

Nature Glenelg Pty Ltd
[ACN: 153 577 907]

as Trustee for



ABN: 23 917 949 584

Annual Report: 2022-23 Financial Year

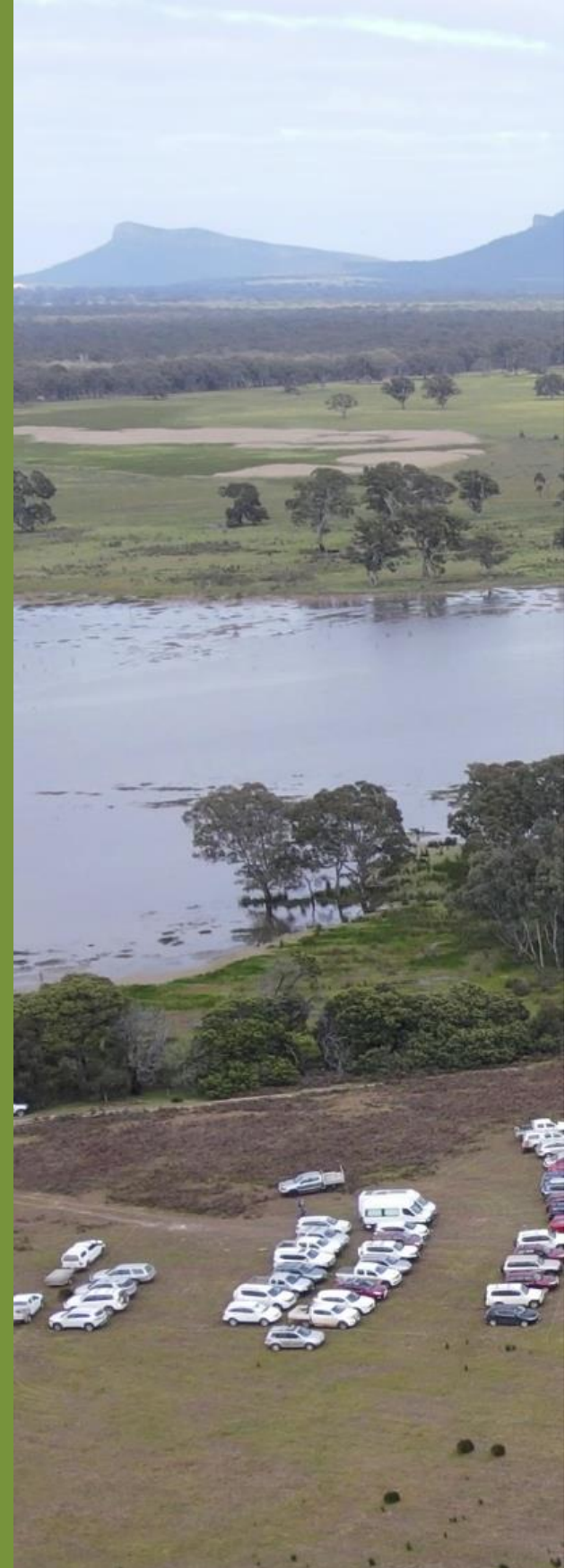


Table of Contents

MESSAGES FROM OUR BOARD	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 Reflecting on 11 years of NGT's work to restore wetlands.....	21
2.3 Tasmanian Field Day review: showcasing wetland and saltmarsh restoration at The Grange and Long Point	25
2.5 Boosting the visibility and protection of threatened freshwater fish across Australia.....	30
2.6 Grasslands in the cultural spotlight.....	32
2.7 After 40 years, Murray Crayfish have returned to South Australia!	34
2.8 Renewal of the NGT Board officially marks the end of NGT's establishment phase	35
3. Plans for the 2023-24 Financial Year	37
3.1 Prepare and finalise a new Strategic Plan for NGT	37
3.2 Significant upgrade and update to the NGT website	37
4. Employee Statistics	38
5. Membership	38
6. Financial Statement	39

MESSAGES FROM OUR BOARD

In last year's annual report I flagged that 2023 would be an important year of transition for NGT, as we finalise the last of a series of changes to mark the end of the organisation's establishment phase. As a result, this year we have welcomed three new members to NGT's Board: our new Chairperson, Mrs Ann McGregor OAM, as well as Ms Cecilia Myers and Mr Todd Burger. Our incoming members replaced two outgoing inaugural members, Dr Lachlan Farrington and Mrs Melissa Herpich, who have given many years of voluntary service to NGT's governance, and now remain involved with NGT in their important operational roles. A huge thanks to Lachie and Melissa for being part of NGT's journey and evolution over the past 12 years!

Beyond these changes to our Board, the past year has seen NGT sustain and expand our impact across the landscape, shining a light on our key priorities – like ecological restoration and threatened species recovery – issues for which we are now widely respected as leaders. None of this would be possible if not for the efforts of our wonderful, dedicated team of ecologists, our many volunteers and the financial supporters who make the work we are tackling possible, including financing critical work that would not be funded any other way. We are looking forward to another big year ahead!

Mark Bachmann, Managing Director / Founder

For some years I have admired and supported the excellent work of NGT. For the new Board members our recent induction tour introduced us to some of NGT's knowledgeable and dedicated staff, as well as an exciting sample of project sites and reserves.

As Chair, I look forward to being more closely involved in supporting NGT's well-established strategic directions and the continuing achievements and viability of this visionary and high-performing organisation.

Ann McGregor OAM, Director / Chair



NGT's Board of Directors in 2023:

Todd Burger, Cecilia Myers, Ann McGregor OAM (Chair) and Mark Bachmann

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 professional ecological services under fee-for-service contracts. 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 meet at least one of our organisational objectives from our Deed of Trust, namely:

- (a) To protect and enhance the natural environment, with a particular emphasis on all forms of ecological restoration, including wetland restoration, across south-eastern Australia.
- (b) To generate and provide high quality scientific information and undertake key conservation ecology research, which can be applied to achieve practical environmental benefits.
- (c) To promote public awareness of and access to nature, through education, science communication and involving the community in the activities of Nature Glenelg Trust.
- (d) To establish, maintain and manage a network of strategically located Permanent Reserves, especially within the organisation's identified Focal Region^{*1}.
- (e) To use the organisation's Permanent Reserves to demonstrate practical implementation of purposes (a) to (c) and inspire similar action on other land.
- (f) To generate a perpetual annual endowment from the NGT Foundation, a preserved capital fund that will sustain Nature Glenelg Trust's impact, including the care and management of the organisation's Permanent Reserves.

^{*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 227 projects during the 2022-23 financial year, with 94 of these projects completed by the 30th June 2023.

Type of Project Work	Number of Projects Active during 2022-23 Financial Year
Wetlands and waterways	34
Native flora, vegetation management or ecological monitoring	47
Aquatic fauna	70
Other fauna	30
Community engagement and education	25
Multi-faceted projects (several types combined) and/or complex project management or advice	21
TOTAL	227

1.2 Grant funded project work

Nature Glenelg Trust was awarded grant funding to commence or continue the delivery of 59 grant funded projects in the 2022-23 financial year. Nineteen (19) funded projects were acquitted during the financial year, with the other forty (40) remaining active into the 2023-24 financial year.

