



**MEDIA RELEASE**  
**18<sup>th</sup> May, 2006**

## **BOAT KEEPS WADER SURVEYS AFLOAT**

Koora-Gang Landcare group, volunteers that work with the Kooragang Wetland Rehabilitation Project, have had the task of monitoring wading birds made a whole lot easier with the sponsorship of a boat by Price Waterhouse Cooper.

Each month volunteers from Hunter Bird Observers Club in conjunction with Koora-Gang Landcare survey wading birds in Hunter Estuary Wetlands a Ramsar-listed, internationally significant wetlands.

The sponsorship brokered by Landcare Australia Limited will allow volunteers to survey areas not easily approached by land.

'We are really excited by this sponsorship as it means we will be able to do our surveys more easily and with greater accuracy' said Ann Lindsey, a volunteer from the Hunter Bird Observers Club. 'It's hard enough trying to count all those little legs without feeling insecure bobbing up and down in a small, unstable rubber dingy'.

The boat will be officially welcomed to Kooragang Wetlands on Sunday, May 21<sup>st</sup> and introduced to the Koora Gang Landcare volunteers during their monthly tree planting day. Staff from Price Waterhouse Cooper will be there to hand the boat over and to help with the tree planting.

The boat will also be used to reach previously inaccessible parts of Kooragang Wetlands which will assist research, monitoring and rubbish removal in out of the way but crucial areas.

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**For further information about this or the Kooragang Wetland Rehabilitation Project in general, please contact Rob Henderson on ph. (02) 4964 9308, mob. ph. 0418 669 438.**

The Kooragang Wetland Rehabilitation Project is rehabilitating fisheries and other wildlife habitat in suitable areas of the Hunter estuary, while at the same time creating educational, research and recreational opportunities for people. KWRP is a collaborative project of the Hunter-Central Rivers Catchment Management Authority.

**Major contributors to the Project currently are:**

Hunter-Central Rivers Catchment Management Authority  
NSW Department Natural Resources  
Newcastle City Council  
Port Stephens Council  
NSW Department Primary Industries  
NSW Department Environment Conservation  
Port Waratah Coal Services  
EnergyAustralia  
Newcastle Port Corporation  
Waterways Authority of NSW  
Banrock Station  
GHD Pty Ltd

