

DUCK STAMPS ARE FLYING

Following the success in the United States of sales of special issue stamps to raise funds for the preservation of wetlands, a similar program is providing funds for wetlands conservation in Australia.

Managed by the Australian Wildlife Fund, the Australian Federal duck stamp was first commissioned to validate the entrance permit to Kakadu National Park. The innovative design of the ticket, with stamp fixed and cancelled, has itself become popular with collectors.

Each year's program commences with the commissioning of a painting of a waterfowl subject. Both the stamps (which must have an official fiscal function), and the limited edition prints are produced for sale from the selected painting.

Earlier this year, Western Australia's Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM) became the first State conservation authority to adopt the stamp, making it mandatory for use

on national park annual passes to be introduced in 1992.

The stamp is marked by an overprint, reading:

W. A. C. A. L. M.
MANDATORY FOR USE
ON NATIONAL PARK
ANNUAL PASS

The Australian Federal duck stamp issue is now in its third year. The 1989 issue was designed by celebrity US artist Dan Smith, and the 1990 issue by US multi-award-winning artist Jim Hautman.

Both of these artists are recent winners of the US Federal Duck Stamp Art Award, the most prestigious of all US Wildlife Art contests.

The 1991 stamp, issued September 30, is the work of New Zealand-born Queensland artist, P Brent Harvey,



winner of the \$50 000 first prize in the 1991 James Hardie Wildlife Art Prize.

The illustration of this stamp shows the overprint in place, although stamps may be obtained with or without the overprint.

Duck stamps, and the combination duck stamp and print are a component in a growing nexus between wildlife art and conservation, with collectors able to accumulate a collection of some of the most beautiful and interesting issues available today.

In the United States, 400 million duck stamp dollars have financed the preservation of nearly four million acres of wetland refuges.

In Australia, proceeds from duck stamps are directed

toward wetlands conservation projects through the Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service which disburses them to appropriate projects in all States and Territories.

CALM enjoys a direct and substantial proportion of all income raised by the overprinted issue including the worldwide sale of the mint overprinted stamps.

The mint overprinted stamp and the regular Australian duck stamps may be obtained by completing the order form inserted with this issue for direct supply from The Australian Wildlife Fund, PO Box 653, North Sydney, NSW, 2059, Telephone (02) 957 3304. Duck stamps are also stocked by City Models, 13-15 Piccadilly Arcade, Perth, WA, 6000, Telephone (09) 321 4339. The WA mint overprinted stamp is available from CALM State operational headquarters, 50 Hayman Road, Como, WA 6152. Telephone 364 0333.

The community benefits immeasurably from the preservation of wetlands. An essential component of our environment, wetland ecosystems provide habitat for many species of plants and animals, are important in maintaining water quality, and are valued as important areas for recreation.

The purchase of the duck stamps provides an opportunity for every citizen to make a small investment in an enormous endeavour - the preservation of our natural heritage.



LANDSCOPE

VOLUME SEVEN NO. 3 AUTUMN ISSUE 1992



Each year more people seek wilderness experiences, but many are unprepared for the difficulties they might encounter. Learn about the basics of outback safety and bushcraft on page 35.



Botanists search for a eucalypt last seen by Giles in his expedition across WA deserts 115 years ago. See page 28.



Will the honey possum become a secondary victim of dieback disease? See page 22.



Australia is a land of lizards - tough competitors evolving amid spinifex and wildfires in the Great Victoria Desert. Turn to page 10.



Straight and vigorous pines don't grow by accident. Years of research and breeding have gone into producing the perfect pine. See page 49.

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COVER

The tiny honey possum (*Tarsipes rostratus*), seen in our cover illustration by Philippa Nikulinsky, feeds almost exclusively on nectar and pollen. However, most of its important food plants are threatened by dieback disease caused by the *Phytophthora* fungi. The endangered scarlet banksia (*Banksia coccinea*) is one plant species used by the possums that is highly susceptible to the dieback disease. See story on page 22.



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