1.3 Environmental consulting project work

Nature Glenelg Trust also continued or commenced 168 contracted environmental fee-for-service projects, working with a wide range of clients in the 2022-23 financial year. Seventy-five (75) of these projects were completed and closed during the financial year, with the balance (93) remaining active into the 2023-24 financial year.

Irrespective of whether they are grant funded or contracted professional fee-for-service projects, 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.

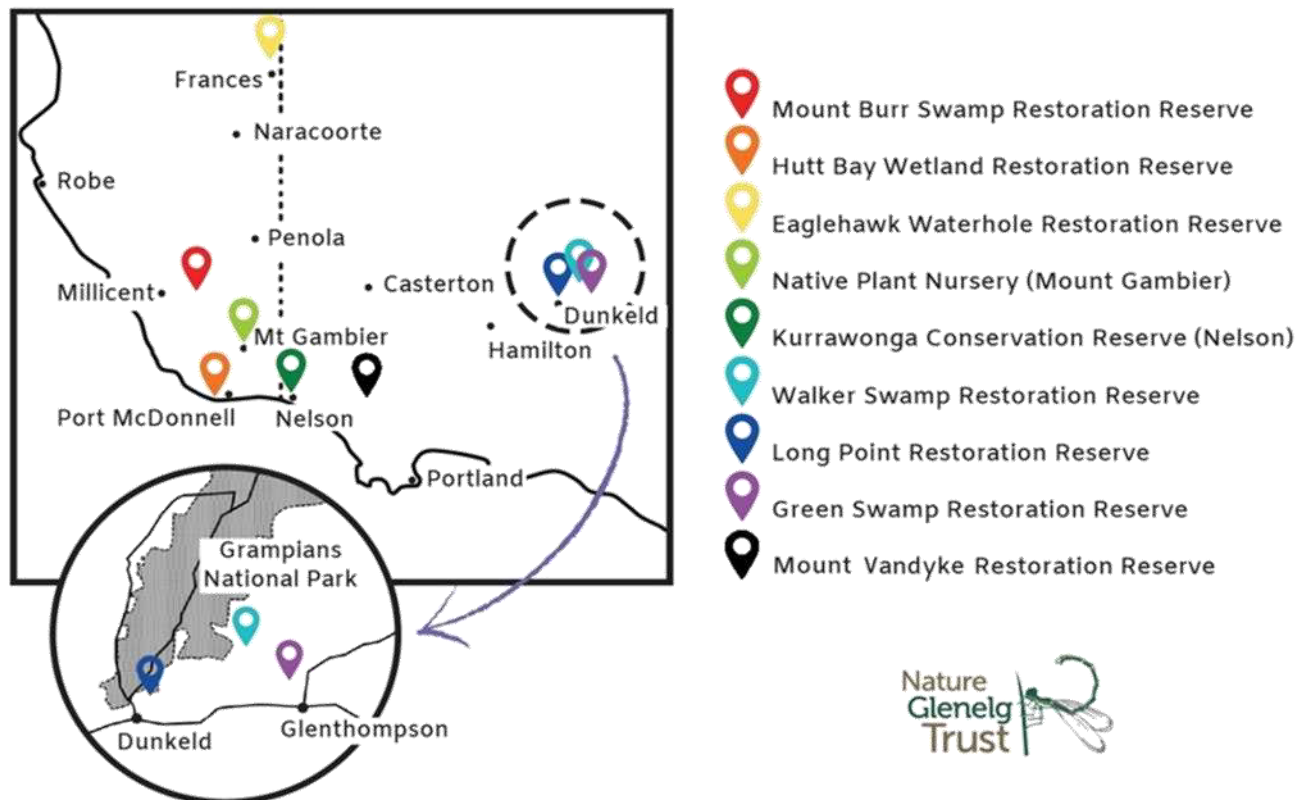
Of note, during 2023 the decision was made to discontinue the widespread public use of NGT's registered consulting trading names (Aquasave-NGT and NGT Consulting), given that our blended business model as an NGO is now widely accepted and understood. This decision was largely based on the fact that Nature Glenelg Trust is now an established and trusted brand for scientific project work, and to avoid ongoing confusion and lack of clarity with NGT's branding.

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

2.1 NGT Reserves Updates

NGT Reserves are located in the cross-border zone between South Australia and Victoria, and encompass woodlands, wetlands, grasslands and dunes, across a range of diverse landscapes.

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).



Throughout the second half of 2022, we continued to celebrate NGT's 10th Anniversary year by hosting events at NGT Reserves. These events feature in the following case study, before we share some other major stories from our reserves in the 2022-23 financial year.

2.1.1 Reflecting on NGT's 10th Anniversary Year

Like every one of the years that have now passed since NGT began, 2022 was another big one!

Something that made NGT's 10th Anniversary Year extra special was the chance to meet so many partners, friends and supporters of NGT – new and old – out and about in the places that we work to restore, protect and enhance the natural values of our landscape. Just a few of the highlights included:

- Autumn events at [Walker Swamp](#) and [Mt Vandyke](#) in Victoria, and [Moulting Lagoon](#) in Tasmania
- A winter event at NGT's first reserve, [Eaglehawk Waterhole](#) in South Australia
- And a wonderful spring bus tour of a range of [NGT's projects on the Fleurieu Peninsula](#), also in South Australia

It was really wonderful to end the year with an informal hike back out at Walker Swamp in December 2022, with a group of about 20 NGT supporters.

The group explored the southern half of the NGT Reserve on foot and, thanks to the recent floods, the wetlands were looking absolutely stunning on a perfect, clear day. As shown in the image below, the first part of the hike followed the boundary between the southern floodplains of the NGT Reserve, which have filled for the first time since restoration in 2019 (shown in the foreground), and wetlands within the Grampians National Park (including Gooseneck Swamp, shown centre right), before we reached Brady Swamp (the large wetland in the background of the image below). The NGT Reserve boundary is also clearly visible and runs diagonally from bottom right to top left.



The boundary between the floodplains of the NGT Reserve and wetlands within the Grampians National Park (boundary runs from bottom right to top left) in December 2022. Photo: Mark Bachmann

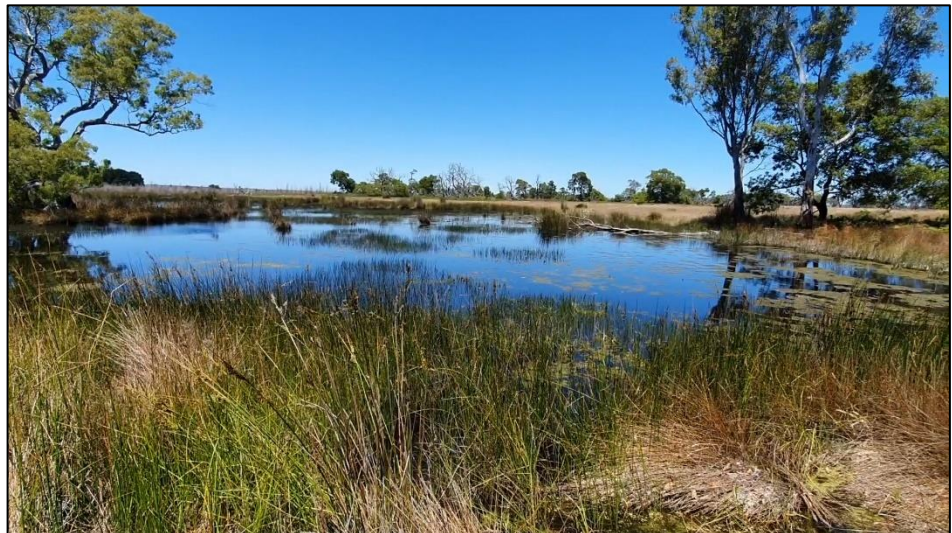
Once we reached Brady Swamp, which was our turning point before heading back through the centre of Walker Swamp floodplain, along the lunette that runs through the reserve, we paused for a quick group photo. Our intrepid group of explorers consisted of people from both near (Dunkeld, Willaura and Lake Bolac) and afar (from near Melbourne and Adelaide) – and we had a thoroughly enjoyable time.



