



LOCAL RESTORATION PROJECT TAKES FLIGHT

THE recent creation of Walker Swamp Restoration Reserve was celebrated by over 100 project supporters and Nature Glenelg Staff on Sunday.

The day began with speeches that recognised Nature Glenelg Trust's (NGT) major partnerships with the Hamilton Field Naturalists Club and Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority (GHCMA) that helped get the concept off the ground, along with subsequent support of grants from the Victorian Government and donations from the public.

The campaign has successfully raised over \$96,000 since June, towards land purchase costs. As a result of this funding, NGT will now begin the process of restoring wetlands across the 1000

acre Wannon River floodplain property owned by the Trust.

Participants were educated about the history of the site, the restoration trial that started in 2014, recent works and the plans for restoration which will now unfold.

They also had the opportunity to learn about the waterbugs of Walker Swamp and do some bird watching using a spotting scope.

A barbecue lunch provided by the Willaura Lions Club was then followed by a fantastic acoustic performance by Neil Murray.

After the official part of the day concluded, a group of 35 dedicated attendees went on a six-kilometre hike to explore the site in more detail and take in the views across Brady Swamp,

Gooseneck Swamp and the neighbouring Grampians National Park.

NGT manager, Mark Bachmann, said the day was a great success and is thrilled that the project has now taken off.

"After a long and complex four year journey to get to this point, this ambitious restoration project is now underway," Mr Bachmann said.

"The event on Sunday was a great way to recognise the efforts and contributions of so many people that have helped us work towards this goal."

NGT's project manager, Greg Kerr, has invited the community to be actively involved in the future of the property.

"Sunday marked the first stage of a longer,

exciting journey that now begins as we restore the wetlands of Walker Swamp over the years ahead and encourage the wildlife to return," he said.

"As the restoration process unfolds, there will be many opportunities for local volunteers to get involved in practical activities and the environmental monitoring that will help us measure the environmental response to restoration."

For further details or to make a tax-deductible donation please visit: www.ngt.org.au, email donations@ngt.org.au or call Jess Bourchier in the NGT regional office on 0428 217 249.



SENIOR Ecologist, Greg Kerr, Dunkeld, discusses the restoration plan for Walker Swamp. Photo: SUPPLIED.