Nature Glenelg Pty Ltd
[ACN: 153 577 907]

as Trustee for

Nature Glenelg Trust

Regional, Focussed, On-ground

ABN: 23 917 949 584

Annual Report:

2016-17 Financial Year

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ORGANISATIONAL PURPOSE

Nature Glenelg Trust is a mission-driven, not-for-profit organisation that has been established to operate as:

1. a community environmental NGO;
2. a source of professional ecological knowledge available for delivering project work that improves environmental management outcomes; and,
3. a recipient of charitable donations for supporting habitat restoration and other environmental work consistent with the priorities set out in our Deed of Trust.

This operating model enables the organisation to (1) seek and deliver grants for community environmental benefit, but also (2) provide ecological consulting services under two registered trading names, Aquasave – NGT (for aquatic ecology) and NGT Consulting (for general ecology). In furthering our organisational purpose by working with clients on important conservation management projects, our consulting services also provide a financial contribution to support the costs of running our not-for-profit organisation.

Since Nature Glenelg Trust was admitted to the Register of Environmental Organisations in 2014, this model also seeks to diversify organisational funding streams and minimise the need to rely upon any precious future donated funds to support day-to-day operations and administration. In this way, we aim to give supporters the confidence that their donation to our Public Fund will achieve maximum impact in furthering the on-ground environmental objectives (such as wetland habitat restoration) of Nature Glenelg Trust.

All core activities of Nature Glenelg Trust (including our ecological consulting services) meet at least one of our organisational objectives from our Deed of Trust, namely:

1. To protect and enhance the natural environment, with a particular emphasis on wetland conservation and restoration activities in the Focal Region[*1], supported by the Habitat Restoration Fund.
2. To generate and provide high quality scientific information that enhances management of the natural environment.
3. To support and undertake key conservation ecology research predominantly within, but not limited to, the Focal Region.
4. To promote public awareness of nature through education, and involving the community in the activities of the Trust.

[*1]: Our focal region includes the NRM regions situated between Melbourne (Victoria) and Adelaide (South Australia).

DIRECTORS REPORT

1. Summary of the year's activities

1.1 Project work overview

Nature Glenelg Trust delivered a total of 80 projects during the 2015-16 financial year, with 46 of these projects completed by the 30th June 2017.

Type of Project Work	Number of Projects Active during 2015-16 Financial Year
Native flora, vegetation management or ecological monitoring	24
Native fish	27
Other fauna	5
Community engagement	6
Multi-faceted projects (several types combined)	6
Wetlands	12
TOTAL	**80**

1.2 Grant funded project work

Nature Glenelg Trust was awarded grant funding to commence or continue the delivery of 24 grant funded projects in the 2015-16 financial year. Sixteen grant funded projects were acquitted during the financial year, with the remaining eight remaining active into the 2017-18 financial year.

1.3 Environmental consulting project work

Nature Glenelg Trust delivered a total of 56 contracted environmental consulting projects for a range of clients in the 2015-16 financial year. Thirty (30) of these projects were completed and closed during the financial year, with the balance (26) remaining active into the 2016-17 financial year.

As previously explained, irrespective of whether they are grant funded or professional contracted fee-for-service or consulting projects (as delivered under our registered trading names: Aquasave NGT, or NGT Consulting – logos below), NGT only delivers projects that are consistent with our organisational objectives, making a positive contribution to regional environmental management. The breakdown of these projects by category is included in the overall summary table presented in section 1.1.

AQUASAVE - Nature Glenelg Trust

Ecology, Monitoring, Conservation

NGT Consulting

2. Achievements: Case studies from across the NGT focal region

2.1 Celebrating NGT's fifth birthday

On the 16th of January 2017, about 25 people from the community joined us for morning tea, followed by a smaller intimate gathering for afternoon tea in Warrnambool – a great way to mark 5 years since NGT announced its arrival to the world in 2012.

As it was a pretty low key affair, the formalities were kept to a minimum, but we did take a moment to acknowledge a number of our dedicated volunteers who attended and – most importantly – cut the cake for all to share.

Looking back, it is fair to say that we have made huge strides towards one of our key original stated intentions of restoring wetlands across our focal region, with restoration works completed at over 30 wetlands on public and private land in Victoria and SA, and several more sites in the pipeline.

We've also secured two crucial areas for permanent protection and restoration (Eaglehawk Waterhole (1700 acres) and Mt Burr Swamp (750 acres)) – to be held in perpetuity by NGT on behalf of the community as private nature reserves. Finally, we've completed critical research and recovery work on a wide range threatened species, including threatened freshwater fish, crayfish, plants, birds and other animals.

While that is just the tip of the iceberg, it gives you a sense of what we've managed to do in a relatively short space of time thanks to the incredible dedication and tireless efforts of our staff and volunteers, the amazing support of our donors, and the many landowners, community groups, government agencies and private businesses we work with.

We're looking forward to the next five years of working together, continuing to make a real difference.

2.2 Launching the Wetland Condition Field Guide

The Wetland Condition Field Guide, written by Troy Horn (Forestry SA) and NGT's Bryan Haywood, was launched at Mount Burr Swamp on Tuesday 14th March 2017.

The guide has been five years in the making and fills a gap in rapid wetland assessment applicable across southern Australia, covering topics including:

- Rapid condition assessment, complete with visual guide
- Methodology for finding the edge or boundary of a wetland
- Tips for mapping and recording wetland plant communities, and
- Ideas for prioritising the level of protection and management works for a site, with specific ideas relating to the forest industry

The day was well attended and after the talks, book launch and lunch (within the shearing shed) overlooking the magnificent Mt Burr swamp (which still has lots of water), the afternoon involved a field walk to wetlands of differing condition states on the property and the adjacent native forest reserve.

Participants looking in a very high condition wetland on the boundary between The Marshes NFR and NGT property (Mt Burr Swamp)

A special thanks to Sharn Lucas, Abigail Goodman and Justin Cook for providing comments and edits of previous versions of the guide, and to Ockert Le Roux, Tony Hay (Flying Ant GIS), and Yvonne Riley for the artwork, and photography provided and Steve Biasibetti (Genesis Creative) for design and printing.

Copies of the field guide are available from the ForestrySA Office (Mt Gambier) 08 8724 2888, and the NGT Office (Vansittart Park, Mt Gambier) 08 8797 8596.

2.3 The purchase and creation of NGT's Mt Burr Swamp Restoration Reserve

The long road to purchase

It was quite a journey through August and September of 2016 (and the long 4 ½ years prior), but thanks to the incredible support of a wide range of individuals, groups and organisations supporting our public fundraising campaign, the purchase of Mt Burr Swamp by Nature Glenelg Trust was completed, with settlement occurring on Friday the 30th of September 2016.

