N	B	I	L	L	O	I	I	K	R
A	E	L	R	U	S	I	B	I	N	R	N	I	E
L	O	A	O	G	R	E	B	E	E	S	P	P	N
S	M	C	R	E	E	S	T	I	L	T	O	B	O
L	O	A	C	E	I	I	E	C	L	O	C	O	E

Did you know?

The Ramsar Convention is an international agreement that aims to stop the loss of wetlands around the world.

WETLANDS
CORMORANT
STILT
SPOONBILL
GREBE
IBIS
DUCK

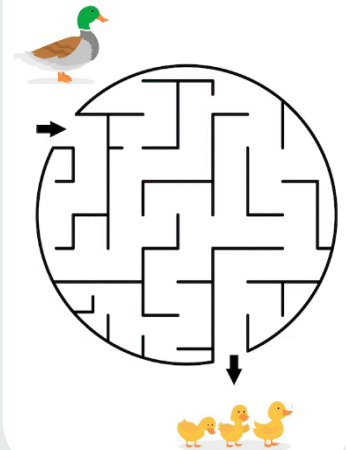
MOORHEN
COOT
GOOSE
SWAN
CAPEBARREN
MAGPIE
PELICAN

JUMBLE WORD

NICPALE

MAZE

Can you help this duck find her ducklings?



WHAT AM I?

Royal _____ bill

- A. KNIFE
- B. SPOON
- C. FORK



Maze generator credit to lexi_claus on Freepik
 Image credit to: Ducks-Freepik (Pinterest),
 Spoonbill-Dunkin McCaskill



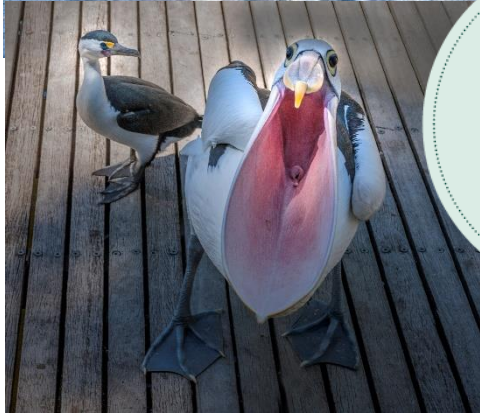
Pelican Bills

What makes them special?

Pelicans have special bills called a 'gular pouch,' that help them when feeding. They also have a special hook on the edge of their bill to help catch those slippery fish.

Pelicans eat a lot of fish. In fact, they can store up to three times as many fish in their gular pouches as they can in their stomachs!

Did you know? Pelicans also use their gular pouch to cool themselves down by swinging it back and forth, just like having a built-in air conditioner!



Did you know?

Pelicans eat around 2kgs of fish each day!

Australian Pelican eating a fish.
Taken by: Harold Moses on Flickr.

Pelican with mouth open.
Taken by: Cleland Wildlife Park staff.

Ducks quack in different accents, depending on where they are from!

The Interesting Ibis

The ibis is native to Australia and there are three species of ibis. At Cleland Wildlife Park we have two of those species, The Australian white ibis and the Glossy ibis.

The Australian white ibis is more commonly known and has white feathers and a featherless black head, neck and legs. Their bills are long, black, and curved downwards. Females are smaller than males and have a shorter bill too.

Fun Fact: Ibis have a built-in snorkel! Their nostrils are located at the base of their bill which means they can breathe while their bill is under water or buried in mud.

Ibises make their nests in trees and out of sticks, grasses or reeds near a body of water. They form a long-lasting bond with their mate, and they breed in large colonies (groups), between August-November in South Australia.

Ibises are carnivores and their diet consists of fish, frogs, mussels, shellfish and insects. They even feast on human food scraps too - how naughty!



"BIN CHICKEN"
Due to the decline of natural habitat and the increase of population, ibis scavenge in human rubbish for food, which has given them their nickname: 'Bin Chicken'.

Ibis in a tree, Glossy ibis and Australian white ibis.
Photo credit: Cleland Wildlife Park Staff

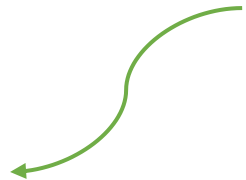


Colour me

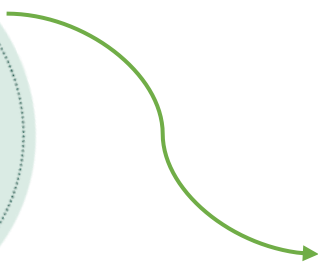


Drawing credit to: Lifetime Coloring Club

Fun Fact!
 Ducklings can talk to each other before they hatch! Inside the egg, they make "pipping" noises and chat to their siblings and mum to make a plan for hatching.



Fun Fact!
 Pelicans have webbed feet with four toes that all face forward which makes them clumsy on land but amazing swimmers!



CONNECT THE DOTS!

www.connectthedots101.com

Wetlands can help to clean the water we drink!

Wetland areas like bogs, marshes and swamps slow the water flow down, where the heavy sediments then drop to the wetland floors and the water quality running into nearby lakes and rivers is improved.

Threats to wetlands and their birds:

- Pollution from rubbish or wastewater.
- Clearing land and draining wetlands for buildings results in loss of habitat for animals.
- Predators like cats or foxes.

What can you do to help?

Make sure you clean up your rubbish, respect the natural areas you are in and reduce, reuse, recycle!

In the Swamp

We have a Swamp Aviary here at Cleland Wildlife Park that is home to many wetland birds, located just behind the Wetlands!

Along with a flash of colour from our Rainbow lorikeets, Regent parrots our Swamp Aviary is home to waterbirds such as the Burdekin duck, Royal spoonbill, Glossy ibis, Black-winged stilt, and Plumed whistling duck.

Swamps are one of the most valuable ecosystems we have in the world. They are like a big sponge and absorb water, which helps reduce bad effects from flooding.



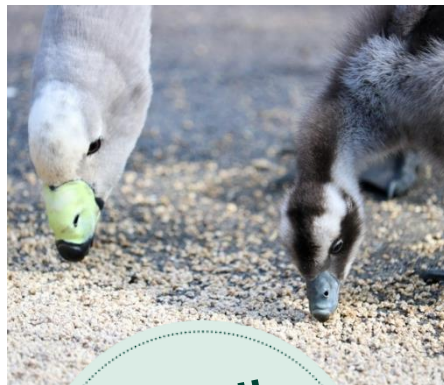
Did you know?

Royal spoonbills can feel vibrations in the water from the inside of their bill which helps them catch their food.



Royal spoonbill + Whistling duck + inside the Swamp Aviary (Cleland Wildlife Park)
Photo credit: CWP Staff Members

The only place swamps don't exist is in Antarctica!



Did you know?

World Wetlands Day is celebrated on the 2nd February each year!



Home...

Is where the wetlands are!

Wetlands make a great home for birds. The three main reasons are:

- **Feeding:**

Lots of different plants grow in wetlands, as well as invertebrates and fish which make them the perfect food source for birds.

- **Breeding:**

The vegetation around wetlands is usually quite thick, making it a safe and well-hidden place to make nests and protect eggs.

- **Resting Grounds:**

During migration times, birds need a place to stop, rest and refuel before flying away again. Wetlands are the perfect place to do so as they provide food, water, and shelter for many different birds.



Cape Barren Goose and Gosling + Magpie Goose + Coot
Photo credit: Cleland Wildlife Park Staff