

# Ramsar Resource: Curriculum Linked Research Project – Wetland Habitats

Suitable grades 3-4 or 5-6

# Online Learning Resources for Grades 3 – 6

## Bellarine Catchment Network



In light of the Covid-19 Victorian Government measures, the Bellarine Catchment Network are offering free online learning resources for Primary School students in grades 3-6.

The content is Victorian Curriculum linked for years 3-6 for:

- Science Understanding (Science Curriculum)
- Geographical Concepts and Skills (Science Curriculum)
- Geographical Knowledge (Humanities> Geography Curriculum)

The Bellarine Catchment Network have created two research projects on the subject of:

- Wetland habitats
- Migratory birds

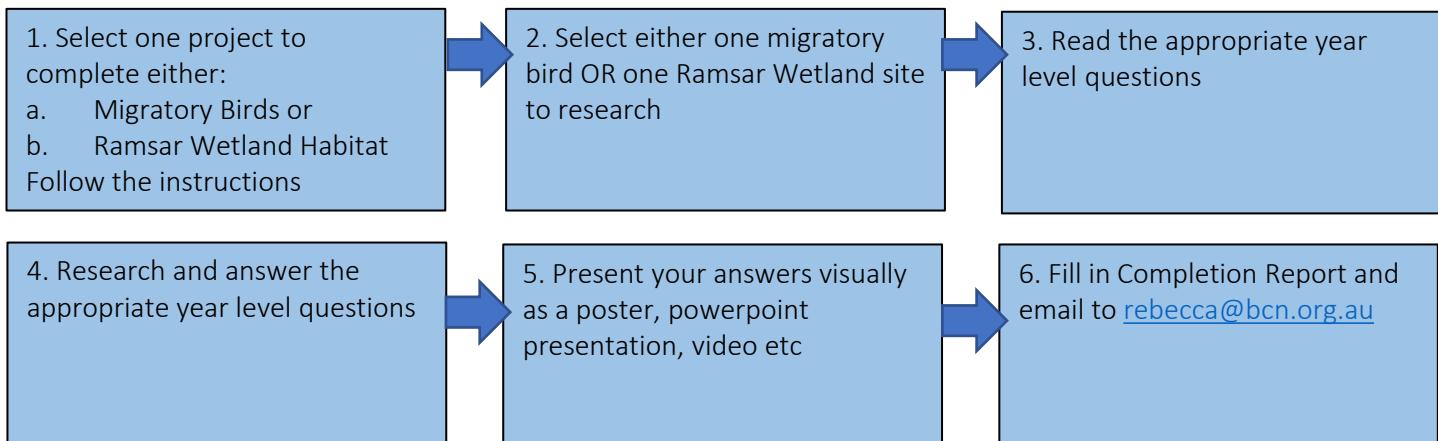
Both topics are linked to our local community and the Ramsar Wetland sites around the Bellarine Peninsula.

Students can choose whether to research a migratory bird or Ramsar wetland site and will utilise information online either via the suggested sites or their own research. Included is access to an interactive online map showcasing wetland types in other parts of the world and how they link to our place.

Students can choose how they present their work either as a written report, visual poster, video, power point presentation or other suitable delivery modes.

Our team would appreciate receiving feedback on the completed projects so that we can report our grant outcomes to the Victorian Government. A brief feedback template has been included for educators to fill out and can be emailed to [rebecca@bcn.org.au](mailto:rebecca@bcn.org.au).

If you have any queries, difficulties or would simply like further resources please contact [rebecca@bcn.org.au](mailto:rebecca@bcn.org.au). Goodluck and Happy researching!



# For Educators: Ramsar Overview Sheet



Ramsar Wetlands are internationally significant habitats which have been identified as a critical resource for fauna and flora worldwide. Globally there are 121 million acres of coastal wetlands, 18 million acres are protected under the Ramsar Convention today. Our region is home to the Port Phillip Bay (Western Shoreline) and Bellarine Peninsula Ramsar Site comprising of: Mud Island, Swan Bay, Lake Connewarre, Werribee-Avalon and Point Wilson-Limeburner's Bay. These five sites represent 55,969 acres of the globe's protected coastal wetlands.

The Port Phillip Bay (Western Shoreline) and Bellarine Peninsula Ramsar sites were recognised by a global panel as significant because they have unique habitats which are rarely found throughout the world. They are essential habitat for migratory birds who fly from Australia to the Northern Hemisphere every year, making them the conservation responsibility of up to seven nations. In order for these bird species to survive into the future, all nations along their migratory journey agreed to co-operate and protect their habitat and they named this agreement after the city in which it was first signed – Ramsar in Iran.

In the last 20 years the health of Ramsar Wetland habitats has been steadily declining due to a number of factors, with a corresponding decline in populations of migratory bird species such as the Orange bellied parrot, The Red-necked Stint and Eastern Curlew. This has prompted a renewed effort to protect and conserve Ramsar habitats to prevent their extinction and the loss of migratory birds who call them their home for several months each year.

Bellarine Catchment Network have been entrusted with the protection of Ramsar sites in the Bellarine Peninsula and this year launched the 'Adopt a Ramsar site' program. It is one of many initiatives that are designed to raise the profile of Ramsar Wetlands and to foster stewardship of these precious habitats amongst the local community.



# For Educators: Completion Report



Please complete this form by indicating which project was completed and the number of students who undertook the projects, then email to [rebecca@bcn.org.au](mailto:rebecca@bcn.org.au). Images or examples of completed projects would be gratefully accepted!

The Bellarine Catchment Network will report this information to the Victorian Government to fulfill part of our grant outcomes.

## Students School Details:

School Name: .....

School Address: .....

Student Year Level/s: .....

If completed by multiple students, please indicate numbers:

.....

## Chosen Projects:

Please indicate the project/s your student/s completed:

- Research Project: Migratory Birds
- Research Project: Ramsar Wetland Habitats

What format did your student/s present their work in?

- Poster
  - PowerPoint Presentation
  - Video
  - Oral Presentation
  - Other (Please Specify) .....
- .....

# Research Project – Ramsar Wetland Habitats



**Big Idea:** The Port Phillip Bay (Western Shoreline) and Bellarine Peninsula Ramsar sites provide essential biodiversity support to 38 migratory bird species. The health of our Ramsar wetlands is linked to partner Ramsar wetlands in the Northern Hemisphere via the East-Australasian Flyway.

**Overview:** Through online research, students will choose one Ramsar wetland site and learn about its basic information and importance, threats and protection strategies as well as understanding international co-operation whilst developing research techniques, comprehension and presentation skills.

## Learning Objectives

Students will be able to...

- Identify and explain the interconnections within places and between places
- Identify and describe the characteristics of places in different locations at a range of scales
- Describe and explain interconnections within places and between places, and the effects of these interconnections
- Types of natural vegetation and the significance of vegetation to the environment, the importance of environments to animals and people, and different views on how they can be protected; the use and management of natural resources and waste, and different views on how to do this sustainably
- Describe and explain the diverse characteristics of places in different locations from local to global scales
- Environmental and human influences on the location and characteristics of places and the management of spaces within them

## Resources Needed:

- Computer with internet access OR computer lab with internet access

## Recommended research sites:

- <https://www.ces.vic.gov.au/sotb/chapter/mangroves-saltmarsh#>
- <https://www.ces.vic.gov.au/sotb/chapter/seagrass>
- <https://www.geelongaustralia.com.au/wetlands/article/item/8cf9205a5f9827d.aspx>
- <https://www.melbournewater.com.au/community-and-education/recreation/birdwatching/bird-species-western-treatment-plant>
- [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Werribee\\_and\\_Avalon\\_Important\\_Bird\\_Area](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Werribee_and_Avalon_Important_Bird_Area)
- [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Swan\\_Bay](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Swan_Bay)
- [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mud\\_Islands](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mud_Islands)
- [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Limeburners\\_Bay](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Limeburners_Bay)
- [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Point\\_Wilson,\\_Victoria](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Point_Wilson,_Victoria)
- [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cheetham\\_Wetlands](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cheetham_Wetlands)
- [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Point\\_Cook\\_Coastal\\_Park](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Point_Cook_Coastal_Park)

