

Nature Glenelg Pty Ltd
[ACN: 153 577 907]

as Trustee for



ABN: 23 917 949 584

Annual Report: 2020-21 Financial Year

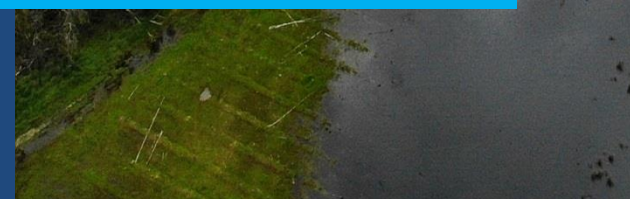


Table of Contents

MESSAGE FROM OUR MANAGING DIRECTOR / FOUNDER	3
ORGANISATIONAL PURPOSE	4
DIRECTORS REPORT	5
1. Summary of the year's activities.....	5
1.1 Project work overview	5
1.2 Grant funded project work	5
1.3 Environmental consulting project work.....	5
2. Achievements: Case studies from across the NGT focal region.....	6
2.1 NGT Reserves Updates.....	6
2.2 An NGT Volunteering Story.....	25
2.3 Volunteers gather at Walker Swamp for new Citizen Science project	27
2.4 Finding the forgotten grasslands of South East SA	28
2.5 Fish 'back from the dead' – and now they are breeding!	31
2.6 NGT and the Glenelg Hopkins CMA – working together for biodiversity outcomes in South West Victoria	32
3. Plans for the 2021-22 Financial Year	33
3.1 Impacts in science, restoration and management.....	33
3.2 Partnerships and Finance.....	34
3.3 Our People	34
3.4 Strategic Review to set NGT up for the future.....	35
4. Employee Statistics.....	36
5. Membership	36
6. FINANCIAL STATEMENT	37

MESSAGE FROM OUR MANAGING DIRECTOR / FOUNDER

This is the 10th Annual Report for Nature Glenelg Trust and, as we rapidly approach the 16th of January 2022, it is hard to believe that this will mark 10 years since we launched the organisation back in 2012. It all started by hitting 'send' on an email to lots of people I had worked with, and yes, I still remember just how daunting that moment was as if it were yesterday!



I look back on the past 10 years with great pride in both our team of wonderful people and achievements, but also immensely grateful that what we have created together now also means so much, to so many people scattered widely across the south-eastern Australian landscape – this landscape we are passionate about and call home. If you would like to get a sense of the reach and impact of our work, please refer to Section 2.

To our financial supporters – we thank you for trusting us to bring your funds to life in our projects. We know you walk alongside us in our achievements, and we look forward to seeing you out in the bush or at a restored wetland in 2021/22.

To our volunteers, who give the precious gift of your time – thank you for your good company, energy and skills. Many of our reserves are the wonderful places you see today because of unpaid time, gifted to NGT by dedicated volunteers.

To the NGT staff – thank you for another big year of working together on these projects which mean so much to us all. NGT staff regularly go 'above and beyond' because they believe deeply in the work, so from myself and the Board – thank you for your passion and commitment.

I hope seeing NGT soon to reach the 10 year milestone brings you all real joy and satisfaction, and genuine excitement for what lies ahead.

Having started NGT literally from scratch, and after 10 years of treating every day like it could be our last, fighting hard to get our new model for a science-based environmental NGO up and running, it is now time for us to reflect, refocus and think about the future. My renewed personal mission is to make sure that NGT can now evolve and operate in a way that is genuinely sustainable; so that we can adequately care for our Reserves, and continue to work with all land managers, Traditional Owners and other partners to retain and restore ecological values across temperate agricultural landscapes. Yes, as we close our 'establishment phase', I believe we have an exciting period ahead.

On that note, I would like to thank both Dr Michael Hammer and Dr Nicholas Whiterod for their service on the NGT Board for the past decade which has now ended. The remaining three original members (Dr Lachlan Farrington, Dr Catherine Dickson and I) will focus on ushering in new members in the near future, and oversee some strategic changes to the way we operate NGT. However, with a period of transformation ahead, I can also assure you that we will not change the nimble, innovative and creative way we tackle our work, nor our down-to-earth, common-sense and logical approach.

We have a fantastic platform to build upon, and we'd love for you to stay with us and be part of the journey ahead – over the next 10 years and beyond.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mark', with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

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 donated funds to support day-to-day operations and administration. In this way, we give supporters the confidence that their donation to our Public Fund will achieve maximum impact in furthering the on-ground environmental objectives (such as habitat restoration and threatened species recovery) 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/CMA regions situated between Melbourne (Victoria) and Adelaide (South Australia), but our work is not limited to this region.

DIRECTORS REPORT

1. Summary of the year's activities

1.1 Project work overview

Nature Glenelg Trust was contracted to deliver and/or commenced a total of 216 projects during the 2020-21 financial year, with 114 of these projects completed by the 30th June 2021. This is a significant increase of both active projects and completions compared to the previous financial year, as a result of COVID-19 induced delays impacting on project delivery timing.

Type of Project Work	Number of Projects Active during 2020-21 Financial Year
Native flora, vegetation management or ecological monitoring	53
Native fish	62
Other fauna	17
Community engagement and education	29
Multi-faceted projects (several types combined) and/or complex project management or advice	10
Wetlands and waterways	45
TOTAL	216

1.2 Grant funded project work

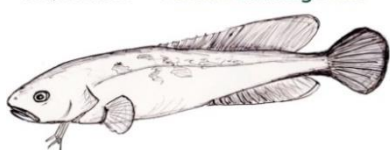
Nature Glenelg Trust was awarded grant funding to commence or continue the delivery of 49 grant funded projects in the 2020-21 financial year. Fifteen grant funded projects were acquitted during the financial year, with the other 34 remaining active into the 2021-22 financial year.

1.3 Environmental consulting project work

Nature Glenelg Trust also continued or commenced 167 contracted environmental fee-for-service projects for a range of clients in the 2020-21 financial year. Ninety-nine (99) of these projects were completed and closed during the financial year, with the balance (68) remaining active into the 2021-22 financial year.

As previously explained, irrespective of whether they are grant funded or contracted professional fee-for-service 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 above in section 1.1.

AQUASAVE - NatureGlenelgTrust



Ecology, Monitoring, Conservation

NGT Consulting



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

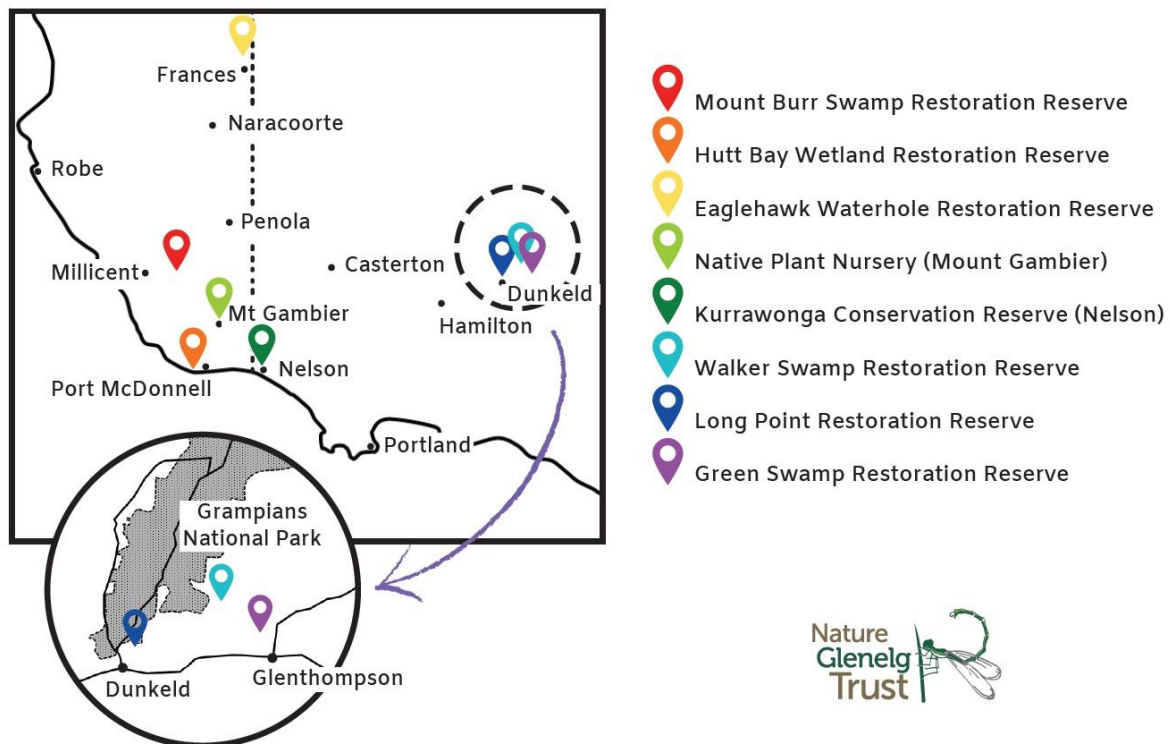
The stories from the past year in this section were told by the following members of our team:

- Mark Bachmann, Managing Director
- Rose Thompson, Project Ecologist
- Lauren Kivisalu, Project Ecologist (currently on extended leave)
- Bryan Haywood, Senior Ecologist
- Sheryl Holliday, Field Officer
- Nicole Mojonner, Coordinator of Education on NGT Reserves (since finished up with NGT)
- Jonathan Tuck, Ecologist
- Lachlan Farrington, Senior Wetland and Landscape Ecologist
- Lily Alvarez, recent University Graduate and NGT Volunteer
- Lauren Brown, Aquatic Ecologist
- Sylvia Zukowski, Aquatic Ecologist