We made it to settlement day having raised almost $72,000 of our $110,000 community fundraising target, and then a short while later (in November 2016) thanks to the support of a range of additional donors and one final major contribution from the Nature Conservation Society of SA, our target was met. To briefly review how we made it to that point, Nature Glenelg Trust had first successfully partnered with government (the Native Vegetation Council), private business (OneFortyOne Plantations) and then finally the wider community (individuals, groups and businesses) to reach this milestone.

The community celebration

What a memorable time we had over the second weekend in October 2016!

It kicked off on Friday the 7th of October, with a gathering at Joann Fife's Chapel Studio on Suttontown Rd in Mount Gambier, for the Cross Border art exhibition. Over 70 people came along to see the works of 21 of our finest regional artists – inspired by wetlands – all in the same place; while listening to a set of live music by Brenton and Sandra Manser from Nelson.

Just some of the people that came along to enjoy the Cross Border art exhibition

Our guests consisted of a wide range of people from all over the region, including the previous owners of Mt Burr Swamp, Neil and Helen Ellison. During brief presentations about the project and

exhibition, Mark Bachmann thanked them for their generosity and incredible patience given that NGT's discussions with them about the property first began back in February 2012.

After all, without this critical support, the project could never have succeeded.

The previous owners of Mt Burr Swamp, Helen and Neil Ellison, with Nature Glenelg Trust Manager Mark Bachmann (centre) at the Cross Border Art Exhibition. Photo by Jocelyn Nickels of the Border Watch.

Next up was a busy day of on site preparation on Saturday. One of the many tasks involved in getting ready was carefully moving and rehanging the exhibition artworks to the shearing shed at Mt Burr Swamp, under the watchful eye of artist and exhibition curator Megan Nicolson – who generously coordinated the art exhibition from start to finish.

Cross Border curator and artist Megan Nicolson (right), with partner and NGT Senior Wetland Ecologist Lachlan Farrington - photographed here with one of the larger artworks that featured in the exhibition.

While NGT staff got to enjoy a perfect sunny day on site on Saturday, our luck ran out with the weather unfortunately, and a wild and windy morning greeted our guests for the main event on Sunday the 9th of October. But 150 people were not to be deterred, coming along to see and experience the special place they had helped us secure (to be restored and permanently protected) for the first time. Among those people was our volunteer Gordon Page who single-handedly turned what was a regular, dark shearing shed, into a bright room with a spectacular view for all to enjoy.

Gordon Page stands in front of the windows he installed in the shearing shed at Mt Burr Swamp

A portion of the audience hear about the almost 5 year journey that led to the purchase of Mt Burr Swamp.

After the formalities and some introductory talks about wetland ecology, a great BBQ lunch prepared by the Millicent Lions Club ensured everyone was well fed and able to withstand the even more rugged weather that was just about to hit, with heavy showers and 90km/hr wind gusts on the way!

The BBQ team from the Millicent Lions Club – great blokes, ready for action!

However, just as the weather was turning, NGT's Nick Whiterod and a couple of intrepid young helpers (Angus and Patrick Langsmith) who weren't going to let the rain put them off, headed down to the swamp for one last look and were certainly rewarded for their efforts.

In a catch that included frogs, yabbies and a turtle, they also turned up three Little Galaxias. This nationally threatened species has never been recorded in the swamp before and (given the breeding condition of one of the fish caught) is likely to respond quickly and favourably to our initial, highly successful, wetland restoration works.

Small but significant – one of three nationally threatened Little Galaxias fish caught in Mt Burr Swamp on Sunday the 9th of October.

This means that in addition to a breeding pair of Brolga with young spotted on the property and recent confirmation of a nationally threatened Growling Grass Frog population in the main swamp, the project is off to flying start!

And so after lunch, to the sounds of wild wind and rain on the roof, our very special guest Louise Adams performed in the rustic and intimate setting of the shearing shed; while the audience enjoyed the experience of being surrounded by great live music, beautiful artworks and a stunning view over Mt Burr Swamp.

Louise Adams puts on a fantastic performance to a very grateful (and surprised!) crowd of Mt Burr Swamp supporters.

In the almost five years since NGT began, this is the first time we have asked the community to directly invest in our on-ground restoration work and the response was truly amazing.

The hardworking and passionate team at Nature Glenelg Trust are introduced to the audience, on a day that marks a significant milestone for our organisation

The six month update

For the first time since it was drained decades ago, Mt Burr Swamp held water through the autumn months – absolutely fantastic news. While obviously the wet spring in 2016 provided us with the welcome rainfall we needed to kick start the project, the restoration structure on the outlet drain is the key reason we were able to sustain the water levels in the swamp through the subsequent summer and autumn.

The Mt Burr Swamp restoration structure – still holding back water in autumn. Note the water is obscured by Duckweed (Lemna sp.).

This is what wetland restoration is all about.

At its driest in autumn 2017, Mt Burr Swamp was not a small puddle either, with up to 50-60 cm depth of water still inundating about 40 hectares of the swamp, sustaining a large bed of water ribbons and freshwater marsh habitat.

Not only did this providing summer refuge for a wide range of important wetland species (like the Growling Grass Frog), but it also means that the swamp (and the surrounding perched groundwater aquifer) is effectively 'primed' for the following winter – meaning that it won't take as much rainfall to fill the swamp again in 2017. So, if we do have a drier winter and spring than last year, this buffering effect will be extremely important for helping to ensure that the swamp continues along its current, impressive trajectory of recovery into the future.

A recent view of Mt Burr Swamp from the new western fenceline – looking east towards the shearing shed.

As discussed with project supporters at various times, you'll be aware that the wider Mt Burr Swamp property is still a functioning farm, and the process of restoration is going to be long and gradual as we isolate areas of the property, one by one, to be restored (re-instating the swamps) and/or revegetated. We'd been waiting for the summer heat to pass and water levels to drop enough to enable us to enclose the previously unfenced western side of the swamp and allow Mt Burr Swamp (and a buffer zone around it) to become our first active restoration site on the property to have grazing excluded.

Thanks to the efforts of a group of NGT staff and some of our finest volunteers, the main wetland at Mt Burr Swamp was made free of livestock grazing in autumn 2017 – for the first time in over 60 years. A huge thanks to the following volunteers: Neil and Helen Ellison for knocking in the posts, and Andy Lines, Roger Black and Fred Aslin (L-R in image below), along with NGT's Bryan Haywood and Jonathan Tuck, for setting up the wires.

What a great team effort!