The end of year hikers pausing at Brady Swamp, on Sunday the 18th December 2022. Photo: Mark Bachmann

By the way, in case we needed any reminding at all about how nature is rapidly and spectacularly bouncing back in this diverse network of wetlands that NGT has gradually been restoring over the past decade, it was provided by the Growling Grass Frog (aka Southern Bell Frog) whose continuous – sometimes

deafening – calls were part of the soundscape for the entire hike. This wonderful sound culminated for us in the little sheltered backwater wetland, shown right, where [we recorded some audio](#) to give you an idea of the experience.



2.1.2 Captured on camera at Kurrawonga; A base for researchers and wildlife alike

Things have been ticking along nicely at [Kurrawonga](#) – NGT’s beautiful brown stringybark (*Eucalyptus baxteri*) and rough-barked manna gum (*E. viminalis* ssp. *cygnetensis*) woodland property. This 100 acre woodland is on the edge of Nelson and the Lower Glenelg National Park, in the far south west corner of Victoria and was very [generously donated by the Moore family in 2018](#).

Being intact, high-quality old-growth woodland, Kurrawonga doesn’t need quite as much work as our other reserves, but of course there is always plenty to do! With help from NGT’s volunteers, the field crew have been slashing tracks, searching for and eliminating weeds, tidying up old bits of machinery and other items, and keeping up maintenance on the small cottage. The property has also been a favourite spot for Nelson Coastcare members undertaking fungi and orchid searches.

On wildlife, a confident pair of collared sparrowhawk (last seen just last week), have frequently turned up over the past few years on our wildlife cameras and may nest nearby. We’ve also had scores of sugar glider, ringtail possum, and dusky and yellow-footed antechinus, as well as the distinctive diggings of southern brown bandicoot and long-nosed potoroo. In some exciting news, a usually elusive potoroo has turned up on a wildlife camera recently (see the photo below).



Wildlife caught on our motion detecting cameras at Kurrawonga:

Left: A collared sparrowhawk drinking at Kurrawonga; **Right:** A long-nosed potoroo

While protection of the highly valuable old growth woodland at Kurrawonga is top of the list, another key role of the property has been to provide a handy base for ecological research and on-ground works in far south-west Victoria. Projects to benefit over the last year have included native fish surveys in the [restored Long Swamp](#) just south-east of Nelson, and [spiny crayfish surveys on the coast of SA’s Lower South-East](#).

Kurrawonga has also had a special guest lodger across multiple field trips – Matt Lefoe, PhD candidate from Deakin University working on yellow-bellied gliders in the region. This is really

important work and looks into the impact of bushfire and habitat fragmentation on the population in the far south-west of Victoria. Matt has deployed bioacoustic recorders across 200 sites in areas with historical records of gliders and/or appropriate habitat, with a focus on rough-barked manna gum woodland. Next month we'll hear from Matt with more details about his project – we're very keen to hear what he finds and very pleased NGT and our Kurrawonga Reserve can help support this important research.

One of Matt's recorders in tall manna gum woodland in Cobboboonee National Park (photo: Matt Lefoe)



2.1.3 Green Swamp brolga supported through the Baird-McLean Antigone Fund in the NGT Foundation

It is a great privilege to be able to share the details of one of the latest Named Funds to be established within the [NGT Foundation](#), the **Baird-McLean Antigone Fund**.

Right: Brolga Pair. Photo by Greg Kerr.

Margaret and Alan McLean explain in their own words, why they have taken this significant step, which will ensure a level of perpetual support for the work of Nature Glenelg Trust, with an emphasis on the majestic Brolga and our activities at the [Green Swamp Restoration Reserve](#) (you can also [learn more about the Green Swamp story here](#)):

“Like others who have taken the step to establish a Named Fund within the NGT Foundation, we have followed NGT’s impressive results for some years. NGT’s evidence-based approach, professionalism, technical knowledge and experience, and



collaboration with farmers and the community, are some of the ingredients shaping its achievements and enduring legacy.

NGT's long-term commitment to, and particular emphasis on, wetland conservation and restoration aligns with our strong interest in amazingly diverse wetland and waterway habitats in central and western Victoria. These are places with which we have family ties, and deep personal interests.

*Ongoing effective management and sustainability are central to continued positive outcomes. We are excited to be part of the journey, with NGT, through our **Antigone Fund**.*

Why 'Antigone'?

The name reflects the genus of the brolga (Antigone rubicunda), one of two crane species in Australia. In the Aboriginal language Gamilaraay, brolga are called burralga. They feature in many creation stories and dances.

Brolgas are joyous, intriguing and majestic, but also sadly threatened. Brolgas depend on wetlands, as do many other species. We are particularly pleased that part of our Fund is to contribute to ongoing brolga monitoring at Green Swamp, which has become an increasingly important flocking area for the species since the wetland was restored by NGT. This is but one small step in gathering information to assist to enhance and perpetually protect habitat to which brolgas, and others, can safely live, gather and thrive.

Margaret McLean (nee Baird) and Alan McLean, April 2023."



***A special sight: a fraction of a much larger Brolga flock at NGT's Green Swamp Restoration Reserve.
Photo by Greg Kerr.***

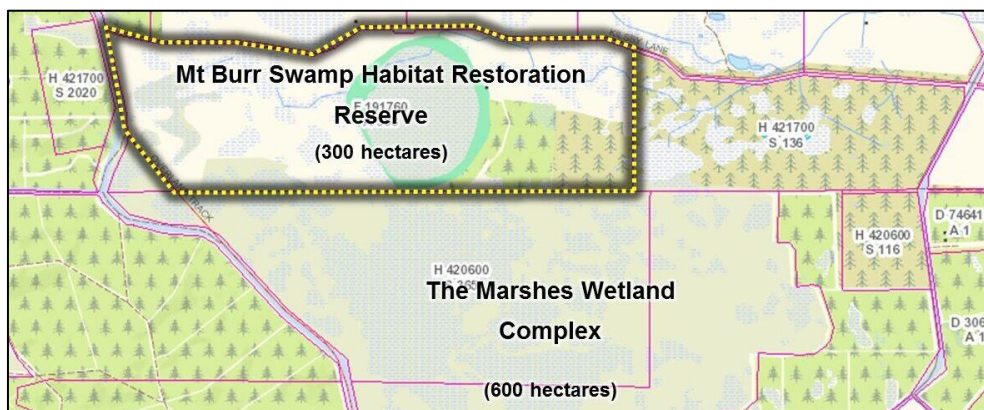
2.1.4 Expanding NGT's Mt Burr Swamp Restoration Reserve, and commencement of stage 2 restoration works

If you cast your mind way back to 2016, NGT [launched our first major public land purchase fundraiser](#), as we worked together with our partners and supporters to [create the Mt Burr Swamp Restoration Reserve](#) in the Limestone Coast region of South Australia.