## Presentation:

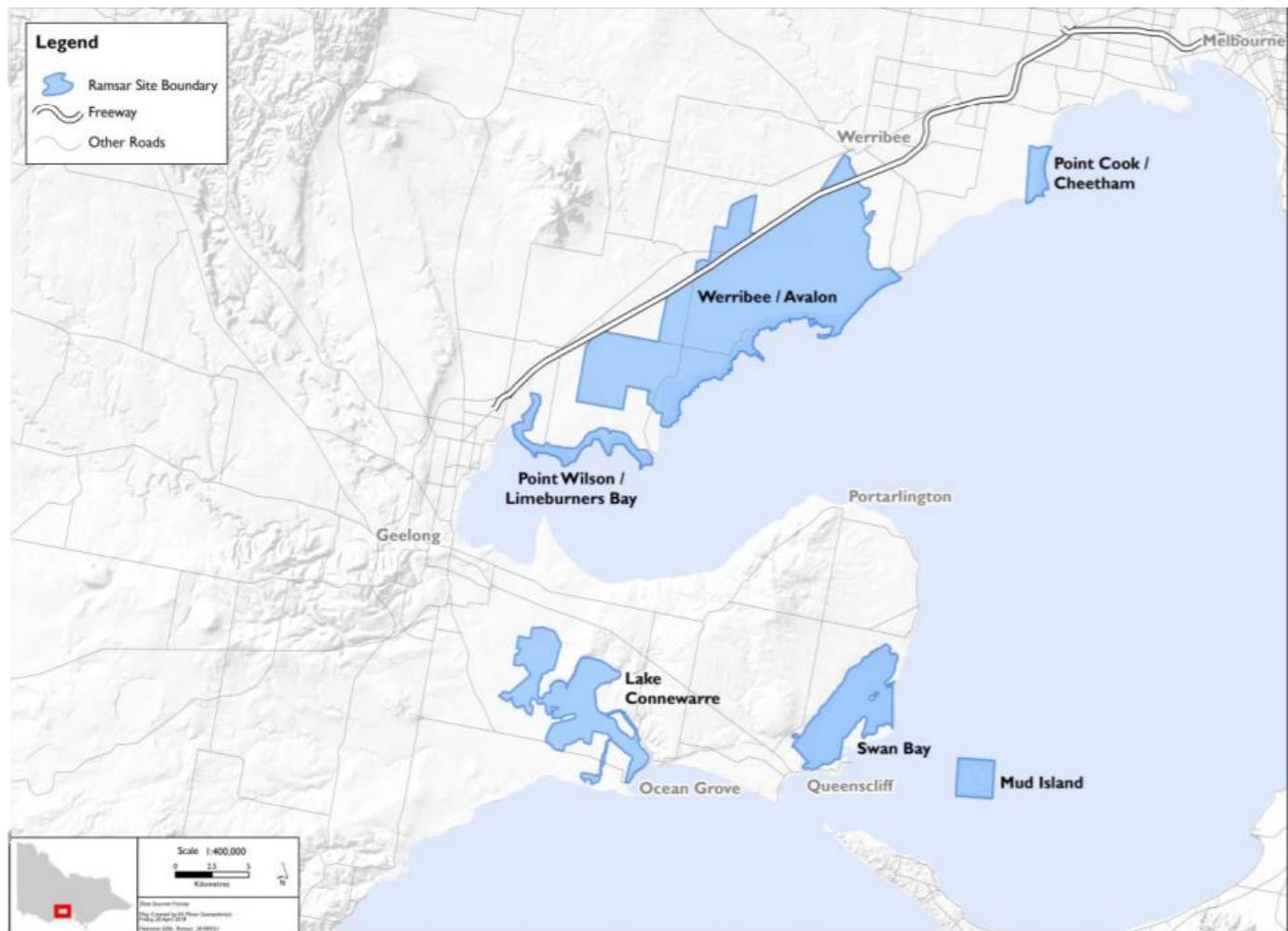
Students can present their questions as written reports, visual posters, a video, power point presentation or other suitable delivery modes.