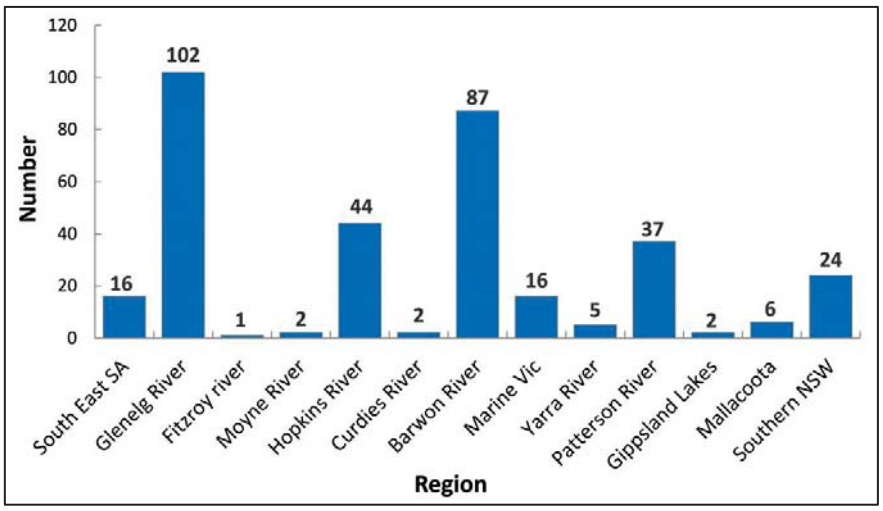
Part of the dedicated Mt Burr Swamp volunteer fencing crew – Andy Lines, Roger Black and Fred Aslin.

2.4 Mulloway research update

In October 2016, NGT's Lauren Veale had the opportunity to travel to Hobart and speak about our mulloway citizen science project at the Australian Society for Fish Biology Conference. It was a great chance for her to share some research results and highlight the important role of citizen science in fisheries research.

Lauren talking to scientists and anglers at the annual Australian Society for Fish Biology Conference in Hobart.

The mulloway citizen science project is funded by a grant from the Victorian Government (through revenue from Recreational Fishing Licences) to improve recreational fishing in Victoria. Since the project began in late 2014, over 65 anglers have been involved in the research and have collectively donated over 320 frames across Victoria. The involvement of anglers is helping us learn more about the species biology, with specific focus on their age structures, growth rates and reproductive characteristics. We have also been collecting genetic samples to look at stock structures of mulloway across Victoria, NSW and SA which will guide future management decisions.



Numbers of mulloway frames donated by anglers across regions of Victoria

We are continuing to urge anglers to be a part of the program by donating the frames of mulloway they catch to Nature Glenelg Trust.

Local angler Shane Lowry, with a mulloway caught last year which he donated to the citizen science program.

The past 12-18 months has seen some excellent rainfall across our region, with estuaries remaining well and truly open and making conditions favourable for mulloway fishing. It will be interesting to see what influence these conditions have on the recruitment and growth rates of mulloway.

The Glenelg River estuary following significant rainfall.

2.5 New habitats recorded for the Western Swamp Crayfish in the Southern Grampians

In May 2017, NGT's Lachlan Farrington and Lauren Veale ventured out to conduct some snap shot fish surveys in two recently restored wetlands near Dunkeld – Green Swamp and Brady Swamp. Brady swamp is part of a wider wetland complex along the Wannon River, while Green Swamp is a more isolated wetland, nearby to the east. Following our recent restoration works at both sites and last year's high rainfall, these two important swamps have retained water over the summer.

Brady Swamp (top) and Green Swamp (bottom).

At Brady Swamp, small numbers of Southern Pygmy Perch (*Nannoperca australis*) and mountain galaxias (*Galaxias olidus*) were caught, along with a couple of Common Yabbies (*Cherax destructor*). It appears likely that most natives utilised the wetland habitat for spawning late last year and subsequently moved further downstream along the Wannon River, capitalising on the extended connectivity.

After hauling the nets, a nearby dam along the northern edge of Brady Swamp that still contained water was also surveyed. Despite the lack of habitat, Lauren and Lachie were excited to find almost 40 Western Swamp Crayfish (*Gramastacus insolitus*) in the seine net. The unassuming dam is clearly a

significant refuge site for Western Swamp Crayfish, probably owing to the low salinity.

Western swamp crayfish

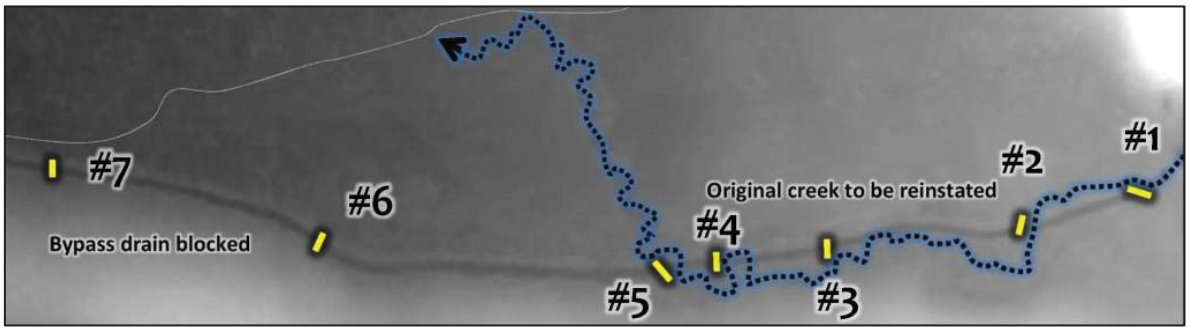
Key refuge site for Western swamp crayfish (left) along the northern edge of Brady Swamp. Males are easily distinguished by the presence of large, uncalcified genital papilla (right).

At Green Swamp, small numbers of Carp Gudgeon (*Hypseleotris klunzingeri*) were caught in the fyke nets, along with some large Common Yabby (*Cherax destructor*). As the catch was sorted from the last net, a single male Western Swamp Crayfish was also discovered. This significant finding further increases our growing knowledge of the ecological value of Green Swamp, which we now know supports two threatened species, the Growling Grass Frog (*Litoria raniformis*) and Western Swamp Crayfish (*Gramastacus insolitus*).

2.6 Implementing restoration work at Glenshera Swamp, Stipiturus Conservation Park

It in March 2016, NGT completed the restoration feasibility assessment for Glenshera Swamp in Stipiturus Conservation Park, and 12 months later that planning was turned into the first stages of on-ground action. Thanks in particular to the Fleurieu Swamps Green Army crew (led by Doreen Marchesan of Conservation Volunteers Australia, as part of a Green Army program supported by the Conservation Council of SA's Fleurieu Swamps Team) and a range of other dedicated helpers at different times throughout April 2016, NGT successfully installed a series of eight regulating structures along the main artificial drain as it passes through Stipiturus CP.

