



# Media release

13 May, 2008

## Discover the natural wonder of St Lawrence

The internationally significant St Lawrence wetland will get the star treatment it deserves at a community celebration this month.

Broadsound residents have the chance to learn more about their region's unique plants and animals at the St Lawrence Wetlands Discovery Day on Thursday 22 May, from 10:30am to 3pm.

The event has been organised in partnership between the Fitzroy Basin Association Inc. (FBA), Fitzroy River and Coastal Catchments Inc., and the Fitzroy Basin Elders Committee.

FBA Coastal and Marine Coordinator Shane Westley said the event would give locals the chance to celebrate and explore the wetlands with tours, information displays, and a free BBQ lunch.

"The area is rich in natural diversity, with nationally and internationally important ecosystems including the St Lawrence wetland," Mr Westley said.

He said a recent report commissioned by FBA also found there were internationally significant numbers of waterbirds in the area.

"The Discovery Day will include tours of the wetlands with presentations from expert guest speakers," Mr Westley said.

"Fish enthusiasts will enjoy learning about new fish ladders installed at the wetlands by the Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries that enable migratory species to move between fresh and salt water for breeding," he said.

"Allan Briggs of Birds Australia Capricornia will speak about the abundant birdlife the wetlands support.

"Roger Jaensch from Wetlands International Oceania will travel up from Brisbane for the event to speak about wetland ecology, and John McCabe from Environmental Protection Agency will talk on the variety of wildlife and vegetation that call the wetlands home."

"FBA will also demonstrate the equipment and techniques used in water quality monitoring that it conducts across the region."

A bus will be available on the day to take people from Rockhampton to the event, departing from the FBA office in East St. For more information, contact Moira Close on 4921 0573.

**For further information or interviews** contact: Jody McDonald, Media and Communications Co-ordinator, 4999 2816, 0429 992 808, [jody.mcdonald@fba.org.au](mailto:jody.mcdonald@fba.org.au).

**Fitzroy Basin Association Inc.**

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