

Fishers Wetland

PHILLIP ISLAND
NATURE PARKS
nature
notes

Fisher's Wetland is a semi-permanent wetland, fed from surface runoff after rain. It is home to a variety of frogs, fish and birds. It is one of the best wetland viewing spots on Phillip Island with over fifty species having been recorded.



The history of Fishers Wetland

The area, known as Fisher's land, was drained for farming in the early part of last century. In the late 1990's a section of the farm was reclaimed and returned to its wetland state. The wetland receives runoff from the surrounding catchment, a large percentage originating from the Woolamai housing estate. Installed in 1998, the concrete weir at Fishers Wetland is used to control the amount of water flowing out of the wetland. As a result there is minimal fluctuation of the water level throughout this area. Phillip Island Nature Parks have also constructed a boardwalk system which allows great viewing of this environment, but also protects the fragile wetland plant system. A bird hide on the edge of the wetland was created to quietly view the abundance of birds drawn to this area.



Wetlands: An important ecosystem

Wetlands perform important ecological functions, acting like a sponge and slowing the release of water from runoff after rain. This 'sponge' filters the water, collecting pollutants and litter before they make their way into the ocean. The plants found in and around the wetland not only help filter the water, but provide habitat for a myriad of animals. These in turn provide food for a variety of larger transitory animals.

Wildlife of fishers wetland

A wide variety of birds and animals visit Fishers Wetland. Some of the birdlife you might see include; Cape Barren geese (*Cereopsis novaehollandiae*),



royal spoonbills (*Platalea regia*), black swans (*Cygnus atratus*), purple swamphens (*Porphyrio porphyrio*), Australian white ibis (*Threskiornis molucca*), Australian pelicans (*Pelecanus conspicillatus*), banded stilts (*Cladorhynchus leucocephalus*) and buff-banded rails (*Gallirallus philippensis*) as well as a range of ducks. You may also observe dragonflies and damselflies zipping around the wetland, or laying their eggs in the water. Or hear common froglets (*Crinia signifera*) calling from the waters edge. Other animals that permanently live in the wetlands include macroinvertebrates such as mosquito larvae, water mites, scavenger beetles, backswimmers and water boatman.

Phillip Island
**NATURE
PARKS**

PO Box 97, Cowes, Victoria, 3922
T 5951 2800
E schoolbookings@penguins.org.au
penguins.org.au

Fishers Wetland

PHILLIP ISLAND
NATURE PARKS
nature
notes

- Park Boundary
- Boardwalk
- Walking Tracks
- Water Flow

Imagery ©2017 Google, Map Data ©2017 Google.



Rehabilitation of the wetland is ongoing. Introduced species such as rabbits, feral cats and weeds are a threat to the rehabilitation process. Rangers actively reduce the number of pest animals in the area through baiting, and trapping and weeds are minimized through controlled burn offs. Protecting the wetland is as simple as making sure that you always put your rubbish in the bin. When you drop your rubbish in the street, it will wash into a drain and end up in our waterways, impacting on the creatures that call this wetland home.

Phillip Island
**NATURE
PARKS**

PO Box 97, Cowes, Victoria, 3922
T 5951 2800
E schoolbookings@penguins.org.au
penguins.org.au