The original land purchase (shown below) was made possible due to NGT's partnerships with the Native Vegetation Council and OneFortyOne Plantations, securing over 90% of the funds needed for NGT to establish the reserve. The balance was contributed via public donations.



Mount Burr Swamp – restored when NGT purchased the site in 2016.



The 2016 land purchase at Mt Burr Swamp.

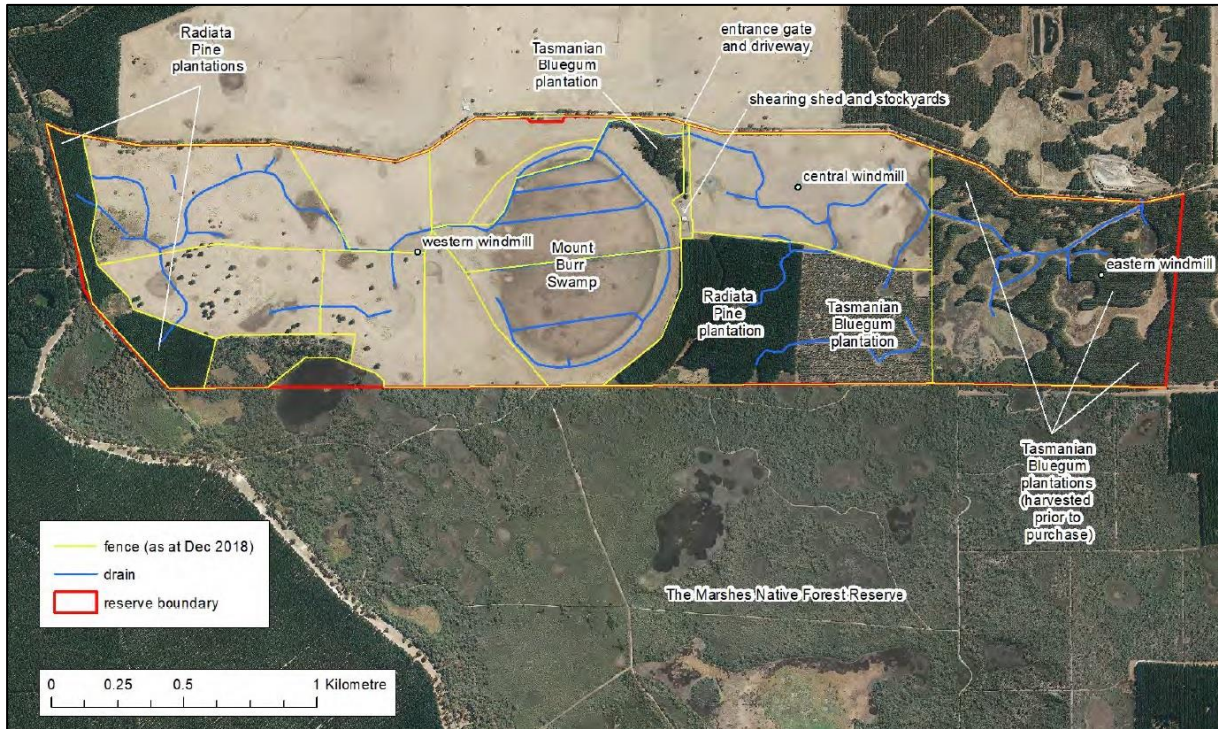
As NGT's first wetland reserve, securing this property was the culmination of a tremendous community effort and the site has continued to provide a focal site for [students](#), [community groups](#) and [local First Nations people](#). The property also remains a long-term work in progress for NGT staff and volunteers, as it is slowly transitioning from primary production (grazing and forestry) into a permanent conservation area. That process is being guided by our property management and restoration plan.

With this in mind, it is fantastic to be able to share the **exciting news that the original 300 hectare (750 acre) reserve at Mt Burr Swamp has also been expanded.**

This came about because, not long after the original reserve was purchased, we discovered that the adjacent parcel to the east was also in the process of changing hands (after the conclusion of a blue gum plantation forestry scheme). A lengthy and complex negotiation with the new owner of that

area ultimately led to the signing of a contract of sale for an additional 68 hectares (170 acres) in 2018, subject to subdivision.

The expanded reserve is shown below, along with a bit of an idea of the complex land management history we have inherited.



Map showing the additional 68 hectare areas added to the eastern end of the original Mt Burr Swamp Restoration Reserve.

As you will see in the map above, securing this additional area is a strategic outcome that will:

- create a more logical reserve boundary that ties in with the eastern boundary of the Marshes Native Forest Reserve (a public protected area) to the south.
- avoid having a boundary that bisects wetlands that have been impacted by artificial drains.
- allow restoration of natural inundation patterns to wetlands currently impacted by the artificial drains in this expanded area, which are all connected to the same main drainage outlet (noting that the drains in this location run from left (west) to right (east)).

Due to the way things unfolded and in particular timing, NGT required a bank loan to secure this additional area, but was given a funding boost to begin the process of paying off the debt thanks to a \$10,000 contribution in 2019 from the Nature Conservation Society of SA (the [NCSSA also supported the original purchase](#) in 2016), via the Madeleine Boyce bequest.

As we were working hard at that time to clear the debt on the original purchase of Walker Swamp, we opted for a longer-term strategy for paying down the remaining debt at Mt Burr Swamp. Needless to say, it took a few years, but thanks to a trickle of land purchase donations and the income being derived from the parts of the property still under production, the loan was eventually paid off in July 2021. This was not long after we launched our fundraiser for Mt Vandyke, and was at a time when we were still busy juggling a lot of restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



The NGT team at Mt Burr Swamp in November 2022. Photo: Mark Bachmann

Although this land addition has obviously been a ‘slow burn’, the characteristics and management history of this extra ground at Mt Burr Swamp (after being destocked for 15 years as a result of its plantation history) means that – after purchase – it immediately leapt forward to the ‘head of the queue’ for wetland restoration works on our reserve. Fortunately, thanks to the recent investment of the Limestone Coast Landscape Board in this site [via the Regional Recharge Farms project](#), next month we will share the finer details of recent large-scale remediation works that have been undertaken in this portion of the Mt Burr Swamp Restoration Reserve. Like the major works [completed last year at the Hutt Bay Wetlands](#), it is exciting news – so watch this space!

In the meantime, the map below broadly shows the portions of the 368 hectare (920 acre) reserve that are now our designated conservation zones, and set to soon be placed under a permanent on-title agreement. We now have approximately 170 hectares (425 acres) of the reserve which are under active conservation management and being restored.

For a journey that began when the first part of the property was purchased almost 7 years ago, yes, the path to environmental restoration can be a long and winding road. However, we are now making some great inroads towards our long-term vision for this incredibly important area.