The location of the structures in relation to the artificial drain and the alignment of the original creekline above Glenshera Swamp are shown below:



Location of the first 7 (of 8) restoration structures, superimposed on the Digital Elevation Model for the Park, showing their intended function to either (a) reinstate the creek line meanders (#1 to #5), or (b) block the artificial bypass drain (#6 to #8).

Meanwhile, some corresponding works completed on the private property next door (downstream of the Park) are having some immediate positive effects on the hydrology of a previously drained and dehydrated area of peat wetland. Unlike the seasonal creek that supplies Glenshera Swamp in the Park with surface flows, this downstream area receives a permanent trickle of groundwater discharge, which led to our restoration works having some immediate and very visual results, as can be seen below.

Immediate impact of works on private property downstream of Stipiturus CP –
These before and after photos are taken 2 weeks apart

This project is a great example of the positive things that can be achieved when people work together on both public and private land, to improve the water management of threatened Fleurieu Swamps and is a credit to everyone that has been involved so far.

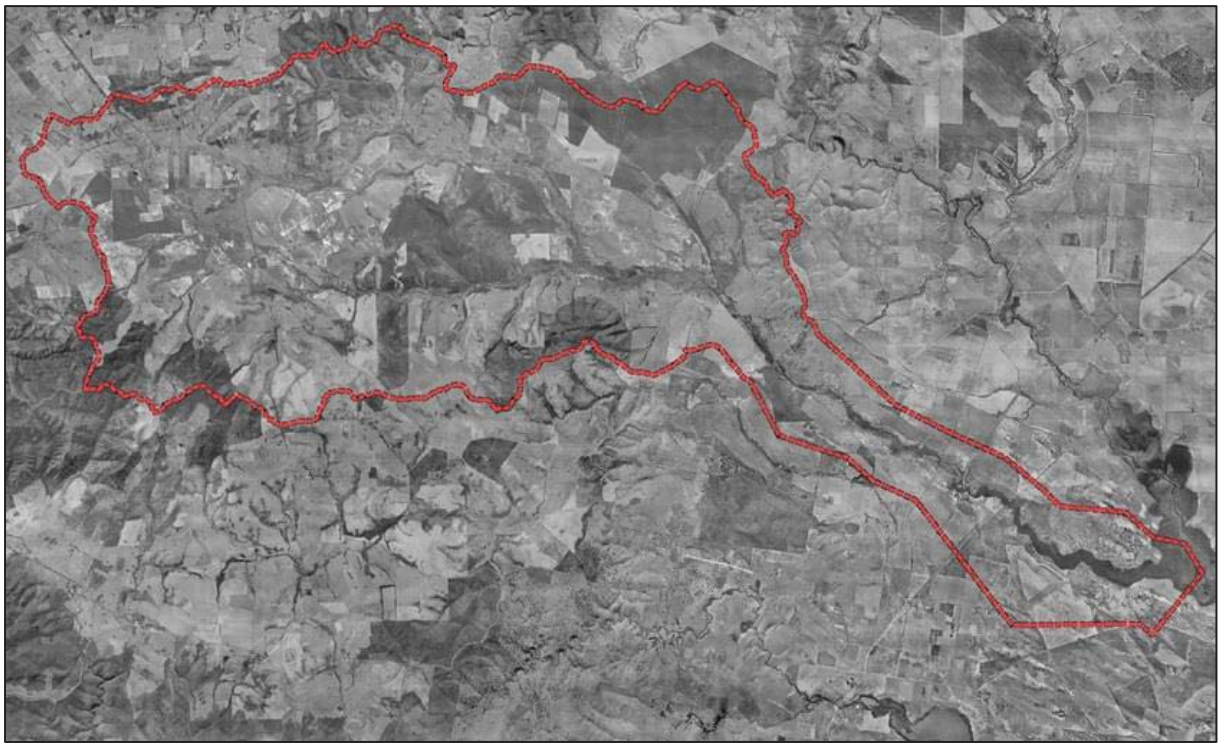
2.7 Restoration planning at Hesperilla Conservation Park and the Tookayerta Catchment

On the 4th of December 2016 at Mt Compass, NGT staff spent a fantastic few hours with 30 people who represented a diverse cross-section of the local community from in and around the Tookayerta Catchment (on the Fleurieu Peninsula south of Adelaide).

In the time allocated for presentations, we covered a lot of ground.

As well as taking people on a journey to learn about some past NGT wetland restoration sites in other regions to get a feel for the logic and tools of wetland restoration, we also had a closer look at two case studies in the Fleurieu Peninsula on public land where we are currently investigating restoration options – Glenshera Swamp (Stipiturus CP) and Square Waterhole Swamp (Hesperilla CP).

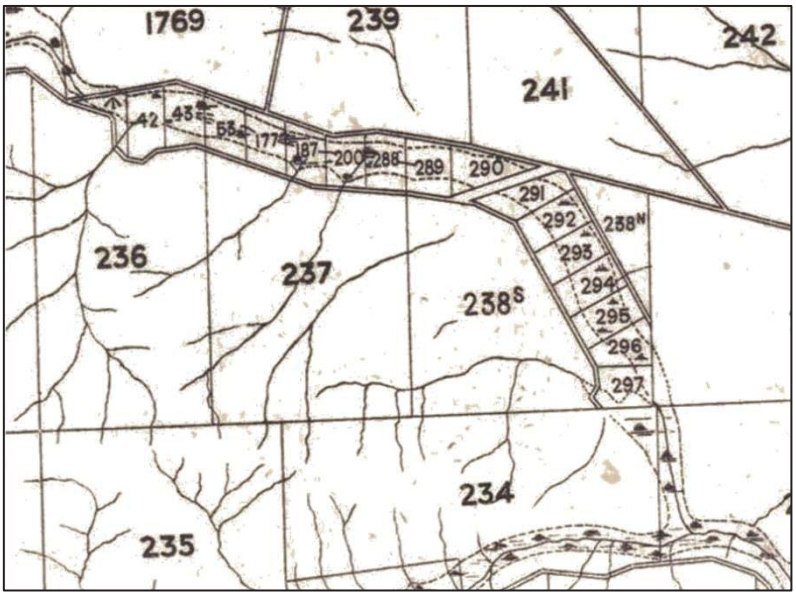
Then it was on to the main event, and a discussion about the Tookayerta Catchment – the focal area for this project that is looking to identify any areas where the right ingredients might exist for improving water management for selected Fleurieu Swamps in the future. In case you are wondering, those ingredients are (just to name a few) things like topography, water availability, biodiversity values and – most importantly – community support.



