

# Lots to love about Swan Bay....



Swan Bay, provides a magical eco-system for a myriad of animal and plant species.

It stretches from the shores of Queenscliff to St Leonards and is located in an area renowned for its diversity of migratory wader birds.

So special is this wetland that it is protected under the International Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (the Ramsar Convention).

As you walk, cycle around or paddle on Swan Bay, here are some of things you may like to take into account...

- Famous explorer Matthew Flinders named Swan Bay 'Swan Ponds', after its Black Swans.
- As many as 200 species of bird have been seen in Swan Bay – some of these species, including the Orange Bellied Parrot, are endangered.
- Each year as many as 10,000 migratory wading birds descend on the waterway.

Some migrate from as far away as Siberia and Alaska – a round trip of around over 24,000 kilometres.

■ There are five common species of seagrasses in Swan Bay and almost everything that lives there relies on them for survival – from the tiny burrowing worms and crabs to banjo sharks and giant stingrays.

■ Each wader bird detected at Swan Bay has a uniquely-shaped bill, adapted specifically for it to catch the food it needs to survive.

■ World Wetlands Days is celebrated on February 2<sup>nd</sup>. It marks the date of the adoption of the Convention on Wetlands in 1971, in the Iranian city of Ramsar on the shores of the Caspian Sea.

■ The smooth rays that call Swan Bay home is the largest of all Australian stingrays . It grows to 4.3 m in length, 2 m wide and can weigh as much as 350 kg. It usually has irregular rows of small white spots on the upper surface.

■ **“Wetlands are part of the carbon cycle – don’t destroy them”**

Wetlands have a key role to play in the carbon cycle and in helping to stem climate change change. They act as a “sink” for carbon – holding twice as much as the world’s forests.

## ACTIVITY:

Several famous artists - including Arthur Streeton, Tom Roberts and Fred Williams have stood on our shores and painted landscapes of Queenscliff's coast. Why not paint your own landscape of beautiful Swan Bay. We would love to see you work, so please send your work to us here at Camp Wyuna so we can display your paintings for all of our visitors to enjoy!



**IF YOU ARE ANYWHERE NEAR QUEENSCLIFF HARBOUR OR THE BOAT RAMP, KEEP YOUR EYES OUT FOR STUMPY – OUR GIANT SMOOTH RAY WITHOUT A STING IN HIS TAIL!**