

Wildlife Welfare South Coast

Phone 0434 114 628

VHT 23/8/07

The successful rescue of a Great Cormorant this week saved the bird from almost certain death.

Keen eyed Ted Nolan spotted the bird close to Birks Harbor. The bird was attempting to fly but appeared to be caught in something.

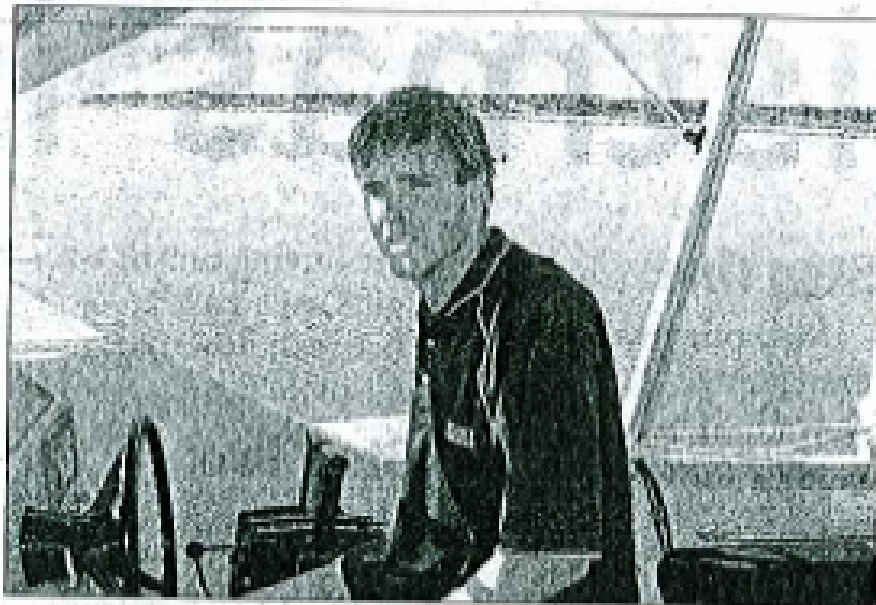
Rena contacted The Marina Hindmarsh Island to seek help with a boat. Without hesitation, Andrew Chapman deployed a rescue boat and a willing young assistant in Matt Irvine.

On reaching the cormorant it was discovered that the bird was entangled in a fisherman's net which ran for several metres close to the bank and reeds.

With Matt's precision manoeuvring of the boat, Rena was able to net the bird and cut it free from the entangled net.

The exhausted cormorant was rested for a few hours and then released to carry on his business as usual.

Apparently it is quite legal for fishing nets to be placed in such areas, but a call to the Department of Fisheries explaining the sensitive environment in which this net was situated, resulted in this net being



RESCUE HELPER ... Matt Irvine from The Marina Hindmarsh Island helped in the rescue of a Great Cormorant that was tangled in a net.

removed. A big win for the wildlife.

Many aquatic birds and other marine wildlife are caught in nets such as these on a regular basis, so please fisherman consider the wildlife when placing these nets.

For advice or assistance with native birds please call 0434 114 628.