

## FAST FACTS

- The final structure required about 6600 sandbags to complete.
- The job took 11 days over a five week period to complete, with up to 18 people helping on any day, including site preparation and pack-up.
- In total, it took 122 days worth of human effort to complete - much of this contributed by dedicated volunteers.
- It is exactly 100 years since the last major sandbagging operation was supported by the Nelson community when the Freshwater Creek from Piccaninnie Ponds was temporarily redirected to the Glenelg River in March 1915.



**CONSTRUCTION COMPLETED:** In celebration of the completion of the construction of a weir, which included the first major sandbagging in 100 years, Nature Glenelg Trust manager Mark Bachmann and community volunteers recently returned to the site at Nelson.

# Wetland restoration

Nelson area considered for international recognition

LONG Swamp near Nelson is being considered for formal international recognition through Ramsar nomination.

The long, narrow wetland system extends for over 15km from the Glenelg River estuary south-east to Lake Mombeong and is listed on the Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia.

It forms part of one of the Federal Government's identified high ecological value aquatic ecosystem sites across the country.

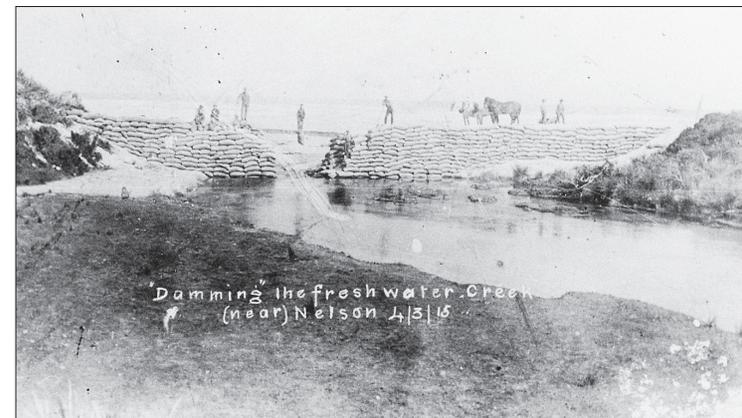
The Victorian Government and the Glenelg Hopkins CMA are involved in the Ramsar nomination process, which will be explained at a community workshop next Thursday, June 4.

It will be held at the Nelson Community Hall from 11am to 2pm Victorian time.

The workshop comes shortly after the completion of a weir structure at Nobles Rocks, a 2km long section of low, calcarenite bluffs that break up the run of the beach at Discovery Bay near Nelson.

The structure was built by Nature Glenelg Trust with the support of Parks Victoria and community volunteers and funded by a Victorian Government grant.

Nature Glenelg Trust manager Mark Bachmann said the works which unfolded in three stages over the past 12 months was a reward for the long-term dedication of Nelson Coastcare Group



**HISTORY REPEATED:** Sandbagging of the first artificial outlet from Freshwater Creek near Nelson took place in 1915. A century later, another major sandbagging operation took place.

members, who for many years expressed an interest in the sustainable water management of Long Swamp.

The first two phases of the trial, completed in May and July 2014, involved the installation of two low-level trial weir structures to enable the hydrology of the part of Long Swamp to be better understood before proceeding with the third and final stage of the trial in April this year.

With a strong interest in local history, Mr Bachmann said the current restoration trial was the third attempt to regulate outflows at Nobles Rocks since the channel was cut - allegedly by eel fishermen - in the 1930s after earlier failed attempts by

the Glenelg River Angling Club in 1953 and the then Victorian Department of Fisheries and Wildlife in the 1970s.

"It is hoped the trial will reinvigorate the wetland habitat inland of Nobles Rocks and possibly even increase outflows from Long Swamp into the Glenelg River Estuary at Nelson," he said.

"Even though winter this year is only just about to officially arrive, early breaking rains in the autumn on the coast have already begun to demonstrate the positive impact of the latest works, with a significant area of deeper wetland habitat not seen for several decades beginning to reform inland of Nobles Rocks."