First aerial view of the Tookayerta Catchment in the 1940s

To help get people thinking, we shared a snapshot of the history and pattern of development in the region from settlement until the 1940s, before reveiwing exactly what has unfolded on the ground from the time of the first aerial photography (see above) until the present. In a complex catchment like this, we think it is really important to try to understand (and share) the history, nature, legacy of and reasons for the change we see in the landscape before we get to the job of considering or designing solutions.

In fact, as people who were there will tell you, it is no accident that Fleurieu Swamps in this area are now so threatened – the pattern of development (and its layout/design) that unfolded from the 1890s actually made this inevitable, as shown below.



The Nangkita settlement, which started during the early 1890s depression (in 1894 to be precise), deliberately targeted (and immediately drained) the swamps along the valley after the government surveyed a series a series of small, intensive "market gardening size" allotments in 1890. At this time, prior to the era of super-phosphate and sub-clover, the surrounding sandy soils on the higher ground weren't considered suitable for "improvement".

So to sum up, at present, a big part of getting our understanding right is making sure we talk to the people who live on the land and capture their thoughts, concerns and ideas right at the beginning of a project like this. Based on the excellent questions and really productive discussions over our BBQ lunch afterwards, we were off to a good start.

Special thanks to Nicola Barnes and others at Natural Resources – SA Murray Darling-Basin for supporting this new and innovative project, and to the Mount Compass War Memorial Community Centre for providing us with a perfect venue.

An excellent cross-section of the community came along to the Tookayerta Catchment session on Sunday the 4th of December

2.8 NGT's Mark Bachmann wins the 2016 Jill Hudson Award for Environmental Protection

For Mark to be named as the winner of this award in November 2016, after being recommended by Associate Professor David Paton (of the University of Adelaide and BioR), someone he had long admired and respected for his passion, energy and commitment to the environment in SA, was an incredible honour.

The award was in recognition of Mark's personal and professional efforts for nature conservation and wetland restoration over the past two decades in the South East of SA, culminating with the recent purchase and restoration of Mt Burr Swamp.

Based on the dedication and reputation of the late Jill Hudson, as relayed by someone who knew her in the audience, Mark was especially proud to have received this award established in her memory.

Thanks to the CCSA for hosting a wonderful evening with a great atmosphere and sense of shared celebration.

Nadia McLaren - President of the Conservation Council of SA, presents Mark Bachmann with the 2016 Jill Hudson Award for Environmental Protection in SA

2.9 Strategic influence on public policy: the restoration of Tilley Swamp

The South East Flows Restoration project is about restoring historic flows from the South East back to the Coorong, via Tilley Swamp (inland of the coast, north of Kingston), and has been under development for several years since 2007. The project is largely funded by the Australian Government, with SA Government support, and is being delivered by the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR) and Natural Resources South East.

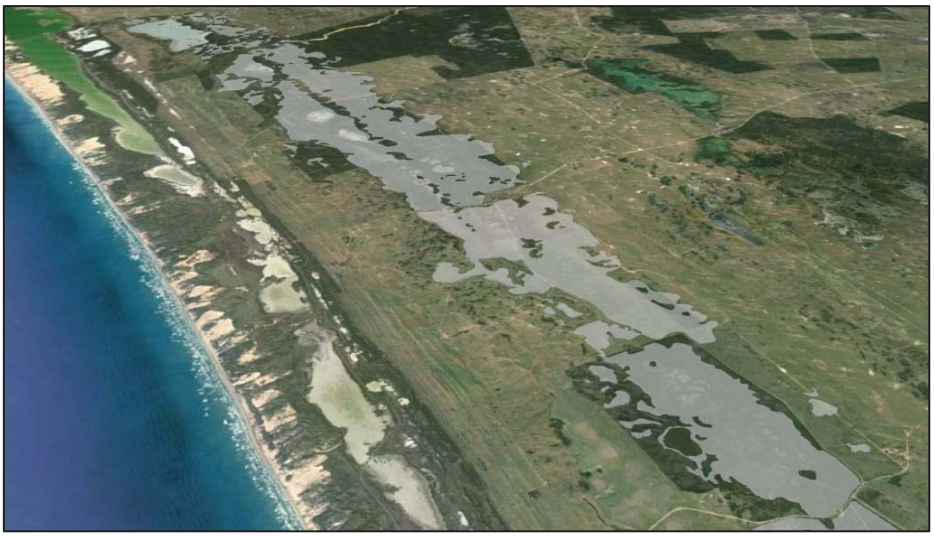
For much of the past three years, it looked like the project was not going to be able to restore wetlands *en route* to the Coorong, which would have been a real shame for Upper South East wetlands that have been starved of flows for several decades since major arterial drains to the sea (like Blackford Drain) were built several decades ago.

NGT has played an active role in helping to shape the destiny of this project, among other things, by contributing to a community discussion about alternative options that would have the best possible environmental impact. Those discussions are summarised in these two posts on the NGT website:

- Post 1 – Let's Talk About the SE Flows Restoration Project
- Post 2 – Exploring the link between Upper SE Wetlands and the Coorong

With this background in mind, NGT was absolutely delighted with the news announced on the 11th of September 2016 by the Minister for the Environment in SA, Ian Hunter, that Tilley Swamp would be restored as part of this major environmental project. The updated plans for the project are largely based on the watercourse option detailed in the first NGT discussion paper that was publicly released in December 2014 (see Post 1 above). Given that this means four to five thousand hectares of wetlands in Tilley Swamp will now be restored as part of the project, this is extremely positive news for our region.

NGT wishes to express our sincere thanks to the landowners, Department for Environment, Water and Natural Resources staff, and community members who have done a fantastic job of working together to deliver a great result for Upper South East wetlands and the Coorong.



Much of this shaded area will once again be inundated as wetlands thanks to the announcement that Tilley Swamp will be restored, as part of the South East Flows Restoration Project.

2.10 NGT takes part in an inspiring day of restoration case studies in Sydney

On the 21st of July 2016, NGT's Mark Bachmann was privileged to be one of 14 speakers from around Australia who were invited to share their restoration success stories. The occasion was the launch of the National Standards for the Practice of Ecological Restoration in Australia, and the 30th Anniversary of AABR (the Australian Association of Bush Regenerators).

The day was tremendously inspiring for one key reason: **these were all stories of hope.**

These were all stories of people getting on with practical action, testing new and creative ideas, and ultimately finding solutions to overcome the inevitable challenges. No-one was deterred by obstacles or dwelt on the negatives, which is significant because – as we all know – this can be a common phenomenon at times in the environment sector.

This 'can-do' attitude was represented by talks that shared examples of ecological restoration success across terrestrial and wetland environments, riparian and river environments, islands pursuing lofty eradication goals and even crayweed forest restoration in the near shore marine environment.

Crayweed underwater forest restoration off the NSW coast – an inspiring story of marine revegetation triggering a self-sustaining process of natural regeneration and recolonisation

Mark told the story of wetland restoration from the Discovery Bay coast in SA and Victoria (restoration stories of Long Swamp and Piccaninnie Ponds) to a largely new audience, not so familiar with our part of the continent. If you are interested to learn more, you can see an overview in this pdf summary brochure, or watch the video of the recorded presentation here at the AABR Regen TV Website.

Thanks to Tein McDonald from AABR for organising a fantastic event which was attended by around 300 people from all around the country, and to everyone involved for making the forum an extremely rewarding experience.

2.11 Eaglehawk Waterhole Restoration Reserve update

Water, wetlands, and wildflowers

It was a fabulous winter-spring season in 2016, with every low point at Eaglehawk Waterhole inundated this year, whether it be overnight, for a few days, or many months. NGT's property manager Bryan Haywood recalls the previous owner stating how many years ago each spring there would be 6 inches of water over the flats. Although we didn't completely achieve that outcome, this past observation is now much easier to comprehend and visualise.

Eaglehawk Waterhole wetland wildflowers in October

Andy Line, our on-site caretaker, had his camp inundated on several occasions, necessitating temporary relocation. Almost every dam was filled to the brim, especially those which are linked to a large wet flat/watercourse area. The seasonal herbaceous wetlands and grassy wet woodland flora loved the conditions. The Tatiara Pea (*Swainsona procumbens*) was out like we'd never seen it before, and of course the Wood Ducks made the most of the season hatching out a few ducklings.

One unfortunate consequence with dams is they actually acted like drains on the wet flats/watercourses, so NGT began investigating options to remedy that for a few of the better quality watercourses in the hope of holding up more water in the wetlands and on the watercourses rather than aiming to fill the dams. We don't run livestock so the dams are no longer required, although having watering points for wildlife is still of consideration.

Fence removal

Only three years since the property was purchased by NGT and all the unnecessary internal fences on the property are now removed. Not just the old ones, but the newer ones too. This massive effort by the fencing crew was led by our tireless volunteer Fred Aslin over the past 2 years.

Pulling down of the old fences started February 2015 and was completed in April 2015. Due to cuts in a newer fence having already been made for rabbit control (May 2015), it was decided that selected

portions of the newer fence could now be pulled down. Hence, it was necessary to invent a method of rolling the plain wire as it was clearly reusable.

Rolling wire so it can be re-used and removing of the pine posts using large jacks (Photos by Jeanette Aslin)

Trips from 2-5 of October 2015 saw the commencement of this process, which was continued on 12-16 March 2016, 22-24 April 2016, 11-14 June 2016, 27-28 August 2016, 2 September 2016, 4-5 November 2016, 26-31 December 2016. This work was only interrupted by the need to pull down & roll up the southern boundary fence. This project was completed on 31 Dec 2016 with the removal of the last pine posts.

Workers involved at various stages were – Fred & Jeanette Aslin, Dave Lawson, Andy Lines – who made a major contribution with & without Mt Gambier crew, Rob (Andy's Stepson), Glen Bowman, Rod Lockwood, Amber Masterman, Regan Smith, Steven Kennedy and Brayden Beare.

We intend to re-use the second hand materials at Mt Burr Swamp and other NGT conservation projects in the future.

Landscape Links Update (via Cassia Hlava, DEWNR / Natural Resources SE)

The Natural Resources SE Landscape Links revegetation (the area out the front/road side of the property) is booming after a much needed winter spring rain. Many of the species planted in 2014 and 2015 have flowered recently including: Running Postman, Heath Tea-tree, Myrtle Wattle, Chocolate Lily, and Muntries. Recruitment is a key indicator of revegetation success and we hope to see seedlings of these species popping up in the near future.

Natural regeneration from the soil-stored seed bank is continuing nicely, with less common species such as Leafy Templetonia, Creamy Candles and Eutaxia appearing in SA Blue Gum woodland within the corridor area. Managing Perennial Veldt grass is a key challenge in successful restoration of these important grassy woodland habitats.

The annual Bangham bird monitoring was once again held at Eaglehawk Waterhole in early November 2016. During the weekend, Cassie spotted a White-throated Gerygone which is both a rare visitor to the South East of SA and a new bird species record for the reserve.

Weed control in Blue Gum woodlands

NGT's Sam Rothe and Andy Lines spent several days spraying Phalaris, Paterson's Curse, and thistles out in various areas to improve the quality of the woodlands and capitalising on previous effort. It was great to see the yellowing leaves of dying weeds dotted throughout the property on my occasional visits. Introduced Olive and Cootamundra Wattle were also not spared with several cut down during this period including in the neighbouring property's Heritage Agreement which was a potential source for spreading further out into the bush on Eaglehawk.

Insect diversity

Ants have been surveyed by John Samuel-White, Andy, and Bryan over the past 2 years which has resulted in a large species list for the property. One in particular is of interest to the SA Museum as it is apparently a new discovery for SA. We were hopeful of finding a very rare butterfly called the Fiery Jewel, as its food plant is common on the property. On 6 December, Andy and Bryan managed to find them, along with the Pale Sun-moth and Large skipper (*Motasingha trimaculata*), contributing to a brilliant season for native insects.

Fiery Jewel (Hypochrysops ignita), a rare butterfly gem of the Bangham district – note the bright red in the underwing. Seen in ecotone Stringybark with Blue Gum habitat.

Revegetation health checks

Survivorship in the 20 Million Trees 70 hectare revegetation area (out the back of the property), was checked back in early November 2016. Over 1000 plants were counted, and with over 99% alive and well – a great result.

A final reminder that Eaglehawk is available to NGT supporters to enjoy! If you'd like to visit, either as a day trip or to camp, please get in touch with us to arrange access. A roadside marker sign was recently installed at the site so you should be able to find the property easily.

2.12 A perspective from a Graduate Ecologist Intern

By Liam Turner

What can I say? My five months at NGT (from April – August 2016) went by at a blistering pace. It was not long ago that I was in another country trying to figure out what I'd be doing in 2016. And then came the internship offer from Mark Bachmann for 2016 with NGT – and I couldn't have been happier, as it eased some anxiety about what to do next!

Rolling up my sleeves and undertaking a plethora of research and conservation activities in south-west Victoria, north-east Victoria, south-east South Australia and even small parts of New South Wales along the upper and mid reaches of the Murray River, has been a truly educational and enriching experience. This was made even better by the knowledgeable and passionate NGT ecologist supervisors that I was lucky enough to have alongside me.

The various research and conservation projects I helped work on as an intern included:

- Wetland restoration on private farming and plantation properties
- East and West Mount Lofty Ranges fish monitoring and Murray hardy-head translocations
- Dwarf Galaxias fish monitoring of the Wannon catchment in the Grampians
- The 2016 round of fish monitoring for Long Swamp
- Cray net making for Murray Crayfish research (constructing 30 from scratch!)
- Variegated Pygmy Perch sampling in the karst rising springs of SE South Australia
- Narrawong swamp scrub restoration
- A day doing Southern Brown Bandicoot digging abundance surveys
- Glenelg Freshwater Mussel and fish sampling in Glenaulin Creek (Glenelg river catchment)
- Revegetation work at Eaglehawk Waterhole as part of the 20 Million Trees Programme
- Long-term monitoring of the Murray Crayfish in NE Victoria, in the Mitta Mitta, King, Ovens and Murray Rivers.

Having been lucky enough to travel to all of these amazing places to learn about their aquatic and terrestrial flora and fauna and the threats they face, as well as to help contribute to the conservation and protection of these species has truly been an experience I hold with great pride and won't forget.

Thank you to everybody at NGT who I worked alongside throughout this experience, especially my supervisors: Lachlan Farrington, Lauren Veale and Nick Whiterod.

RIGHT: Liam Turner measuring a Murray Crayfish

3. Plans for the 2017-18 Financial Year

3.1 Strive to be universally viewed as leaders in restoration ecology in south-eastern Australia

Nature Glenelg Trust has already had considerable success delivering a wide range of projects over the organisation's first five years. However, consistent with having an organisational emphasis on restoration and threatened species ecology, we continue to strive to be universally viewed by current and future project partners as leaders in these fields in south-eastern Australia.

Goal: Increase the geographic reach and effectiveness of NGT's restoration activities in south-eastern Australia, based on the ecological expertise and commitment of our staff, volunteers and supporters.

3.2 Continue a focus on high quality research and monitoring to inform conservation management

An important element of our organisation's work has been an ability to initiate and participate in scientific research and monitoring that provides information to better conserve and manage aquatic species and ecosystems. Each year, a number of scientific publications have been produced and used to assist conservation and fisheries managers. We believe that greater opportunities exist in the future to robustly document the outcomes of restoration actions as well as continue to conduct research on key aquatic species.

Goal: Continue to produce scientific publications and foster new research collaborations

3.3 Build lasting partnerships within our focal region

Further to the previous goals, NGT will seek to build on our reputation and credibility in the sector to form longer term partnerships with any individuals or organisations who may want to support our work. This will enable NGT to continue to explore different pathways for achieving environmental results.

Goal: Forge new partnerships to achieve positive on ground results

3.4 Establish a strategic habitat restoration demonstration site in western Victoria

The successful purchase of Eaglehawk Waterhole (2013) and Mt Burr Swamp (2016) as NGT *Habitat Restoration Reserves* is a perfect illustration of NGT's mission to provide a small number of strategic demonstration sites situated across our focal region.

Securing a site that requires property-scale wetland (hydrological) restoration works in a strategic location for wider conservation benefit in western Victoria is NGT's currently identified priority.

Goal: To establish a Habitat Restoration Reserve in western Victoria over the next 2 years.

3.5 Create an endowment fund to underpin NGT's long term land management commitments

Nature Glenelg Trust's Habitat Restoration Fund was accepted onto the Register of Environmental Organisations on the 15th of April 2014. This makes NGT a Deductible Gift Recipient under Australian taxation law, with donations over $2 eligible for a tax deduction.

Beyond seeking donations for specific causes (e.g. Mt Burr Swamp in 2016), it is now a priority for NGT to establish an endowment fund (or Foundation), in which the capital amount invested will be perpetually preserved, to generate a secure, recurrent funding stream from the annual interest earned. This funding would (at a point in the future, when the preserved amount is sufficient) to underpin NGT's ability to manage our existing Habitat Restoration Reserves, and enable us to replicate this activity when required in the future.

The Tasmanian Land Conservancy model for setting this up is considered an ideal template that is similar to NGT's requirements, and they have kindly offered to share their experiences and contacts, providing NGT with guidance, advice and support.

Goal: To establish a Nature Glenelg Trust endowment fund, to underpin long-term land management commitments on our Habitat Restoration Reserves, over the next 12 months.

3.6 Provide interesting practical opportunities for ecology graduates and volunteers

Nature Glenelg Trust is proud to be creating regular opportunities for our staff, recent graduates (as interns) and volunteers to develop and build their ecological expertise through their work with NGT. With changes to the tertiary education sector and its teaching methods, providing opportunities to gain this hands-on ecological experience is a key service NGT can provide for the community, while also adding significant value to our work. This will continue to be a focus for the next 12 months.

Goal: To continue to provide practical learning opportunities for ecology graduates and volunteers

3.7 Explore new and innovative ways to add value to our operations

NGT is a small and dynamic operation that is at the mercy of the range of economic forces that shape the environmental sector on a regular basis. Government funding sources, such as grants, are notoriously unpredictable and make longer term planning difficult. Hence NGT will continue to explore options for value adding to and diversifying our operations to improve our longer term financial security and viability.

Goal: To explore new and innovative ways to add value to our operations

4. Employee Statistics

Nature Glenelg Trust employed a total of twelve full-time or part-time staff throughout the 2016-17 financial year, and a further eighteen staff on a casual basis.

Eleven of these full-time or part-time staff remained in active service at 30th June 2017:

1. Mark Bachmann (Manager / Principal Ecologist)
2. Jessica Bourchier (Administration Support and Project Ecologist)
3. Lachlan Farrington (Senior Wetland and Landscape Ecologist)
4. Bryan Haywood (Senior Ecologist)
5. Lauren Kivisalu (Project Ecologist)
6. Nicole Mojonnier (Graduate Ecologist)
7. Ben Taylor (Senior Wetland Ecologist)
8. Rose Thompson (Project Ecologist)
9. Jonathan Tuck (Ecologist and Project Logistics)
10. Lauren Veale (Aquatic Ecologist)
11. Nicholas Whiterod (Senior Aquatic Ecologist)

5. Membership

As a duly constituted fixed trust, Nature Glenelg Trust does not have its own financial membership base. As a charitable NGO committed to filling gaps, we are specifically interested in using our expertise to work with (not compete with) other membership-based community groups to increase their effectiveness, and ultimately help them to retain and attract members. We also hope to provide regular and meaningful volunteering opportunities for these groups' members (and the wider community) through participation in our projects.