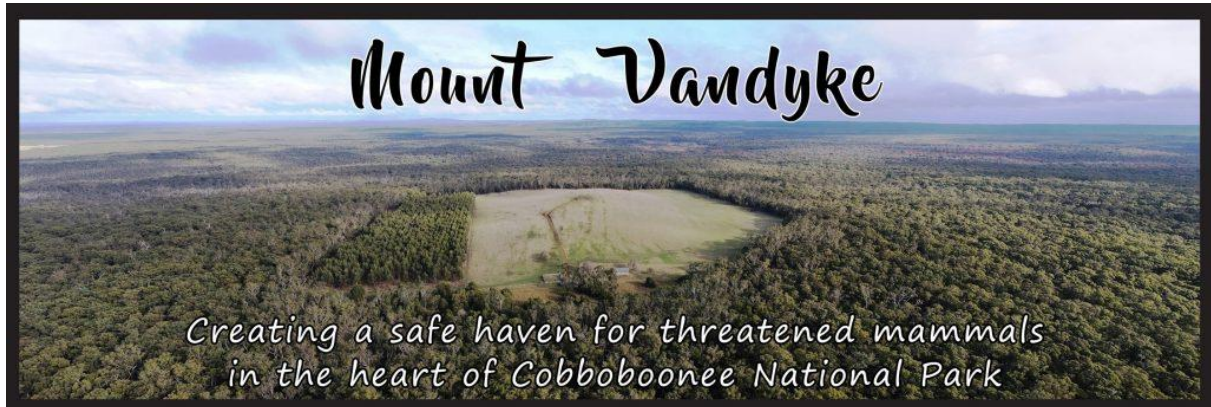
2.1 NGT Reserves Updates

NGT Reserves are located in the cross-border zone between South Australia and Victoria, and encompass woodlands, wetlands, grasslands, dunes and more.

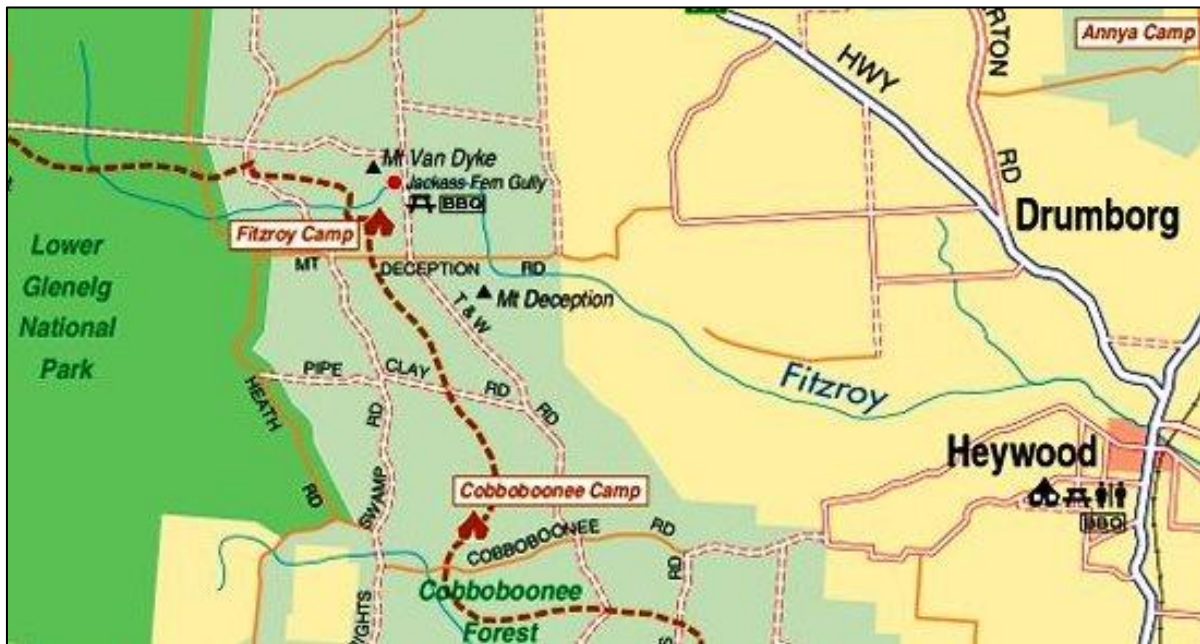
Our properties are made available to members of the community or groups by appointment, for environmental education and research purposes, bushwalking, bird-watching or volunteering (to help us with on-ground works and management).



2.1.1 Announcing Mount Vandyke – NGT’s new restoration trial in the heart of Cobboboonee National Park (by Mark Bachmann, Managing Director)



For anyone who has previously completed stretches of the [Great South West Walk](#) through the Cobboboonee forest, you might recall that not long after you leave the Fitzroy Camp, a small in-lying parcel of private farmland suddenly appears, situated on a volcanic peak in the middle of the National Park.



The forest stretch of the Great South West Walk, west of Heywood in far south-west Victoria.

The walk skirts the edge of the block and then disappears back into the forest, which surrounds Mt Vandyke, as shown above and over the page.



An 'island' of private land in the middle of the National Park (left), surrounded by the vast Cobboboonee forest (right).

This peak has been known on maps since European colonisation as Mount Vandyke, and by old time locals as the “Good Hill” – presumably for its reliable rainfall and rich volcanic soil that originally sustained open native grassland and sedgeland, likely created by millennia of traditional burning of the hill by Gunditjmarra people. Indeed those burning practices, later copied by European pastoralists, also gave the wider forest a very different, more open and – in places – grassier character than its appearance today (as noted [in the work of local historian Garry Kerr](#)). Of note, there is also a fascinating cultural story recorded long ago about the wider area that we’ll share in a future blog, which suggests that Mount Vandyke was traditionally known as “Banbangil”.



Some very interesting patches of damp native grassland / sedgeland remain around the periphery of Mt Vandyke, providing a future restoration template. Photo: Mark Bachmann

This 34 hectare parcel of land presents a unique opportunity for NGT to embark on a very exciting and different type of restoration project – one that puts some of our threatened small mammal fauna (which is [a topic we have spoken about for a long time at NGT](#)) in the spotlight. While normally a modestly sized 34 hectare block with a long history of farming and a more recent phase of commercial Tasmanian blue gum (*Eucalyptus globulus*) forestry would not necessarily attract our attention, it is the **location** of Mt Vandyke that offers some tantalizing possibilities.

Firstly, that is because it is surrounded by two of south-west Victoria's premier National Parks, Cobboboonee and Lower Glenelg, which together comprise an area of approximately 50,000 hectares of continuous native vegetation. Yet despite the large size of these protected areas, this part of mainland Australia has experienced precipitous declines and/or extinctions of many species since the European red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*) arrived (after its deliberate introduction in Victoria) over 120 years ago. Species that formerly occurred in this area that are now extinct in the wild on the mainland – but still occur in nearby Tasmania – include the eastern quoll (*Dasyurus viverrinus*), rufous-bellied pademelon (*Thylogale billardierii*), eastern bettong (*Bettongia gaimardi cuniculus*) and eastern barred bandicoot (*Perameles gunnii*).



Examples of missing temperate fauna in southern Victoria: the rufous-bellied pademelon, eastern bettong and eastern barred bandicoot.

These species are an important part of the food-web and play critical functional roles in Australian ecosystems, like working the soil and dispersing seed or spores, but have now been missing in this area for many decades. Other nationally threatened medium sized mammals that have managed to hang on in these forests – at least for now – include the long-nosed potoroo (*Potorous tridactylus*) and southern brown bandicoot (*Isodon obesulus obesulus*).

Secondly, and with these latter (still extant) species in mind, these parks also now happen to be home to one of Victoria's longest running continuous fox-baiting programs, Glenelg Ark, which has seen DELWP and Parks Victoria actively suppressing foxes in the large forested area surrounding Mt Vandyke since 2005 to benefit these threatened species.

However up until now Glenelg Ark, despite its large-scale influence via introduced predator control, has not yet resulted in any value-adding trials in this wider landscape, and that is where this project will come into play – building on the existing good work of others.

Why is this project described as a 'trial'?

Put simply, we are going to be planning, implementing and testing a different model of small mammal recovery and reintroduction.

Most small mammal recovery projects on the mainland have generally either sought to build large introduced predator-free exclosures to re-establish extinct species (think highly successful [AWC](#)-style fenced reserves), or alternatively aimed to suppress introduced predators over large unfenced

landscapes to protect or recover threatened species that are still persisting (such as Glenelg Ark, Southern Ark in Gippsland or [Western Shield](#) in WA).

The NGT project at Mt Vandyke is actually looking to experimentally blend and test these concepts together, and to do so by reducing the scale (and hence cost) of the introduced predator-free enclosure, but then embedding it within a wider landscape where introduced predator control is occurring. Further, because we have a high rainfall, high fertility and therefore higher productivity site, the goal will be to adopt a fence design that has the capacity to “leak” future surplus animals being bred inside the fence, into that surrounding environment, supplementing or seeding populations of target species in the wider landscape where introduced predators are already being suppressed.

In doing so, we are looking to build on the extremely valuable recent experiences of the reintroduction project in Booderee National Park in NSW ([see this ABC news article for the overview](#)), where project managers have encountered difficulties in re-establishing species in a wider unfenced landscape without the benefit of ongoing population supplementation. At its core threatened species recovery is, after all, simply a numbers game – which means we need to find innovative and sophisticated ways to better manipulate the odds of recovery; that is, we need to tip the numbers in our favour to improve the probability of ongoing success.