# Map of Port Phillip Bay (Western Shoreline) and Bellarine Peninsula Ramsar sites



Choose one of the following Ramsar wetland sites to research:

- Swan Bay
- Lake Connewarre
- Mud Island
- Point Wilson/Limeburners Bay
- Werribee/Avalon
- Point Cook/Cheetham



# Research Project – Ramsar Wetland Habitats



## Research Questions for grades 3 & 4

1. Which Bellarine Peninsula Ramsar site did you choose and why?
2. Describe your chosen Ramsar wetland.
3. There are five coastal wetland **habitat** types: **Freshwater lakes, Mangroves, Saltmarshes, Seagrass meadows** and **Intertidal mudflats**. Which of these habitat types can be found in your chosen Bellarine Peninsula Ramsar site?
4. What kind of animals live in your Ramsar site?
5. Follow this link: <https://www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?mid=1zqoo072PmcaKipQ-6wxSOHPTuDID-tUX&hl=en&usp=sharing>
  - a. Explore the **East-Australasian Flyway** map. Click on the bird icons to discover wetlands in other parts of the world and learn about their importance to *migratory* birds from our place and the connection to the Bellarine Peninsula Ramsar Sites.
6. Click on the **Lena Delta Wildlife Reserve** or **Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge** and view their images. What are some *similarities* and *differences* between these Ramsar sites and the Ramsar sites in our place?
7. If Bellarine Peninsula Ramsar sites were NOT protected, how would this affect the Ramsar sites at the **Kamchatka Peninsula, Lena Delta Wildlife Reserve** or **Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Reserve**?
8. List some of the impacts that humans can have on Ramsar wetlands.
9. Describe some of the ways that you can help *protect* or *preserve* Ramsar Wetland sites.

## Research Questions for grades 5 & 6

1. Which Bellarine Peninsula Ramsar site did you choose and why?
2. What are the distinctive **habitat features** of your Bellarine Peninsula Ramsar site?
3. There are five coastal wetland habitat types: **Freshwater lakes, Mangroves, Saltmarshes, Seagrass meadows** and **Intertidal mudflats**. Which of these habitat types can be found in your chosen Bellarine Peninsula Ramsar site?
4. What kind of animals live in your Ramsar site?
5. Name three important **functions** of your habitat to the environment and/or the animals who live there. (e.g. Nursery habitat for fish, shelter for birds, food animals, blue carbon storage....)
6. Follow this link: <https://www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?mid=1zqoo072PmcaKipQ-6wxSOHPTuDID-tUX&hl=en&usp=sharing>
  - a. Explore the **East-Australasian Flyway** map. Click on the bird icons to discover wetlands in other parts of the world and learn about their importance to *migratory* birds from our place and the connection to the Bellarine Peninsula Ramsar Sites.
7. Click on the **Lena Delta Wildlife Reserve** or **Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge** and view their images. What are some *similarities* and *differences* between these Ramsar sites and the Ramsar sites in our place?
8. If Bellarine Peninsula Ramsar sites were NOT protected, how would this affect the Ramsar sites at the **Kamchatka Peninsula, Lena Delta Wildlife Reserve** or **Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Reserve**?
9. List some of the impacts that humans can have on Ramsar wetlands.
10. Describe some of the ways that you can help *protect* or *preserve* Ramsar Wetland sites.