Portions of the Mt Burr Swamp Restoration Reserve that are now designated conservation and restoration zones. Map by Bryan Haywood.

A quick glimpse of works (and early results) in the Mount Burr Swamp Stage II restoration area

Works in the stage 2 restoration area (the eastern area marked on the map above) were implemented over a 6 week period between April and June 2023, thanks to the key support of the Limestone Coast Landscape Board and other funding partners.

In short, the job involved backfilling a complex network of drains which extended through the sandy rises separating each of the peaty depressions situated across this patchwork of former swamps, heath and heathy woodlands. As we've discussed over the years, it is critical that the restoration process for any area that includes wetlands is done in the right order, which means addressing any modifications to hydrology first. Once this underlying ecological driver is fixed and back in place, we can incorporate the other ecological ingredients into the mix over the years ahead, and our approach can then be tailored depending on what degree of natural recovery is taking place.



The drain backfilling process underway in the Mt Burr Swamp Stage II works area. Photo: Mark Bachmann

Within literally days of the excavator leaving the site, what began as a good 'early break' in May gave way to a full-blown 'big wet' in June to start off the winter, rapidly inundating all of the restored wetlands to be full and overflowing. In fact, it turns out that [a number of places in the region broke records for June rainfall](#), as we barely saw the sun for several weeks and it rained almost every day. Yes, a bit bleak for us humans, but an incredible start for a freshly restored and recovering wetland.

The spectacular before and after images over the page say it all really!

Finally, in case you are wondering, the wildlife haven't taken long to let us know that they are happy about the change in conditions too. Within weeks, a group of five Brolga were seen wandering around the new habitat, and an Australasian Bittern that had already moved in was flushed while wading through part of the restored wetland that was being grazed by livestock until only a short time prior.



Before and After: Looking east over the Mt Burr Swamp Stage II restoration area, in July 2023, a month after restoration works were completed. Photos: Mark Bachmann

The project was supported by the Limestone Coast Landscape Board, through funding from the South Australian Government's Landscape Priorities Fund and the Australian Government's National Water Grid Connections Funding Pathway.



**Government of
South Australia**



Australian Government



2.1.5 Planting gets underway... despite the weather! Mount Vandyke Grassland Restoration

On a wet couple of days in June 2023, the long-awaited first stage of habitat restoration works got underway at Mount Vandyke. More than three-thousand grasses and sedges from Arborline Nursery in Hamilton were planted by Nature Glenelg Trust staff into the scalped (i.e. scraped) trial site at the northern base of the volcanic cone. Orders have now been placed for future plantings and the direct seeding trial, that has been put off due to persistently wet site conditions since 2022, will hopefully take place soon.

Mount Vandyke is a very wet site – annual mean rainfall is around 850 mm and in May this year it received over 120 mm for the month! With any form of revegetation, timing is everything, and the triple La Niña years have been a very difficult climatic phase for terrestrial restoration work. So, while the wetlands of the region are thriving, the grasslands are absolutely sodden. As a result, the Mount Vandyke restoration plan had to be revised, with some of our planned works – like the direct seeding – postponed until we can get equipment on site.

Recent soil investigations, coupled with the conditions at the site, have also sparked a rethink of the general order of works and the next phase of restoration works will now continue at the top of the hill, where conditions will be more favourable. Over 65 kg of native seed has been purchased for the initial seeding and 10,000 Kangaroo Grass cells ordered for over-planting. This will establish a 2-hectare area of native grassland cover from which we can harvest seed for on-going direct seeding down the slopes of the hill. A detailed contour map has been produced that has enabled the development of a staged works plan with the vision of a grassland hill surrounded by damp grassland/sedge land at its base, before grading into an ecotone of fringing woodlands.



Poa grassland seedlings planted in wet conditions



Left: Poa grassland establishment well underway; Right: 5000 Poa labillardierei seedlings for Spring planting

Grassland restoration is extremely challenging, even at the best of times. Apart from the variations in the weather and a changing climate, seed availability is extremely restricted. Only 2% of the Victorian Volcanic Plain that once extended from Melbourne to Mount Gambier now exists.

When NGT's Grassland Restoration Ecologist John Bradford travels over to Victoria's South West from Melbourne, he travels for five hours across what would have once been dominated by grassy plains. John sometimes passes small roadside and railway remnants and occasionally a property that hasn't been de-rocked and that still has native pasture being grazed by sheep.

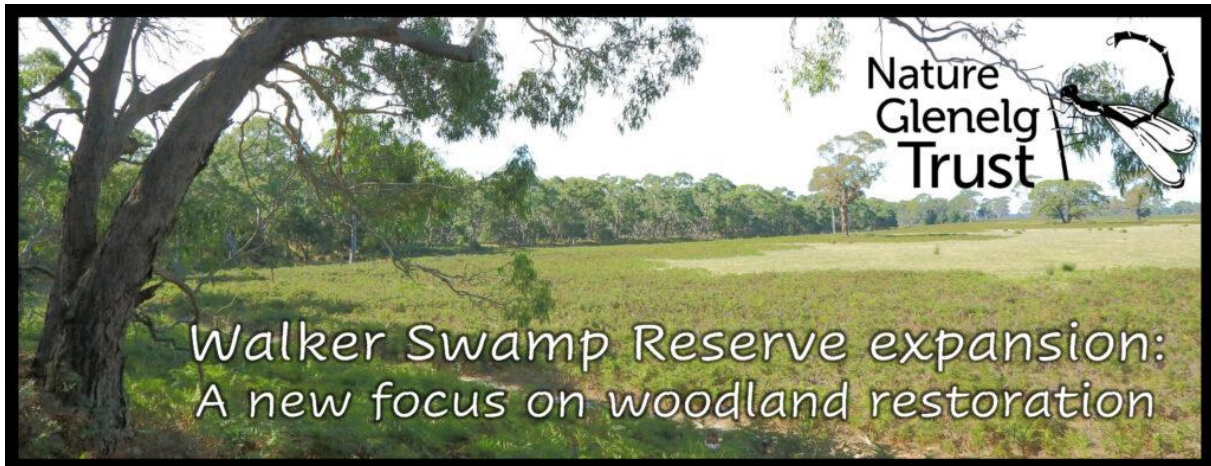
On reaching the Cobboboonee National Park that surrounds Mount Vandyke the change is even more obscure. What was once an old growth forest with a grassy understorey (perfect for grazing cattle in the early days of settlement) is now a largely closed forest of regenerating trees and shrubs that is almost impenetrable. To make sense of the 'grassy hill' in the forest that was Mount Vandyke, you need to imagine the whole forest as grassy woodland mosaic.

Nature Glenelg Trust has embarked on what will be one of the largest grassland restoration projects in temperate Victoria. For the ultimate success of the reserve, which aims to enhance, supplement or reintroduce small mammal populations in the surrounding Cobboboonee National Park, we are hoping to start a wider discussion about the management of this wider forested landscape. We look forward to comparing notes and putting our heads together with managers of the surrounding public land, to possibly imagine new ways of doing things that will start to restore a more diverse mosaic of habitats, including more open grassy woodland, providing a range of habitats for all the flora and fauna that call this magnificent area home.

The current phase of this project has been made possible thanks to the generous support of private donors to NGT, and the Purryburry Trust

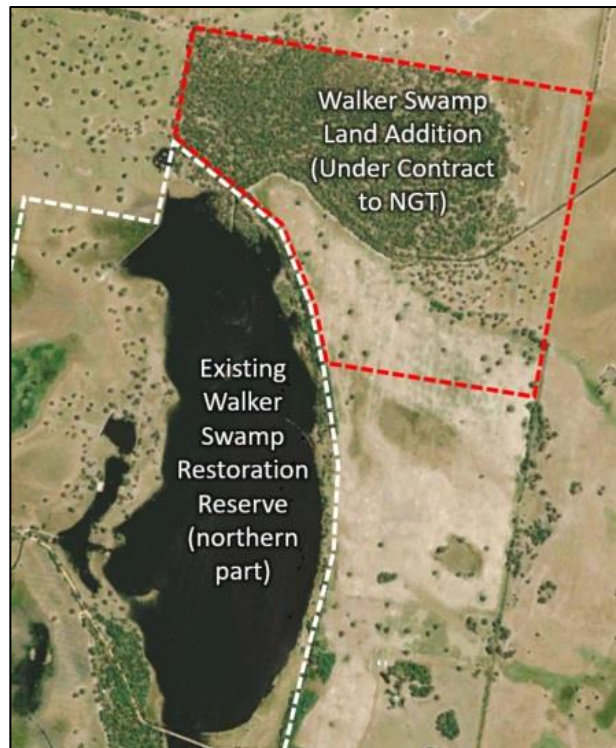


2.1.6 The wonderful story of meeting the 2023 Walker Swamp land purchase funding target!



In late June 2023, just a few days ahead of settlement, it was wonderful to meet our fundraising target of \$500,000 for the reserve expansion at Walker Swamp. This meant that we were able to complete the land purchase to expand the Reserve without having to go into any debt, which was big weight lifted – and providing a fantastic springboard for the ongoing restoration journey that continues at Walker Swamp!

Right: The area under contract that expanded the Walker Swamp Restoration Reserve by 390 acres on June 30th 2023.



We met the target as a result of 195 donations received over the previous two months, large and small, by people from all walks of life, from all around Australia and beyond.

A number of private philanthropic trusts and foundations also played a huge role in helping to push us towards the target, by giving our fundraiser a big nudge along at key moments. Two that deserve a very special mention are:

- the **Purryburry Trust**, who made a substantial commitment, by offering to continue to match donations almost all the way to our target, when our initial pool of matching funding was running low; and
- the **Drakensberg Trust**, whose significant contribution over the final few days allowed us to complete the fundraiser and reach the target ahead of settlement.

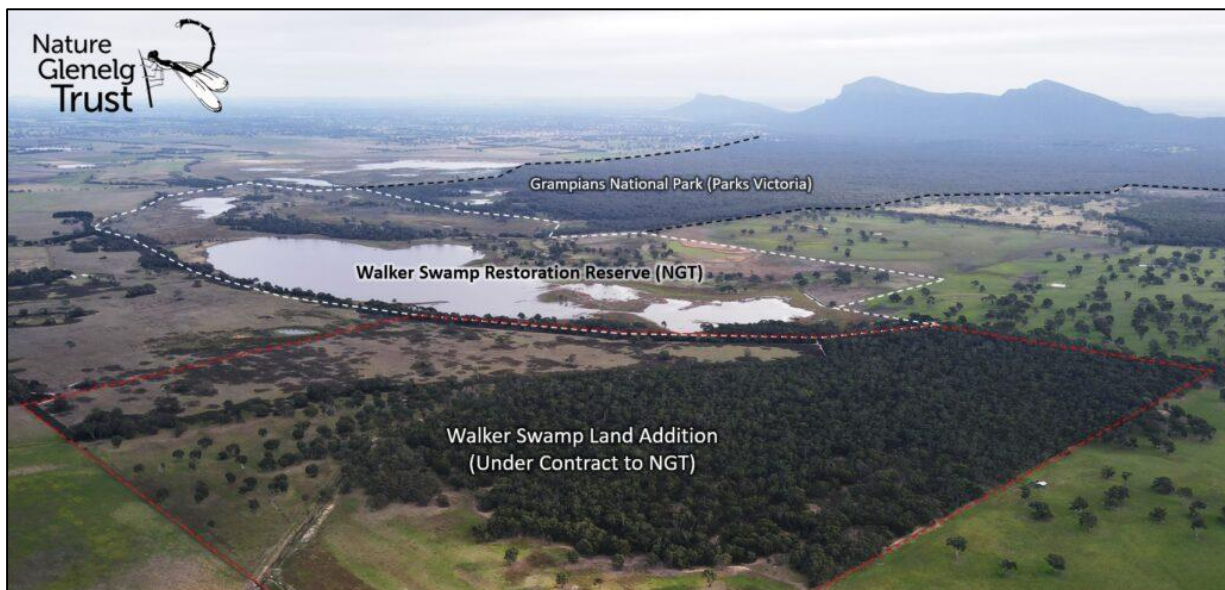
We know from past experience that public fundraising for land purchase is not easy, having done this on three occasions before over the past 11 years ([Mt Burr Swamp in 2016](#), [Walker Swamp in 2018/2019](#) and [Mt Vandyke in 2021](#)), so to actually reach our goal successfully, in full, ahead of settlement is a massive achievement. We hope that everyone who contributed feels just as satisfied with this news as we are – because obviously we couldn't have done it without you!



Manna Gum sand forest on the lunette adjacent to Walker Swamp. Photo: Greg Kerr

As we turn our attention to the future, our plans to manage the bushland area and restore the cleared areas will begin to unfold, to bring this area back to its former glory.

On behalf of everyone at NGT, if you have been involved in the Walker Swamp journey in any way over the years, thanks again for playing your part in the creation and expansion of the Reserve. By working together, we are now making major environmental restoration outcomes – in this really important and special landscape – a reality.



The view looking south-west over the proposed Walker Swamp land addition (foreground), with Walker Swamp and the Grampians National Park in the background.

2.2 Reflecting on 11 years of NGT's work to restore wetlands

In early 2023, NGT kicked-off an exciting new phase of wetland restoration action where we will be able to continue our work with farmers, foresters, Traditional Owners and any other landholders across the rural landscape who now find themselves as custodians of previously drained or modified wetlands in need of some care and attention.

For more information about the new program or to point you in the right direction for your enquiry, please contact Ayesha Burdett, Senior Wetland Restoration Ecologist via email ayesha.burdett@ngt.org.au, or call her on 0429 021 500.

At the same time as we look forward to more great wetland restoration stories to come, this article is about taking a moment to reflect on our long history of working alongside and supporting private landholders to rehydrate our landscape.

So where better to begin than right back at the start, when NGT's first wetland restoration program was awarded Australian Government grant funding [exactly 11 years earlier, in May 2012](#)?

As you will [see in this article a short time later, in August 2012](#), this 5-year program enabled us to employ Lachlan Farrington (now our Principal Ecologist) as NGT's first dedicated Wetland Restoration Ecologist. By the end of that program in 2017, NGT had undertaken wetland restoration works at a total of 18 wetlands (across 16 properties) improving wetland biodiversity on 807 hectares of land in Victoria and South Australia. Just one of the sites we restored during this time was Scale Swamp, near Dunkeld, which over subsequent years has [undergone a remarkable transformation](#).



Scale Swamp a few years after hydrological restoration, in December 2017

These are the type of results that inspired us to do more!

A short time later, thanks to the follow-up funding support of various Victorian Government programs from 2017-2022, we delivered a number of further wetland restoration projects in western Victoria. These projects targeted key areas of the landscape within the range of a number of threatened aquatic species, and resulted in more than 400 hectares of additional wetlands restored, across several more sites on private and public land. Some of these restored sites ended up providing immediate habitat for recovering populations of threatened species, including fish, frogs, and birds. For a private land example, on a forestry property at Yakkum Downs, please see [the final part of this story from 2018](#).

Along the way, we have also worked on some fascinating sites where wetland features straddled private land and an adjacent public reserve, where private land was the critical piece in the puzzle that was needed for restoration action to take place. For example, places like [Brady Swamp](#) and Kerr Swamp, both required the consent and agreement of two adjacent private landholders to proceed with hydrological restoration works.

Nardoo at a restored Brady Swamp, which straddles private and public land



Other wetland sites straddling private and public land were slightly simpler and only involved working with a single landholder. Such sites include two very special examples – Green Swamp and Walker Swamp, now NGT Reserves – that first began as collaborative restoration projects with the previous private owners to initiate these projects.

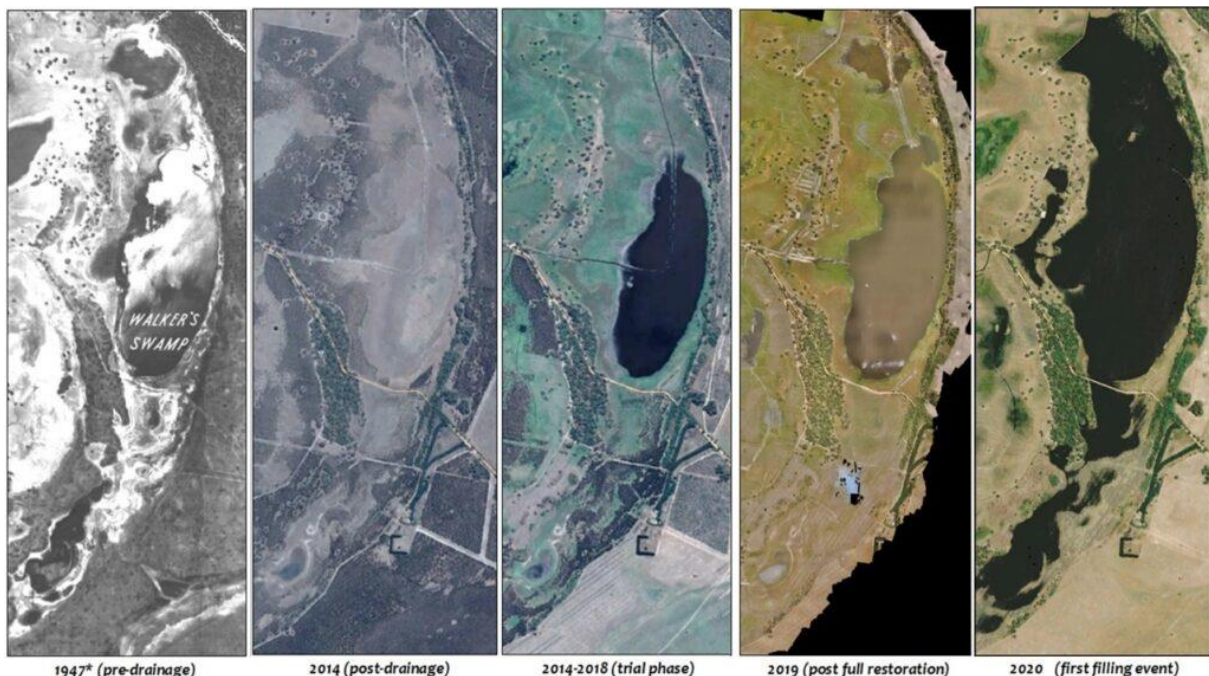
Green Swamp

We began working towards the full restoration of [Green Swamp back in 2013](#), and it took a few years before the first decent [flows arrived in August 2016](#), followed by a [significant filling event in spring that year](#). A few years later in 2020 and thanks to the support of the previous landholder (Warrembool Pastoral Co. Pty Ltd, who are livestock producers), this site [became a permanent NGT reserve](#), and is now a [key Brolga flocking site](#). The ongoing management of this site is now also supported by the [Baird-McLean Antigone Fund](#) in the [NGT Foundation](#). To see how Green Swamp has been looking more recently, after the big flows of late 2022, [this update may be of interest](#).

Walker Swamp

Our [original, temporary, low-level restoration trial at Walker Swamp](#) that commenced back in 2014, only occurred thanks to the foresight of Darren Shelden, who was the General Manager of Macquarie Forestry at the time. Back then, Macquarie owned the entire Walker Swamp property (along with a much wider estate towards Glenthompson), after converting the entire area to blue gum plantations several years earlier, as part of a Managed Investment Scheme. Even though the initial restoration trial was restricted in how much of the property we could inundate (to protect the surrounding plantations prior to harvest) it was the seed from which this [award-winning project](#) has since grown, providing the impetus for NGT [to secure the site in 2018](#), and eventually enable the [full restoration of the swamp and its surrounding floodplain](#).

For anyone who may only have come across NGT and our work more recently, this is how the Walker Swamp story began!



A dramatic timeline of change at Walker Swamp. The site became an NGT Reservation Reserve in 2018.

Across the border in South Australia, and our journey working with private landholders over the past decade has led to some fantastic outcomes at a variety of places. Here are just a few examples of those projects and the people who have made them possible:

- the [Thompson family and the Hutt Bay Wetlands](#)
- the [Ellison family and Mt Burr Swamp](#)
- the owners of [private portions of Square Waterhole Swamp](#) (Andrew and Sophie Peresano) and [Glenshera Swamp](#) (Chris and Helen Harvey) on the Fleurieu Peninsula
- the Brinkworth family and Wetlands and Wildlife, whose consent and support was required to [achieve the restoration of Tilley Swamp](#).



A panoramic view over a tiny fraction of the expansive, restored Tilley Swamp. Photo: James Darling

In recent years, we've also been invited to work with some wonderful private landholders in the other south-eastern Australian states. A couple of examples include [the Bandjalang Traditional Owners in northern New South Wales](#) and [neighbours of the Moulting Lagoon Ramsar Site](#) on the east coast of Tasmania, where our work continues today.



Remediation works underway to restore natural inundation patterns within saltmarsh on the Tasmanian Land Conservancy Reserve, Long Point – adjacent to the Moulting Lagoon Ramsar site.

All up, we've now restored more than 60 wetlands across the south-eastern Australian landscape. So as you will see from all of these stories, which is just the tip of the iceberg, we really enjoy finding common ground and working alongside people – from all industries, backgrounds and walks of life.

The Wetland Restoration Program on private land is an initiative of Nature Glenelg Trust.