If it turns out that our ‘leaky safe haven’ is eventually effective in re-establishing viable populations beyond the fence into a wider managed landscape, then this is a concept that could be replicated more broadly in similar situations in temperate regions (where less of this type of experimentation has occurred), seeding and sustaining re-established populations of threatened fauna outside of fences.

This new project is all about testing, trialling and refining this concept, as well as (at the very least) providing an additional safe haven (i.e. a form of insurance policy) for our target species in a semi-wild setting inside the fence. Our initial focal species for this project, which will help us determine and finalise the fence design, are: the threatened (but still locally occurring) southern brown bandicoot and long-nosed potoroo; as well as the now locally extinct (but [long-ago, once abundant](#)) [eastern quoll](#).



The initial focal species for the Mt Vandyke experimental fenced predator-free project area: southern brown bandicoot, long-nosed potoroo and eastern quoll.



Finalising our fence design is one of the most important initial tasks. As an example, this is the recently constructed fence at the WAMA site near Halls Gap. Photo: Mark Bachmann

As long-term followers of NGT will be aware, these complex but vital restoration projects never come about in the perfect order, hence we are working concurrently on the first **two** key steps, to get this project up and running:

1. Paying off the land purchase debt as soon as we can (please [follow this link to donate](#), or press the 'donate today' button below).
2. Commencing the first steps of planning, designing and implementing the project (note that the first 12 months, working towards creating a safe haven for the Southern Brown Bandicoot and Long-nosed Potoroo, has been generously funded by the Australian Government), including:
 - designing and building the fence,
 - removing feral species, and
 - planning for the eventual staged release of our target species.

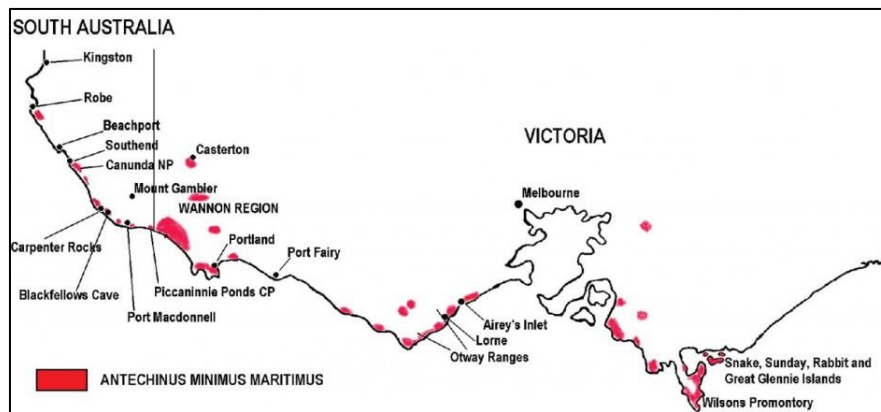
Today we are just at the beginning and, as we embark on this new and exciting initiative, we are aware that we still have lots of key questions to address and issues to work through, as well as important conversations to have with future project partners.

Dr Leah Kemp, who has 10 years of previous mammal reintroduction experience with the Australian Wildlife Conservancy, joined NGT in June 2021 in an advisory capacity as a Senior Threatened Species Ecologist to oversee the implementation of this new project, which will also be delivered by Rose Thompson, one of our Wildlife Ecologists.

2.1.2 Swamp antechinus discovered at Hutt Bay Wetlands (by Rose Thompson, Project Ecologist)

In autumn 2021, we picked up an exciting new fauna species record for Hutt Bay Wetland Restoration Reserve, but first, some background...

The swamp antechinus (*Antechinus minimus maritimus*) is a small carnivorous marsupial occurring across a large stretch of NGT's focal region. In the South East of South Australia, the swamp antechinus is most reliably found in silky tea-tree (*Leptospermum lanigerum*) wet heath habitat. NGT's Managing Director Mark Bachmann, conducted extensive targeted trapping for the species in the South East over 20 years ago as part of his Honours degree research. The sub-species is rated as Vulnerable federally, and Endangered in South Australia.



The distribution of the mainland sub-species of Swamp Antechinus (from Bachmann, 2001)

Although Mark spent many weeks and months trapping in our region's wet heath in search of the swamp antechinus (from 1999 to 2001), one spot he drove past on many occasions and considered, but never quite got around to surveying, was a particular wetland between Port MacDonnell and Cape Douglas, then owned by the Thompson family – my parents. This patch [has since been donated to NGT](#) and is what we now call [Hutt Bay Wetlands Restoration Reserve](#).

We recently conducted a week's worth of Elliott trapping at the property as part of our baseline fauna monitoring. I recorded many native bush rats (*Rattus fuscipes*) and a few native swamp rats (*Rattus lutreolus*) along with a couple of introduced black rats and house mice. And then, on the third day – a swamp antechinus!

Considering the small patch of suitable habitat that was present, we had suspected that they might be around, and we'd had an anecdotal report of a sighting nearby a few years ago. But to get this confirmation was very exciting; my family was rapt. It feels like great affirmation that retaining what is left of the native vegetation at this location (first by my grandfather, continued by my father, and now NGT) is very worthwhile. In time, NGT hopes to undertake restoration works that will expand this area of suitable habitat in the future – so the future is looking bright for the swamp antechinus at the Hutt Bay Wetlands!



2.1.3 The elusive *Delma impar* at Long Point (by Lauren Kivisalu, Project Ecologist)

The striped legless lizard (*Delma impar*) is a species that has mastered elusiveness. They shelter and nest in soil cracks, and utilise surrounding grassy vegetation and rocks to keep well-hidden during their daytime movements. These small reptiles are in fact not totally legless – they have two very small hind leg flaps, and are also characterised by a thick olive dorsal stripe and thinner dark lateral stripes. The lizard in this photo below is a juvenile – having a distinct dark head, and faint or absent dorsal stripe.

Part of their elusiveness is possible by their heat regulation – unlike ‘basking’ reptiles, the *Delma* rely on heat exchange with the ground so they do not need to regularly ‘sun’ themselves in the open.



Striped legless lizard (Delma impar) at Long Point Restoration Reserve. Photo: Jonathan Tuck.

This lizard was found during reptile surveys using tile grids at NGT’s Long Point Restoration Reserve, an [ongoing monitoring program](#) that occurs across areas of both remnant Plains Grassy Woodland and improved pasture.

The Striped Legless Lizard is endangered nationally, with the vast majority of its habitat (predominantly within the Victorian Volcanic Plains) cleared or degraded.

If you ever find a puzzling series of roof tiles on a property or roadside grassland, take care not to disturb or damage them – they’re probably part of a reptile survey!

2.1.4 Seasonal calendar and cultural yarning at Eaglehawk Waterhole (by Bryan Haywood, Senior Ecologist)

For thousands of years First Nations people looked after Country – walking, talking, observing, gathering, harvesting and appreciating what was around them – while working in with what each season has on offer. In September 2020, Nature Glenelg Trust was treated to a walk on Country with members of the South East Aboriginal Focus Group at Eaglehawk Waterhole. This walk formed part of a project called Yarning the South East Seasons – with Country in mind. Thanks to David New from Limestone Coast Landscape Board for initiating this opportunity. Elders came from far and wide, including Port Augusta, Coorong and Mt Gambier. All First Nations participants had a family connection to the land we walked and talked on which could be heard, seen and felt during the day.

We firstly were welcomed by Frank and Bruce as we introduced ourselves around the yarning circle to understand how we all related to the country, the property, and our roles in each organisation. While we spoke, a beautiful mouse spider (*Missulena* sp.) (right) wandered around the campfire area checking us all out, in a sense – welcoming us to this special place.



We then headed off in our 4WDs for a tour to see as many different aspects of the land as possible before sitting down for lunch. Within the first few minutes, south-eastern red-tailed black Cockatoos (Karak, *Calyptorhynchus banksii graptogyne*) made themselves known – when their characteristic calls were heard by Doug Nicholls while driving next to some stringybark trees. All vehicles came to a halt!! We quickly jumped out to see four birds feeding in the stringybarks next to the track. For some this was the first time they'd seen one, so it was very special.

