

Hawksbury Lagoon update December

Many wetlands are part of a national or international network, however because the Hawksbury Lagoon is only very small and highly modified it is not considered significant enough to be worthy of such status. It is however registered as a significant wetland according to the DCC and the ORC and this does help when applying for funds.

The international organisation is known as Ramsar and provides a framework for international cooperation on conservation and wise use of wetlands. In NZ there are six wetland sites which are listed with Ramsar and recognised as being of international importance, the closest to us is the Waituna Lagoon in Southland. Ramsar has just published a handbook on wetlands and indigenous culture in which a NZ based case study is featured. This book is available online at <https://www.ramsar.org>. The book title is long but begins "Learning from experience".

In NZ there is the National Wetland Trust who publish a quarterly magazine "Wet and Wild" and who coordinate a wetland symposium every two years at different places throughout the country. A link to the Trust can be found on our website www.hawksburylagoon.org.nz. It is an interesting site to explore if you have an interest in this area.

On the Hawksbury Lagoon and during one of the awful weather days (there seems to be a few lately) I spotted a huddle of fourteen spoonbills and heard of a possible white heron sighting.

Also just in time for Christmas we have available our lovely tea towels featuring local birds, most of whom frequent the lagoon, illustrated by Derek Onley. The tea towels remain at \$15 each. Contact myself, ts.mckewen@gmail.com or phone 4657499 or else Julie Gemmell phone 4657664.

Shirley McKewen