

Ramsar

Ramsar sites are wetlands that are recognised as having international importance under the 'Ramsar Convention on Wetlands', with Australia one of the first countries to sign in Ramsar, Iran in 1971. There are now 169 countries with over 2000 wetlands listed globally.

On the Bellarine Peninsula, our Ramsar wetland features Swan Bay, Lake Connewarre and areas around Avalon making up the 'Port Phillip Bay (Western Shoreline) and Bellarine Peninsula'.

Habitats

The Bellarine Peninsula Ramsar wetland is made up of various types of 'wetland' habitats including:

Seagrass Meadows

Seagrass is an important ecological character found at Swan Bay and Point Wilson

Saltmarsh

Saltmarsh habitats are diverse including the Lake Connewarre complex being recognised in particular for their complexity

Beaded Glasswort



How to help

We can all play a role in the protection of our local Ramsar wetlands. Here are some simple steps that allow us to 'leave no trace':

- Stick to the paths in wetland reserves
- Don't anchor in seagrass meadows
- Stay at least 20m away from shorebirds
- Keep dogs on leads
- Join a local group to protect vegetation
- Record flora/fauna at www.inaturalist.ala.org.au

www.ramsar.org



Ramsar Wetlands



**BELLARINE CATCHMENT
NETWORK**
Landcare and Coastcare

A flock of Red-necked stilts



Bar-tailed godwit



Migratory birds

These wetlands support large numbers of migratory birds including many that are listed on the EPBC Act and the IUCN Red List including:

- Bar-tailed godwit (vulnerable)
- Curlew sandpiper (critically endangered)
- Eastern curlew (critically endangered)
- Great knot (endangered)
- Hooded plover (critically endangered)
- Lesser sand plover (vulnerable)
- Red knot (endangered)
- Orange-bellied parrot (critically endangered)
- Australian grayling (vulnerable)

For more information visit: <https://birdlife.org.au/>

Artwork by BJ O'toole, proud Wadawurrung man

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper