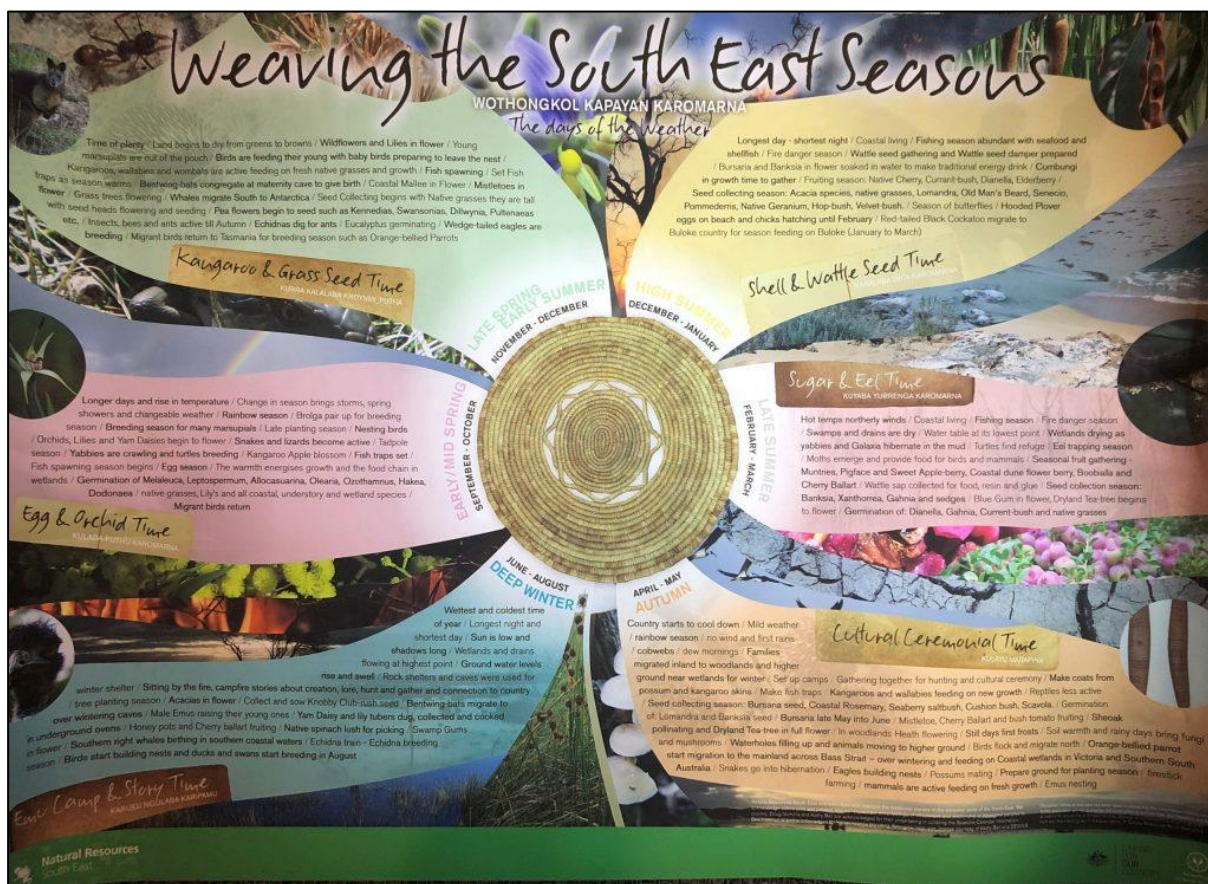


A second stop was at a dam which had been planted with basket weaving plants (*Cyperus gymnocaulos*), while our third stop was to look for wattle gum; Elder Frank said we were too early but it was at this stop we were delighted to hear candidly about his knowledge of the area and some of the animal species he remembers seeing when growing up.

Our last stop before lunch was to look at a 'Ring tree'. This particular tree (see below, as highlighted by Doug) had been fashioned through intervention by First Nations people signifying the area was very important for cultural heritage.



To top the day off Robyn, David and Bruce presented NGT with a large poster displaying the Seasonal Calendar for the area. It will be showcased at every opportunity at our reserves and added to as we remember the changes that occur in each of the six seasons. We look forward to further day trips and cultural experiences on Eaglehawk in the future.



Seasonal Calendar gifted to Nature Glenelg Trust by the SE Aboriginal Focus group

2.1.5 Nemo has been found! A 'new to science' species discovered at Mt Burr Swamp (by Sheryl Holliday, Field Officer)

On a sunny day in November last year (2020), I was doing fish sampling in various wetlands at Mt Burr Swamp when something caught my eye. In the net I had captured something tiny that I had seen before; recognising it by the beautiful orange and white stripes on its head.

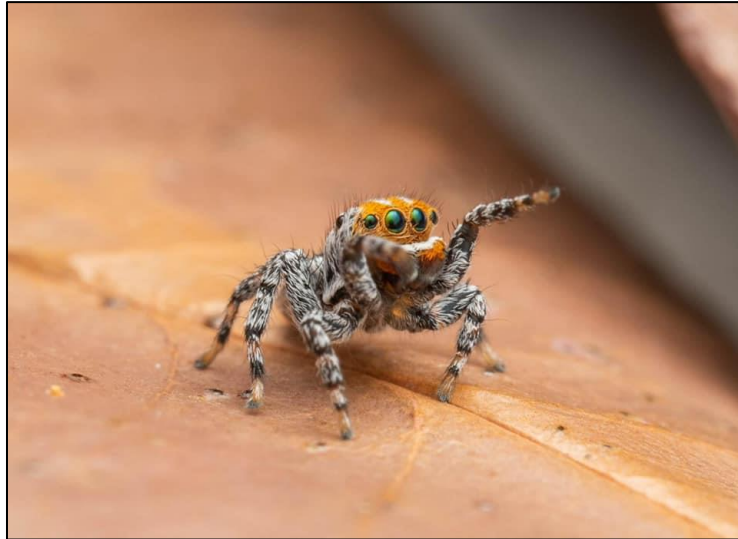


Photo: Joseph Schubert

I was quite sure that this was the same small spider that I had originally seen two years earlier at a swamp near Nangwarry. On that occasion, unsure of the species, I had uploaded a photo to a peacock spider social media group. Joseph Schubert an entomologist/arachnologist from Museums Victoria, commented immediately that it was an undescribed species. Imagine my excitement at finding them at a different location, and now on an NGT property!

In order to officially describe and name new species, specimens are required. So I collected a few spiders and sent them off to Joseph whom I remained in touch with since the first sighting near Nangwarry. In March 2021, I found out that his scientific paper was accepted for publication in the journal *Evolutionary Systematics*, and so was able to introduce us all to the newly named *Maratus nemo* – the Nemo Peacock Spider. You can read the paper [here](#) (open access).



Maratus nemo – the nemo peacock spider. Photos: Joseph Schubert

A male *Maratus nemo*

This tiny little spider is just 4 mm long. It lives in ephemeral wetlands and can be found on the vegetation above the water. It's funny that Joseph named the species *nemo* after Pixar's clown fish, as I had found them whilst doing fish surveys in the wetlands on the property.

At NGT we have a focus on wetlands because they are such an important part of our environment. They filter run-off water, are a place for water storage, and also recharge the ground water. Biodiversity is high around wetlands, as they are fantastic habitat for all sorts of creatures including waterbirds, amphibians, fish, reptiles, terrestrial insects and waterbugs, plants, and of course spiders. These are just some of the reason why it's really important to look after our wetlands.



*Wetland habitat where *Maratus nemo* is found (photo: Sheryl Holliday)*

2.1.6 Jumping the fence – tackling invasive weeds on the Doorstep of Kurrawonga and the

Nelson township (by Nicole Mojonnier and Jonathan Tuck, Ecologists)

Nelson is a small town at the Victorian coast only a stone's throw away from the South Australian border. It's nestled along the beautiful Glenelg River, not far from the river mouth, and surrounded by the Lower Glenelg National Park. It is an idyllic place very popular with tourists and anglers from all around Australia.

Some of the amazing fauna species that live on the fringe of Nelson and rely on its woodland vegetation include the south-eastern red-tailed black-cockatoo, rufous bristlebird (*Dasyornis broadbenti*), southern brown bandicoot, four types of antechinus (swamp *A. minimus maritimus*, dusky *A. swainsonii*, agile *A. agilis* and yellow-footed *A. flavipes*) and the common dunnart (*Sminthopsis murina*).



The Glenelg River winds through the Lower Glenelg National Park, just upstream of Nelson.

Photo: Jonathan Tuck.

In an earlier time, and probably out of sheer convenience, a rubbish tip was established at the northern end of town, nestled amongst the stringybark woodland of the National Park and adjacent to what is now NGT's [Kurrawonga](#) bushland reserve. Knowing what we do now, it probably wasn't the best spot for it! It's a significant source of invasive environmental weeds that have been dumped over the years (dating from its previous life as an open tip) and which continue to jump the chain-link fence into the bush.

Members of Nelson Coastcare have been instrumental in pushing the issue and mapping weeds in the past few years, and in May 2020, NGT received a Community Environment Program (CEP) grant to run a project to reduce the threat of invasive weeds to the surrounding parks and reserves.

NGT's bushcare crew have since been stamping out infestations that have been spreading into

adjacent reserves, with over seven key environmental weeds species in their sights. These species have also become established (usually not planted) in some residents' properties, creating management problems with their rapid growth.



The serrated leaves and red fruit of Italian buckthorn (Rhamnus alaternus, left), and Italian buckthorn and sweet pittosporum (Pittosporum undulatum, right) invading a stand of dryland tea-tree (Melaleuca lanceolata) in Nelson. Photos: Jonathan Tuck.

Community engagement is a key to the success of this project. We're creating a small invasive weed guide and providing some assistance for landholders adjacent to bushland to remove invasive species and replace with free native "Glenelg-friendly" plants, with the aim of reducing the spread of weeds from properties adjacent to bushland.

The Glenelg Shire Council has recognised the weed threat in what is now a transfer station rather than an open tip, and is working to come up with systems for managing the site to prevent weeds from spreading in the future. If implemented, this will significantly reduce both the long-term weed threat and the maintenance required.

