

Tour to highlight region's wetlands

An all-day bus tour around the city's enviable wetlands projects will celebrate World Wetlands Day on February 1 – the nearest Sunday to a landmark event.

February 2 marks the adoption of the Convention on Wetlands on February 2, 1971, in the Iranian city of Ramsar.

This year, the tour will explore the lower Opawaho/Heathcote River, model projects in the central business district, Travis Wetland (where there will be a barbecue lunch), then on to the Mahinga Kai model at Anzac Drive Reserve and will end with afternoon tea at Charlesworth Reserve.

Some interesting talks are promised during the trip jointly organised by Avon-Otakaro Network, Travis Wetland Trust,

Avon-Heathcote Estuary Ihutai Trust, city council park rangers, Greening the Red Zone, Te Runanga o Ngai Tahu and the Department of Conservation.

The public is invited to come along for the whole day or join the group for part of the day on one of the walks.

About 12 kilometres will be walked over the course of the day.

The tour leaves from from Charlesworth Reserve car park, Charlesworth St at 9.30am and includes morning tea at Radley Park.

Tour details are on avon.org.nz. Registration can be made online.

Cost is \$20 per person for the whole day or \$5 per person if only joining the tour at Travis Wetland Education Centre, Beach Rd for the 12.30pm barbecue.



Wetland eyrie: A lone bird in a glittering pond in the Travis Wetland, sparkling in the afternoon sun.

Photo: ANNA PRICE