Nature Glenelg Trust is listed on the Register of Environmental Organisations, enabling the organisation to seek tax-deductible financial contributions to our Public Fund. Supporters of Nature Glenelg Trust are also encouraged to register their email address on our website (www.natureglenelg.org.au) to receive regular updates on our projects and organisational activities.

The Board of the Trustee for Nature Glenelg Trust, currently has six voting members:

1. Mark Bachmann
2. Catherine Dickson
3. Lachlan Farrington
4. Michael Hammer
5. Melissa Herpich
6. Nicholas Whiterod

At present, the members of the Trustee for Nature Glenelg Trust, also comprise the organisation's Committee of Management, which meets 3-4 times a year to oversee the strategic direction of the organisation, and are legally accountable for the administration of the Public Fund (the Habitat Restoration Fund).

6. FINANCIAL STATEMENT

NATURE GLENELG PTY LTD T/A NATURE GLENELG TRUST

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30th JUNE 2017

	Note	2017 $	2016 $
Revenue			
Sales		1,981,118	1,741,087
Administration Fees		101,769	128,232
Donations		117,201	175,095
Direct Grants		663,140	-
Other Income		62,649	151,087
Total Revenue		**2,925,877**	**2,195,501**
Less			
Expenses			
Cost of Goods Sold		409,696	858,602
Employee benefits expense		800,466	798,064
Other expenses		196,897	159,669
Total expenses		**1,407,059**	**1,816,335**
Net surplus for the Year		**1,518,818**	**379,166**
Other comprehensive income		-	-
Total comprehensive income		**1,518,818**	**379,166**

NATURE GLENELG PTY LTD T/A NATURE GLENELG TRUST

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AS AT 30th JUNE 2017

	Note	2017 $	2016 $
Current Assets			
Cash and Cash Equivalents		1,889,173	1,483,681
Receivables	2.	126,706	213,114
Inventories	3.	644,449	583,245
Total Current Assets		**2,660,328**	**2,280,040**
Non Current Assets			
Property Plant and Equipment	4.	2,412,185	722,002
Total Non Current Assets		**2,412,185**	**722,002**
Total Assets		**5,072,513**	**3,002,042**
Current Liabilities			
Trade Creditors and Other Payables	5.	1,887,789	1,615,983
Provisions	7.	247,972	216,478
Total Current Liabilities		**2,135,761**	**1,832,461**
Non Current Liabilities			
Interest Bearing Liabilities	6.	243,396	-
Provisions	7.	59,711	54,754
Total Non Current Liabilities		**303,107**	**54,754**
Total Liabilities		**2,438,868**	**1,887,215**
Net Assets		**2,633,645**	**1,114,827**
Equity			
Issued Shares & Settled Sum		396	396
Retained Surplus		2,633,249	1,114,431
Total Equity		**2,633,645**	**1,114,827**

NATURE GLENELG PTY LTD T/A NATURE GLENELG TRUST

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY
AS AT 30th JUNE 2017

	Retained Earnings	Issued Shares $386 Settled Sum $10	Total Equity
2016			
Balance as at 1st July 2015	735,265	396	735,661
Total Comprehensive Income for the Period	379,166	-	379,166
Balance as at 30th June 2016	**1,114,431**	**396**	**1,114,827**

	Retained Earnings	Issued Shares $386 Settled Sum $10	Total Equity
2017			
Balance as at 1st July 2016	1,114,431	396	1,114,827
Total Comprehensive Income for the Period	1,518,818	-	1,518,818
Balance as at 30th June 2017	**2,633,249**	**396**	**2,633,645**

NATURE GLENELG PTY LTD T/A NATURE GLENELG TRUST

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
AS AT 30th JUNE 2017

	Note	2017 $	2016 $
Cash Flow from Operating Activities			
Receipts from			
Donations and Gifts		117,201	175,095
Government/Other Grants & Income		2,876,123	1,455,969
Interest		18,961	22,304
Payments to			
Suppliers and Employees		(1,132,733)	(971,930)
Interest paid		(9,279)	-
Net cash flow from operating activities		**1,870,273**	**681,438**
Cash Flows from Investing Activities			
Purchase of Property Plant & Equipment		(1,708,177)	(186,097)
Net cash flow from investing activities		**(1,708,177)**	**(186,097)**
Cash Flow from Financing Activities			
Proceeds from interest bearing liabilities		246,000	-
Repayment of interest bearing liabilities		(2,604)	-
Net cash flow from financing activities		**243,396**	**-**
Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		**405,492**	**495,341**
Cash and Cash Equivalents at the beginning of the year		1,483,681	988,340
Cash and Cash Equivalents at the end of the year		**1,889,173**	**1,483,681**

Reconciliation of Net Surplus for the year to net Cash Flows from Operations		
Net Surplus for the year	**1,518,818**	**379,166**
Depreciation Expense	17,994	19,323
(Increase)/Decrease in Inventories	(61,204)	281,283
(Increase)/Decrease in Receivables	86,408	(48,444)
Increase/(Decrease) in Provisions	36,451	70,485
Increase/(Decrease) in Trade Creditors	271,806	(20,375)
Net Cash Flow from Operations	**1,870,273**	**681,438**

NATURE GLENELG PTY LTD T/A NATURE GLENELG TRUST

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30TH JUNE 2017

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial report of Nature Glenelg Pty Ltd T/A Nature Glenelg Trust (the "entity"), which comprises the Statement of Financial Position as at 30th June 2017, Statement of Comprehensive Income, Statement of Changes in Equity and Statement of Cash Flows for the period then ended, Notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information and the Directors' Declaration of the entity. In our opinion, the financial report presents fairly the financial position of the Nature Glenelg Pty Ltd T/A Nature Glenelg Trust. as at 30th June 2017 and the results of its operations for the year then ended and complies with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Report section of our report. We are independent of the entity in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the report in Australia, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with that Code. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Responsibilities of Management for the Report

Management is responsible for preparation and fair presentation of the report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1. This includes determining that the above basis is an acceptable basis for the preparation of the report in the circumstances, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of a report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the report, management is responsible for assessing the entity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the entity or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this report. As part of an audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit.

We identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud

may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

When applicable we obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control.

Where appropriate we conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion.

Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the entity to cease to continue as a going concern.

We evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates, if any, and related disclosures made by management. We also evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the report, including the disclosures, and whether the report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We will, where appropriate, communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Christopher Clarke
Partner
Clarke & Brownrigg
Chartered Accountants

Dated in Adelaide this 10th day of November 2017