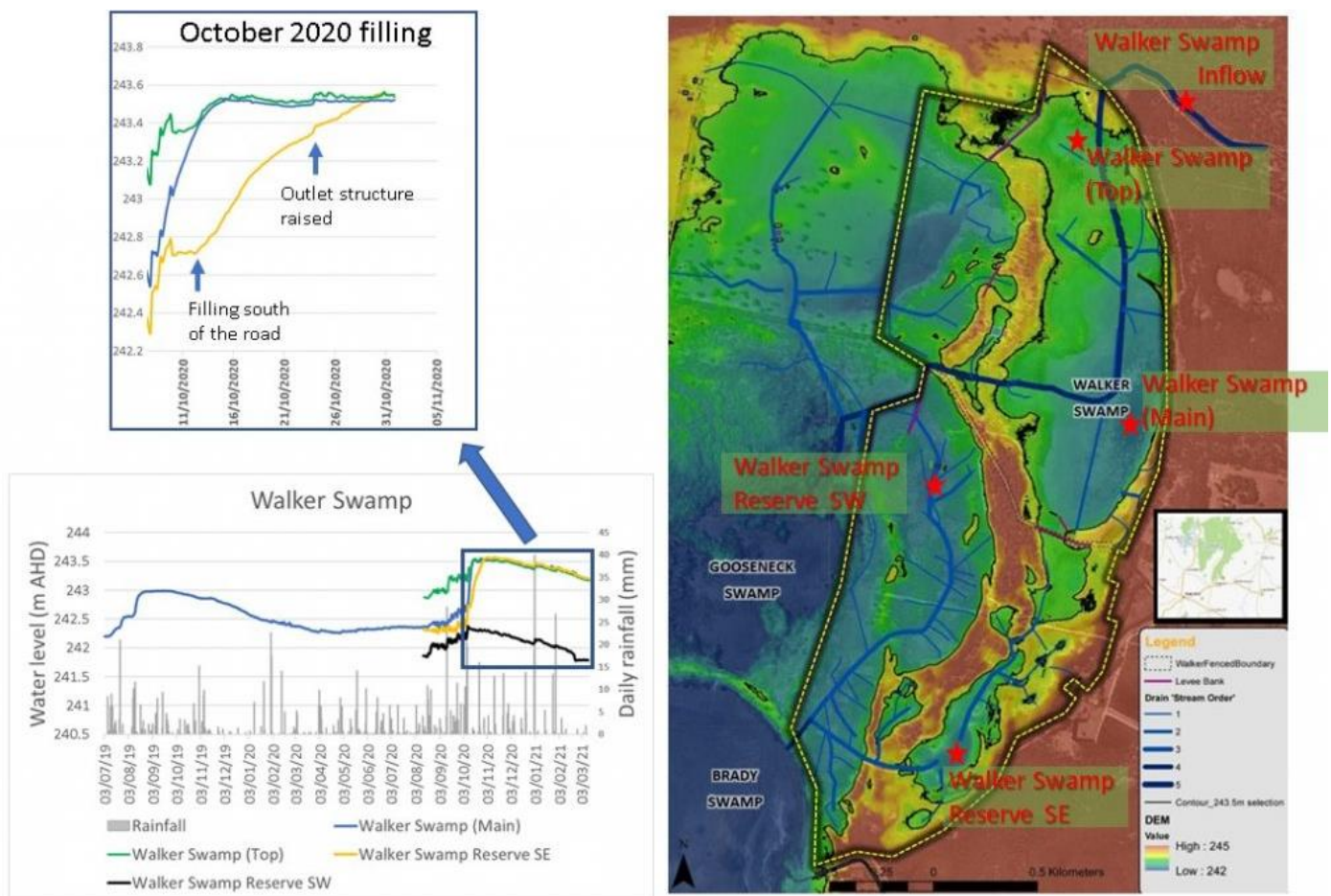
2.1.7 Water levels and rates of filling across Walker Swamp in 2020 (by Lachlan Farrington, Senior Wetland and Landscape Ecologist)

Late in winter 2020 [we were feeling less than optimistic](#) about how the season was unfolding, albeit with a glimmer of hope from the BOM long-term forecast. Fortunately, that forecast was correct and we experienced the best spring rainfall in 2020 we have seen since working across these wetlands. Early October rain, which caused [flooding across parts of southwest Victoria](#) saw the newly restored Walker Swamp fill sharply, with water levels rising nearly one meter in one week! It was a fantastic opportunity to see our restoration design come to life (you can see what that looked like [here](#)).

Retrieving data from a water level logger in the southern wetland at Walker Swamp

I had been waiting for the water levels to drop so that I could retrieve some of the water level loggers, and have a closer look at how the water levels responded. Retrieving the data is usually straightforward but this period threw in some new challenges because the water levels rose above our water level gauging stations and they were hard to find until the water level dropped.

This numerical look at the pattern of filling across Walker Swamp (shown below) sheds light on some of the more subtle design concepts. The backfilling of drains was incorporated to help spread water uniformly over the bed of the wetland as water came in, rather than funnelling along the drains to the deepest point. This can be seen by the lag in response between water levels at the top of the wetland (Walker Swamp Top – green line) where it took around a week for the levels across the entirety of the main wetland to reach a uniform depth. As the wetland dries down, topography will mean that water will remain in numerous depressions across the bed of the wetland rather than being concentrated into the (now removed) drainage footprint.



Water level data and water level monitoring points (red stars) shown at various locations across the Reserve.

Another key aspect of the restoration design was the capacity for flows to pass to the southern section of the road, as it would have prior to construction of Lynchs Crossing Road, at the southern end of Walker Swamp. During big events this did happen to some extent but resulted in the road being inundated. By building up the road, and incorporating some culverts, we aimed to allow flow to travel south as the water in the main wetland rose. The ability to manually adjust the full supply level of the wetland at the main outlet was critical in optimising this, and we initially set the structure conservatively to allow us to observe how the design functioned in real time.



The Walker Swamp outlet spillway in October 2020. Photo: Mark Bachmann

When the [main wetland overflowed](#) at the spillway on the outlet drain (above), our perimeter checks indicated that the wetland still had some capacity and, despite water moving under the road, the rate of flow was below what the culverts were capable of delivering. With a quick bit of manual adjustment, we raised the height of the regulation structure, backing off the outflows and forcing more water south.

The water level data for the southern wetland (Walker Swamp Reserve SE – yellow line) shows the level rising once the main wetland had reached 242.7 m AHD but the rate of rise starting to taper. The date where we manually adjusted the outlet level is apparent in the water level data for all loggers across the wetland system, but is particularly pronounced for the southern wetland where level rise picked up again until the whole system equilibrated at 243.5 m AHD, our originally modelled and envisaged maximum full supply level.

It was a great example of how the incorporation of sandbags can be used to provide not only a robust structure, but allow fine tuning alongside ground-truthed observations of design function.



The main Walker Swamp water-body on the 18th April 2021, showing how water levels slowly receded in the autumn. Photo: Mark Bachmann

2.1.8 Flocking of Brolga at Green Swamp Restoration Reserve, and a weekend of wetland exploration with the South East Australian Naturalists' Association (by Mark Bachmann)

On the weekend of the 17th and 18th of April, the Hamilton Field Naturalists' Club hosted the South East Australian Naturalists' Association (SEANA) autumn 2021 campout. The event had been cancelled in 2020 due to COVID-19, so it was great to see it go ahead this year!

The South East Australian Naturalists' Association links Field Naturalists Clubs across Victoria and adjoining areas of South Australia and New South Wales. (**Note:** A Field Naturalist is a person who studies plants, animals, insects, and other living things in their environment, leaning more towards observational than experimental methods of study.)

NGT were pleased to be involved in a range of ways over the weekend, with Greg hosting tours of our southern Grampians wetland restoration sites (Green, Walker, Brady and Gooseneck Swamps) on both Saturday and Sunday, while I was asked to give an address to the whole group of assembled SEANA members (over 130 people in attendance) on Saturday evening in Hamilton. There were seven different tour options each day so that attendees could get out into nature and learn more about the local area.

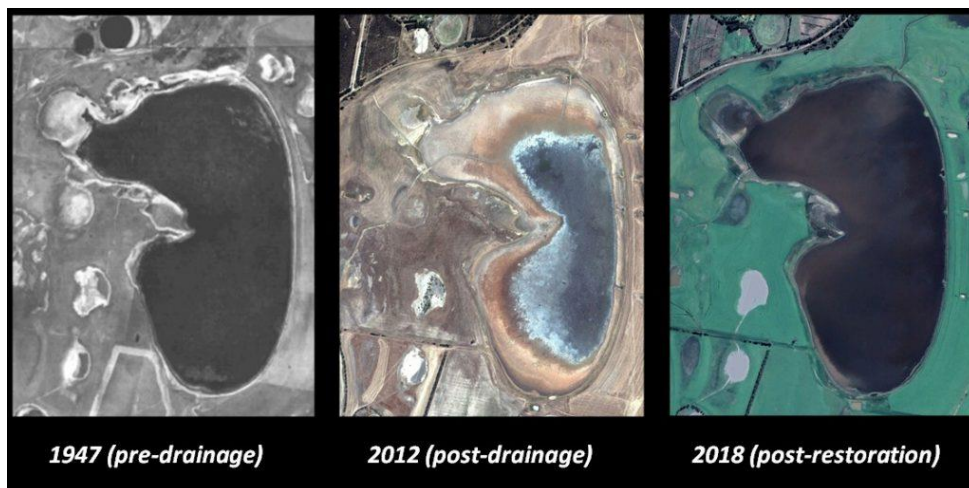
In a highlight for the Saturday tour group, they had the incredible privilege of seeing the largest number of flocking Brolga that we have ever encountered at NGT's Green Swamp Restoration Reserve – 168 birds. This is even more than the number [we reported in the NGT Newsletter the previous month](#). What a great testament to the recovery potential of wetlands!



Just a small sample of the 168 brolga counted at Green Swamp on Saturday the 17th of April 2021.

Photo: Greg Kerr

For the Saturday evening talk, I went into a lot of detail to inform SEANA attendees about the type of detective work we do, and the range of factors we consider, when planning and implementing wetland restoration projects. Just one example that was shared – which is relevant given the Brolga photo shared above – is Green Swamp.



Green Swamp: Just one dramatic example showing the impacts of NGT's past wetland restoration work



A restored Green Swamp on the 18th of April 2021. After a cooler and wetter summer than usual, the wetland looked absolutely stunning during the driest time of the year. Photo: Mark Bachmann.

I joined Greg in hosting the Sunday tour and it was a really wonderful day, as we explored the various wetlands and shared the complex stories of how each of them has been restored by NGT over the past eight years. From NGT's perspective, the weekend was all about sharing a message of hope – that we can repair wetlands because they have incredible natural resilience and the capacity to bounce back, if we just give them the chance.

If you are interested to read the wetland restoration tour notes from the weekend, you can [download them as a PDF here](#).

Thanks to all of our wonderful guests on the tours, and to the Hamilton Field Naturalists' Club for a great weekend.



The Sunday tour group finishing the day at the location of the former artificial outlet (since back-filled by NGT in 2015) which previously drained Gooseneck Swamp (seen in the background) to its bed level.

Photo: Mark Bachmann

2.2 An NGT Volunteering Story – Lily Alvarez (recent University Graduate and Volunteer)

In Autumn 2021, NGT undertook a swamp antechinus (*A. minimus maritimus*) survey in the Limestone Coast region of South Australia, aiming to update knowledge on the species since it was last surveyed 20 years ago. You can read [more about the swamp antechinus survey here](#).

Fauna surveys can be fairly labour intensive and so Rose was very grateful to have an extra set of hands to carry out the first part of this fieldwork. Lily Alvarez, a recent graduate, was her trusty assistant for three weeks and had this to say about her experience at its conclusion:

As a human growing up in a big city (Narrm/Melbourne), I was lucky enough to be brought up to value and understand the natural world. And I think deep down, I've always felt more at home in the world outside of the concrete jungle. After finishing a degree in Wildlife and Conservation Biology (majoring in Ecology) at La Trobe University in Melbourne, I was keen to get out and make a difference. The course offered many field trip subjects, which fuelled me through and reinforced my love for field ecology. I am an avid adventurer – exploring landscapes whenever and however I can, and recognise the privilege I have in doing so. I acknowledge and appreciate the places that I am travelling through and am interested in learning about environments and their processes. I'm always looking for ways to give back to these places that offer me so much joy and revival.



Hiking with friends at Mt Bogong, Alpine National Park



Lily's whole family enjoy the outdoors. Here her inspects the view in Gariwerd/Grampians NP.

As with many other conservation initiatives I was made aware of growing up, I came to hear of NGT through my Dad, who donates to NGT on behalf of our family. Together, we like to visit the Walker Swamp Restoration Reserve whenever we find ourselves nearby and keep up with NGT's other projects. At Walker Swamp, the rejuvenation of such a landscape is magical to witness. You can feel the life there and how important a place like that is to so many living things. NGT is doing such invaluable work in a time when land is often viewed in terms of economic or social value, when its conservation values are of such importance, will flourish if they are fostered, and give back to us in so many ways.

So, I got in touch and was pleased to hear back from NGT that I could help out with swamp antechinus surveying at different sites between Mt Gambier to the coast, on public reserves and privately owned properties. I was stoked!

The fieldwork itself has been both stimulating and challenging. I have had leeches on my lips and smelt like a rat at the end of each day. But these cons are all part of the experience and by no means took away from having a glimpse into these special environments and species. Not even close!

In the traps, we came across native bush rats, swamp rats, swamp antechinus and introduced house mice and black rats. With expert guidance, I quickly learnt how to identify each and after a few days of trapping, also recognised patterns in how different species behaved in the traps and upon release. It was very exciting when we started capturing swamp antechinus! Such precious animals.



Lily checking an Elliott trap during swamp antechinus survey

Working with Rose Thompson (Project Ecologist at NGT), I could instantly sense her dedication to the project. Growing up around the areas we were surveying, she holds a deep care and connection with the ecosystems and their protection.

Mark Bachmann (NGT's Managing Director and Founder) came out with us on my second night of trap checking. Mark's passion was palpable. The adrenaline of the night's traps checks wasn't just due to the creatures we were finding in the traps, but an excitement that was growing inside me; fuelling me to do more work like this, get involved and learn. Learn about places, the people that care for them and the flora, fauna and processes that make them what they are.

I am very grateful to NGT for the opportunity and would be keen to be involved in the future. I will say one thing about seeking volunteering opportunities – try not to doubt yourself. Try not to think: 'I can't do that' or 'I would be a burden' or 'I'm not qualified enough'. Putting yourself out there and making meaningful connections with people and places are what matter. So that ultimately, you are placed in better stead to make a difference in this wild and wonderful world.

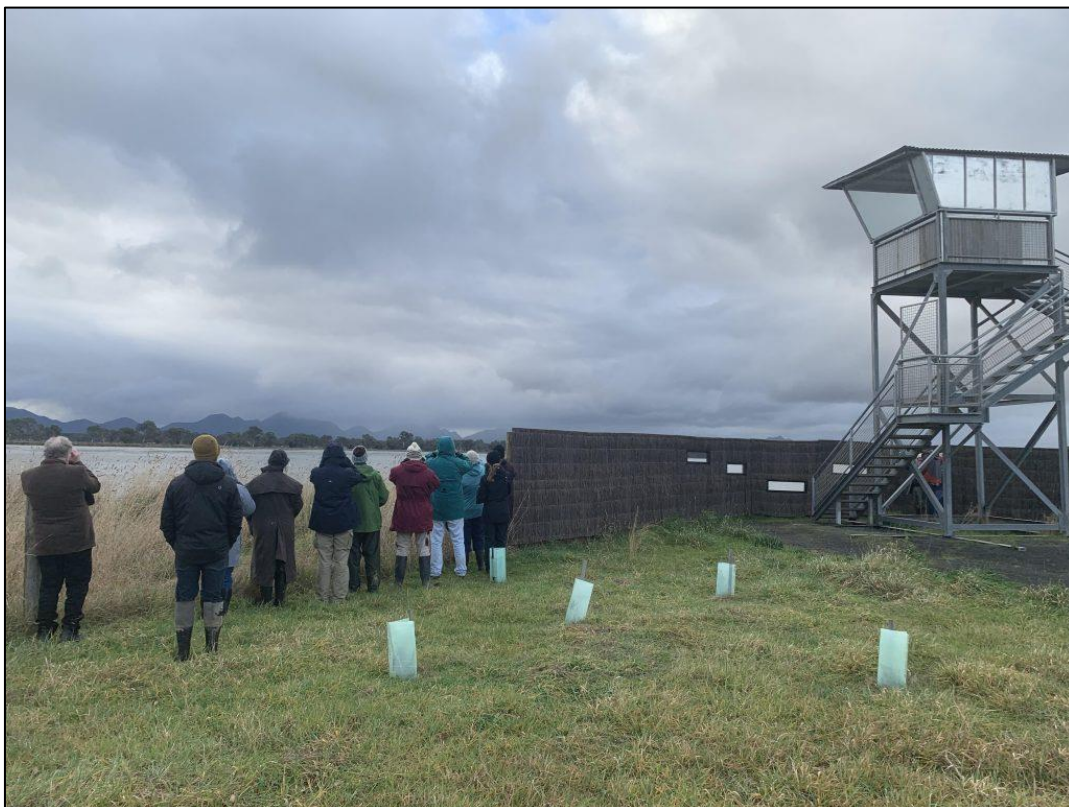


2.3 Volunteers gather at Walker Swamp for new Citizen Science project (by Lauren Brown, Aquatic Ecologist)

In May 2021, myself and Lachie (also from NGT) met with prospective volunteers at Walker Swamp for an initial 'meet and greet' afternoon. The event was held as part of the new Grampians citizen science monitoring program, which NGT received funding to undertake thanks to a Victorian Government grant through the Volunteering Innovation Fund.

Despite the persistent rain, they were delighted to meet with 17 enthusiastic volunteers. The purpose of the day was to allow volunteers to meet one other and become more familiar with the project and the wetland sites. There were some great discussions had, particularly around the monitoring equipment and site selection.

Volunteers included members of the Hamilton Field Naturalists Club, Mirranatwa Landcare Group, Deakin University's Environmental Club and Hamilton Birdlife. Some volunteers had completed NGT's 10-week bird course recently run by Greg Kerr and were keen to apply their new skills, while others had local connections to the Grampians (e.g. local property owners), or a broader interest in nature and caring for the environment. It was great to meet people from different backgrounds, and no surprise to hear of their diverse areas of expertise and skills.



Volunteers at Walker Swamp bird hide.

After some afternoon tea, we made our way to the Walker Swamp bird hide, where volunteers became acquainted (or re-acquainted) with the wetland and spent some time looking through their binoculars. While a member of the Hamilton Field Nats shared their bird sightings for the day, others

enjoyed the serenity (and wind protection) offered by the viewing tower. Before finishing up for the afternoon, we took a short drive to Green Swamp, which was also full of bird life.



Volunteers enjoying the bird life at Green Swamp.

Building the opportunities for volunteers to take part in the management and care, as well as scientific monitoring, of NGT's Reserves is a big priority for NGT in the future.

To contact NGT about volunteering opportunities please email: volunteer@natureglenelg.org.au

2.4 Finding the forgotten grasslands of South East SA (by Jonathan Tuck, Ecologist)

When you think of pre-European vegetation in south-east SA, what do you see?

- An old Red Gum standing guard over a waterhole, a carpet of flowers and sedges spreading from its feet?
- Brown Stringybarks twisting toward the sky from heathy sandhills? Or a dense landscape of Tea-tree swamps, impossible to cross?
- How about an expanse of "luxuriant grass" stretching into the distance, "studded with trees like a nobleman's park"?

That's how the early explorer and artist George Angas described the land south-east of Mount Gambier, between Mount Schank and the mouth of Glenelg River (in Nelson, Victoria), after his early European party journeyed from Rivoli Bay in the 1840s. Numerous other accounts from around the South East (including others from Angas) describe many areas as being covered by extensive carpets of grass, often with scattered trees or shrubs. Even the surroundings of the lakes of Mount Gambier were described as mostly grassy and lightly timbered.



Kangaroo grass (Themeda triandra) grassland in flower, early December 2020

A rapidly altered landscape

Upon the arrival of Europeans, grasslands and open grassy woodlands were amongst the most productive landscapes, with the added appeal of being ready to graze without clearing – just add stock! Kangaroo grass (*Themeda triandra*) was hit hard in these early days – being tall and palatable, it rapidly disappeared under intense grazing. Grazing was mainly of native pastures until roughly the 1940s, when Superphosphate was added, allowing paddocks to be sown with introduced pasture grasses.

Many of the remaining grasslands went under roads, tracks and buildings, and surviving grasslands had to contend with ploughed firebreaks, weed invasions and the disappearance of burning by Traditional Owners, which led to build-up of dead grass material and choked out the tussocks.

The rarity of grassland has led to a threatened status for many associated species, including fauna such as the striped legless lizard (*Delma impar*) and the eastern barred bandicoot (*Perameles gunnii* – now extinct in the South East of SA), and diverse flora including the now-threatened species large-headed groundsel (*Senecio macrocarpus*), clover glycine (*Glyceria latrobeana*) and numerous native orchids.

Despite all these pressures, some good patches of native grassland still survive, albeit rare and mostly found in protected areas such as national parks, railway reserves, roadsides, and sometimes in lesser used paddocks or difficult to reach areas on private land.

Early summer is grassland time

Most of the year, native grasslands can be hard to see, but they often become more obvious in late spring and early summer, with bristly carpets of wallaby grass (*Rytidosperma* spp.), wispy or spiky

heads of spear-grass (*Austrostipa* spp.), elegant curving stems of weeping grass (*Microlaena stipoides*), or the red wash of kangaroo grass in December as it ripens in the sun. A diverse area of grassland can include all of these, and between the tussocks you might find native orchids, lilies and daisies, amongst others.



The seed head of Kangaroo grass (Themeda triandra) shortly before ripening.

Taking stock

Last year (2020), Bryan and Jono were out on the road in the lower South East assessing known Kangaroo Grass remnants and checking whether some older records still survive. This small project has been supported by funding by OneFortyOne Plantations, allowing NGT to sketch out a project plan and perform some verification of older records as well as rapid assessments. In early December, they headed out to set up detailed monitoring transects on some of these grasslands, recording grassland species and cover and noting management issues. Some of the objectives include improving grassland protection, talking with landholders or neighbours to understand their slashing needs and timing, and noting some areas where burning could be incorporated to freshen up tussocks and stimulate the recruitment of native seedlings.

Tell us about grasslands

Grasslands are good at hiding!

The first step in protecting these areas from further decline is to locate them, so if you know any good patches of native grassland – or any with potential that need attention or protection – in the South East of SA, please send a message to jonathan.tuck@natureglenelg.org.au

2.5 Fish 'back from the dead' – and now they are breeding! (by Sylvia Zukowski, Aquatic Ecologist)

Southern purple-spotted gudgeon (*Mogurnda adspersa*), once thought to be regionally extinct, [were found in Third Reedy and Middle Reedy Lakes near Kerang, Victoria in 2019.](#)

Recently, a collaborative team of stakeholders including NGT's specialist aquatic ecology team - Aquasave-NGT - collected 25 fish from the wild to begin an exciting breeding and reintroduction program.

The fish were divided between two hatcheries including the Aquasave-NGT facility in Victor Harbor, South Australia, and we are proud to say that eggs were successfully laid and juveniles hatched. The picture below shows a male guarding and fanning eggs that are about to hatch.



A male southern purple spotted gudgeon in the hatchery guarding eggs (photo: Sylvia Zukowski)

The long term goal is to release sufficient numbers back into wild floodplain sites across the Murray River corridor to ensure the sustainability of this species.

The project is being run by the North Central CMA, funded by a Victorian Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning Icon Species Grant and supported by a broad collaborative team including NGT (Native Fish Australia, Australia New Guinea Fishes Association, Austral Research and Consulting, City of Greater Bendigo, Middle Creek Farm and Aquasave-NGT).

2.6 NGT and the Glenelg Hopkins CMA – working together for biodiversity outcomes in South West Victoria (by Mark Bachmann)

In May 2021, I had the privilege of meeting with my counterpart at the Glenelg Hopkins CMA, their CEO Adam Bester, as we signed a new partnership statement between our organisations.

*The GHCMA's Adam Bester (left)
with NGT's Mark Bachmann (right).*

Photo: Liz Mecham

Despite a few differences in how our organisations operate – given that NGT sits outside of government – we share a lot of common ground and have worked together to deliver some great outcomes, [like the award winning project at Walker Swamp](#).

We are looking forward to continuing this and similar partnership work in the future.



3. Plans for the 2021-22 Financial Year

3.1 Impacts in science, restoration and management

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

Nature Glenelg Trust has had considerable success delivering a wide range of projects over the organisation's first ten years. We now work across all south-eastern states (SA, Vic, NSW and Tas) of Australia, with staff based in three of those states. However, consistent with having an organisational emphasis on ecological restoration and threatened species research/recovery, we continue to strive to be universally respected by our partners and peers as leaders in these fields in south-eastern Australia.

Goal: Consolidate and increase the geographic reach and effectiveness of NGT's ecological restoration and threatened species research/recovery activities in south-eastern Australia, based on the expertise and commitment of our staff, volunteers and supporters.

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, scientific publications have been produced and used to assist conservation and fisheries managers. However, there are further opportunities to both systematically document and publish outcomes of our restoration actions and aquatic species research, and to develop new research collaborations that together will lead to better environmental outcomes.

Goal: Continue to produce scientific peer-reviewed publications, present at conferences, and foster new research collaborations.

Develop and implement restoration and/or management plans for NGT Reserves

In order to trial and demonstrate property-scale restoration activities for wider conservation benefit on NGT's Reserves, each property requires a restoration and/or management plan to be in place or under development. This will provide a clear set of objectives to drive NGT's grant seeking, or other funding mechanisms pursued, to support active restoration, management and on-ground works. At the time of writing, we have restoration and/or management plans (of differing formats) in place for five NGT Reserves (Eaglehawk Waterhole, Mt Burr Swamp, Walker Swamp, Kurrawonga and Green Swamp).

Goal: To develop ecologically sound management plans that incorporate adaptive management principles for implementation for all NGT Reserves.

3.2 Partnerships and Finance

A new emphasis on partnerships and filling gaps within and beyond our focal region

NGT is a small and dynamic operation that is solution based, nimble and innovative in its response to environmental and organisational challenges. To facilitate the best environmental outcomes, NGT requires ongoing, consistent funding, which requires a diversity of income streams. Currently a large proportion of our funding is from government funding sources and private industry, which are unpredictable and make longer term planning difficult. Hence NGT will continue to explore options for diversifying our operations to improve our future financial security and viability, by forming long-term partnerships with individuals, groups or organisations whose support can complement what we do, so that we can help to fulfil or further their vision for the environment in return.

Goal: Forge new partnerships to secure NGT's work and financial sustainability to achieve positive on-ground environmental results by employing a Partnerships Advisor (casual).

Grow the balance of the NGT Foundation

The NGT Foundation was launched in early 2018, and in the 2020-21 financial year the Foundation's balance exceeded the \$1M. This triggered a reassessment of how the Foundation was invested, resulting in the ongoing partnership with Australian Communities Foundation to ensure that the money was invested ethically and deliver investment returns. However, to successfully meet the long-term objectives of the Foundation, and create a recurrent funding stream to support the operations of NGT, our work and management of our Reserves, the balance of the Foundation requires significant growth. We will continue to attract additional support for the Foundation and attempt to lift its balance, with all earnings generated by the Foundation will be re-invested and no funds will be used for NGT operations at this time.

Goal: To continue to explore strategic opportunities to grow the balance of the NGT Foundation, further broadening its funding base over the next 12 months.

3.3 Our People

Provide interesting practical opportunities for our staff, 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 involvement 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, 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 our staff, ecology graduates and volunteers.

Provide the opportunity to gather our staff and board for an annual workshop in the future

Like many organisations, Nature Glenelg Trust has been disrupted during the COVID pandemic, which has impacted on the way we work and interact both inside and outside the organisation. Given the pause in our previous annual staff workshop, we will look to re-initiate this as soon as state border and travel restrictions allow us to do so. We will also use this as an opportunity to introduce our new Board members (when this has occurred) to the team and create and foster the sense of shared purpose and collegiality that has always typified our work.

Goal: To hold annual whole-of-staff and board workshop when circumstances allow.

3.4 Strategic Review to set NGT up for the future***Complete and implement outcomes of a strategic review of NGT Committee of Management and NGT operations around the 10th Anniversary of the organisation***

NGT was legally established in October 2011 and commenced operating in January 2012. The operationally focussed structure and function of the Committee of Management has been fit for purpose during that establishment phase, when establishing a track record and demonstrating our scientific credibility was our most important focus. Now that the organisation is moving into a new phase, developing a long-term, sustainable funding model, and undertaking a strategic review of NGT's operations and the NGT Committee of Management structure and function is timely.

Goal: To implement outcomes from the 10th Anniversary internal strategic review of NGT. This includes reviewing:

- (i) NGT staffing structure,
- (ii) the strategic objectives/goals of NGT,
- (iii) and revitalising the NGT Committee of Management/Board of Directors.

4. Employee Statistics

Nature Glenelg Trust employed seven full-time, 15 part-time and 14 casual staff throughout the 2020-21 financial year. Our full-time and part-time employees at the time of writing (Nov 2021) are:

1. Mark Bachmann (Managing Director)
2. Jessica Bouchier (Administration Support and Project Ecologist)
3. Lauren Brown (Aquatic Ecologist)
4. Lachlan Farrington (Senior Wetland and Landscape Ecologist)
5. Ruan Gannon (Aquatic Ecologist)
6. Bryan Haywood (Senior Ecologist)
7. Sheryl Holliday (Field Officer)
8. Angela Jones (Community Nursery Coordinator)
9. Leah Kemp (Senior Threatened Species Ecologist)
10. Greg Kerr (Senior Ecologist)
11. Lauren Kivisalu (Project Ecologist)
12. Maiko Lutz (Ecologist)
13. Rupert Mathwin (Amphibian Ecologist)
14. Tessa Roberts (Wetland Ecologist)
15. Tom Sheehan (Field Ecology and Works Officer)
16. Bec Sheldon (Wetland Ecologist)
17. Ben Taylor (Senior Wetland Ecologist)
18. Rose Thompson (Project Ecologist)
19. Jonathan Tuck (Ecologist and Project Logistics)
20. Nicholas Whiterod (Senior Aquatic Ecologist)
21. Sylvia Zukowski (Aquatic Ecologist)

5. Membership

As a duly constituted fixed trust, Nature Glenelg Trust does not have its own financial membership base. As a 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 help them to retain and attract members. We also aim to provide regular and meaningful volunteering opportunities for 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 three voting members:

1. Mark Bachmann
2. Catherine Dickson
3. Lachlan Farrington

At present, the Trustee for Nature Glenelg Trust members also comprise NGT'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 2021

	Note	2021 \$	2020 \$
Revenue			
Sales		2,268,053	1,395,206
Administration Fees		134,038	2,706
Donations		172,217	133,716
Other Income		1,006,034	676,806
Total Revenue		3,580,342	2,208,434
Less			
Expenses			
Cost of Goods Sold		1,010,085	394,599
Employee benefits expense		1,291,316	1,110,825
Other expenses		247,123	248,443
Total expenses		2,548,524	1,753,867
Net surplus for the Year		1,031,818	454,567
Other comprehensive income		-	-
Total comprehensive income		1,031,818	454,567

NATURE GLENELG PTY LTD T/A NATURE GLENELG TRUST

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AS AT 30th JUNE 2021

		2021 \$	2020 \$
	Note		
Current Assets			
Cash and Cash Equivalents		3,972,910	2,884,521
Receivables	2.	416,931	152,979
Inventories	3.	911,124	2,145,317
Other	4.	-	123,013
Total Current Assets		5,300,965	5,305,830
Non-Current Assets			
Property Plant and Equipment	5.	7,861,045	7,543,585
Total Non-Current Assets		7,861,045	7,543,585
Total Assets		13,162,010	12,849,415
Current Liabilities			
Trade Creditors and Other Payables	6.	2,685,733	3,592,255
Provisions	8.	460,231	342,975
Total Current Liabilities		3,145,964	3,935,230
Non-Current Liabilities			
Interest Bearing Liabilities	7.	254,090	205,173
Provisions	8.	145,306	124,180
Total Non-Current Liabilities		399,396	329,353
Total Liabilities		3,545,360	4,264,583
Net Assets		9,616,650	8,584,832
Equity			
Issued Shares & Settled Sum		396	396
Retained Surplus		9,616,254	8,584,436
Total Equity		9,616,650	8,584,832

NATURE GLENELG PTY LTD T/A NATURE GLENELG TRUST

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
AS AT 30th JUNE 2021

	2021 \$	2020 \$
Cash Flow from Operating Activities		
Receipts from		
Donations and Gifts	172,217	133,716
Government/Other Grants & Income	3,122,191	2,905,739
Interest	21,982	12,580
Payments to		
Suppliers and Employees	(1,920,392)	(1,571,799)
Interest paid	(15,365)	(9,892)
Net cash flow from operating activities	1,380,633	1,470,344
Cash Flows from Investing Activities		
Purchase of Property Plant & Equipment	(341,161)	(65,515)
Net cash flow from investing activities	(341,161)	(65,515)
Cash Flow from Financing Activities		
Proceeds from interest-bearing liabilities	61,992	-
Repayment of interest-bearing liabilities	(13,075)	(13,561)
Net cash flow from financing activities	48,917	(13,561)
Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	1,088,389	1,391,268
Cash and Cash Equivalents at the beginning of the year	2,884,521	1,493,253
Cash and Cash Equivalents at the end of the year	3,972,910	2,884,521
Reconciliation of Net Surplus for the year to net Cash Flows from Operations		
Net Surplus for the year	1,031,818	454,567
Depreciation Expense	23,701	21,203
(Increase)/Decrease in Inventories	1,234,193	(918,694)
(Increase)/Decrease in Receivables	(263,952)	203,340
Increase/(Decrease) in Provisions	138,382	96,487
Increase/(Decrease) in Trade Creditors	(906,522)	1,401,454
(Increase)/Decrease in Trade Other Assets	123,013	211,987
Net Cash Flow from Operations	1,380,633	1,470,344



PO Box 355 MITCHAM SA 5062
Compass Group SA Pty Ltd
ABN: 97 602 587 173

**INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT
TO THE BOARD MEMBERS OF
NATURE GLENELG PTY LTD ATF NATURE GLENELG TRUST**

REPORT ON THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL REPORT

AUDIT OPINION

We have audited the financial report of Nature Glenelg Pty Ltd atf Nature Glenelg Trust (the trust), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2021, the statement of comprehensive income, for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and the members' declaration by those charged with governance.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial presents fairly, in all material respects of Nature Glenelg Pty Ltd atf Nature Glenelg Trust is in accordance with the Corporations Act 2001, including:

- (a) giving a true and fair view of the company's financial position as at 30 June 2021 and of its performance for the year then ended; and
- (b) complying with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1, and the Corporations Regulations 2001.

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 Financial Report section of our report.

We are independent of the entity in accordance with the auditor independence requirements of the Corporations Act 2001 and 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 financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We confirm that the independence declaration required by the Corporations Act 2001, which has been given to the members of the association, would be in the same terms if given to the members as at the time of this auditor's report.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

"Liability limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation."

22 Vernon Street
PORT NOARLUNGA SOUTH
SA 5167

Phone: 08 8386 2244
PO BOX 4,
Seaford SA 5169

Phone: 08 8332 1355
PO BOX 355,
Mitcham SA 5062



PO Box 355 MITCHAM SA 5062
Compass Group SA Pty Ltd
ABN: 97 602 587 173

**INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT
TO THE BOARD MEMBERS OF
NATURE GLENELG PTY LTD ATF NATURE GLENELG TRUST**

REPORT ON THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL REPORT

EMPHASIS OF MATTER – BASIS OF ACCOUNTING AND RESTRICTION ON DISTRIBUTION AND USE

Without modifying our opinion, we draw attention to Note No1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting.

The financial report is prepared to assist Nature Glenelg Pty Ltd atf Nature Glenelg Trust members to comply with the financial reporting provisions of the Corporations Act (2001).

As a result, the financial statement may not be suitable for another purpose. Our report is intended solely for Nature Glenelg Pty Ltd atf Nature Glenelg Trust and should not be distributed to or used by other parties other than Nature Glenelg Pty Ltd atf Nature Glenelg Trust.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE MEMBERS FOR THE FINANCIAL REPORT

The members of the association are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and have determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 to the financial report is appropriate to meet the requirements of the Corporations Act 2001 and is appropriate to meet the needs of the members.

The members' responsibility also includes such internal control as the members determine is necessary to enable the preparation of a financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the members are responsible for assessing the association'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 the members either intend to liquidate the association or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

AUDITOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL REPORT

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial 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 the 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 financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit.

We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial 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

"Liability limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation."

22 Vernon Street
PORT NOARLUNGA SOUTH
SA 5167

Phone: 08 8386 2244
PO BOX 4,
Seaford SA 5169

Phone: 08 8332 1355
PO BOX 355,
Mitcham SA 5062

COMPASS GROUP

ACCOUNTING AUDIT ADVISORY

giving business direction

PO Box 355 MITCHAM SA 5062
Compass Group SA Pty Ltd
ABN: 97 602 587 173

INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT TO THE BOARD MEMBERS OF NATURE GLENELG PTY LTD ATF NATURE GLENELG TRUST

REPORT ON THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL REPORT

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.

- 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 company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the members.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the members' 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 company'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 financial 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 company to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

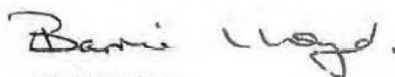
We communicate with the board members regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

INHERENT LIMITATIONS

Due to the Inherent limitations of an assurance engagement, together with the internal control structure, it is possible that fraud, error, or non-compliance with the listed provisions may occur and not be detected.

A reasonable assurance engagement does not provide assurance on whether compliance with the listed provisions will continue in the future.

COMPASS GROUP SA PTY LTD



BARRIE LLOYD
RCA - 6357

Signed at Adelaide on the 30th September 2021

"Liability limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation."

22 Vernon Street
PORT NOARLUNGA SOUTH
SA 5167

Phone: 08 8386 2244
PO BOX 4,
Seaford SA 5169

Phone: 08 8332 1355
PO BOX 355,
Mitcham SA 5062