2.3 Tasmanian Field Day review: showcasing wetland and saltmarsh restoration at The Grange and Long Point

On a perfect, sunny autumn day on Tasmania's east coast on Thursday 11th May 2023, NGT, in partnership with NRM South and the Tasmanian Land Conservancy (TLC), hosted a field day at Long Point and The Grange properties, which border the Moulting Lagoon Ramsar site. The event provided an opportunity for those who attended [the previous field day held in May 2022](#) to see the impact of restoration works one year on, and for all attendees to celebrate the culmination of three years' work and witness the [completion of the Moulting Lagoon restoration works in their entirety](#).

The field day was attended by approximately 30 people, as staff from NGT, TLC and NRM South, hosted attendees from all around the state, including community members, landholders and representatives from various Tasmanian NRM organisations and state government agencies.



Field day attendees, Barkstand Point. Photo: N. Laurence, NRM South.

The field day commenced with Laurel McGinnity from NRM South giving an overview of the broader 'Improving the Ecological Character of the Moulting Lagoon and Apsley Marshes Ramsar Sites' project, followed by Mark Bachmann from NGT providing a specific overview of the eco-hydrological assessment process and restoration works undertaken across The Grange and Long Point properties.

First stop was again Yards Hole on The Grange, where we investigated the northern outlet area, where a series of small dams and an artificial channel to Little Bay (established in the 1990s as part of an aquaculture development) were remediated in March 2022.

*Mark sharing details of the
Yards Hole outlet restoration works.
Photo: Justine Latton.*



We then traversed the eastern edge of Yards Hole to observe the bulk earth works, also completed in March 2022, to backfill a channel (essentially resembling a moat) that had been excavated around the perimeter of the wetland as part of the same aquaculture development. The rapid regeneration of saltmarsh in both of these areas had to be seen to be believed.



Saltmarsh recovery at Yards Hole one year after remediation. Photo: Mark Bachmann

Although the wet, persistent La Niña conditions somewhat constrained the timing and methods for works at the site, it is these very conditions that have spring-boarded the recovery of saltmarsh communities on recently restored ground.

We then trekked across the eastern edge of The Grange to Long Point, where Glenn Bain (TLC) introduced us to the WildTracker program which has focused on the monitoring of fauna across the property using camera traps. Glenn shared the program methods, including some hands-on experience with fish emulsion – which devils apparently can't refuse! – and recent findings with us from surveys on the property, which included devils, wombats, quolls, wallabies, but also introduced species such as cats and rodents. We were also lucky enough to see some Tasmanian Devil prints in the saltmarsh mud later in the day!

Devil hind-foot print in the saltmarsh mud at Long Point Reserve. Photo: Mark Bachmann



After taking a look over the remediated small dam near the Long Point entrance gate, the group then traipsed across to Barkstand Point and Opening Hole, to take in the extent of the bulk earthworks required to backfill the substantial artificial Barkstand channel which previously connected at either end to Moulting Lagoon north of Barkstand Point.

This original channel was also constructed in the early 1990s as part of the failed aquaculture works, and incorporated a number of smaller drainage features and ponds. With the completion of works this autumn, the natural geomorphology and hydrology of this area has now been restored.



Barkstand artificial channel before and after remediation in autumn 2023. Photos: Mark Bachmann

The elevated Barkstand Point provided a fitting lunch spot and allowed us to take in the views of the Long Point property and discuss the completion of the restoration works in March 2023. Sean Guinane (TLC) gave us an overview of ongoing revegetation and weed control programs at Long Point and we were able to inspect recent transplants of saltmarsh species in the Barkstand channel works areas. These are designed to assist and potentially fast-track the natural regeneration of adjacent saltmarsh areas.

From Barkstand Point, we were able to walk across to the southern end of the main eastern levee which was restored in March 2022. Again, the saltmarsh recovery on this thin strip of land was impressive to see and the equalisation of flows across this former embankment was now evident.

Saltmarsh recovery in progress – southern section of the main eastern levee restored in March 2022, showing saltmarsh regeneration and evidence of the equalisation of flows on either side of the works footprint. Photo: G. Isdale, NRM South.



We then walked off the site, passing the small western levee which was restored in March 2023. As shown below, water was now readily passing and equalising through this area too, which was a rewarding sight for all attendees and a great way to close out the visit to TLC's Long Point Reserve!



The western levee at Long Point. From top to bottom, these images show:

(a) the site in March 2023 before works,

(b) the completed remediation works, and

(c) the inundated floodway during our visit on the 11th May 2023.

Photos: Mark Bachmann

Together with the TLC, we will continue to monitor the recovery of the approximately 9 ha of remediated ground, including both the levee and drainage areas. Of course, beyond the immediate disturbance footprint of the works, an additional 114 hectares of saltmarsh habitat is now being positively influenced by these hydrological restoration works, noting that these areas of saltmarsh will continue to recover (adapting to the restored hydrological regime) over the years ahead.

The information we provided to attendees on the day is [also available to download or print](#).

Overall, the field day was a resounding success and was well received by attendees. It was great to provide the opportunity to showcase the recently completed restoration works and get a sense of what the remediated ground may look like as the process of recovery continues. Although the current NRM South project wrapped up in June 2023, we'll hopefully get another opportunity in future to share the progress of recovery at these sites, as we continue to track them through time.

Thank you to all those that attended and have expressed ongoing interest in this important project. A special thanks to Elise Jeffery of TLC and Laurel McGinnity of NRM South for their assistance in helping to coordinate and host the event.



Sharing a late afternoon cuppa and cookie at the end of the day. Photo: G. Isdale, NRM South.

This important work is supported by NRM South, with funding provided via the Australian Government's National Landcare Program



2.5 Boosting the visibility and protection of threatened freshwater fish across Australia

Funding for the protection of freshwater biodiversity is frequently overlooked. Alarming declines in freshwater species have been observed around the globe, with population reductions of around 60% between 1970 and 2014 ([Living Planet Report 2018](#)). This has also been observed in Australia, where 88 of approximately 280 freshwater fish were identified as in danger of becoming extinct. Despite this, only 37 freshwater fish are currently listed as threatened under the federal legislation that addresses the conservation of Australian biodiversity (the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act* (EPBC Act) 1999).

So why does the under-representation of freshwater fish listed as threatened under the national legislation matter? Unfortunately, any species not considered threatened under the EPBC Act means that targeted protection is often limited and they are mostly excluded from national funding for species conservation. Localised and state-based conservation is still possible, but the weight of national protection helps in this area too.

In 2021, NGT's aquatic ecology team were appointed to undertake a national assessment of the conservation status of Australian freshwater fish (see [this post](#) for more details on the project). This project is part of a range of initiatives that were funded by the national Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF; formerly known as the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment) in response to the impacts of the 2019-20 bushfires that burnt large areas of southern and eastern Australia.

In 2022, we completed preliminary conservation assessments for more than 250 freshwater fish species and in consultation with the team at DAFF and the relevant state authorities, we selected 18 freshwater fish species (see below) from all across Australia in urgent need of conservation listing:

- *Cairnsichthys bitaeniatus* (Daintree Rainbowfish)
- *Cairnsichthys rhombosomoides* (Cairns Rainbowfish)
- *Chlamydogobius gloveri* (Dalhousie Goby)
- *Craterocephalus dalhousiensis* (Dalhousie Hardyhead)
- *Gadopsis* sp. nov. Western Victoria (SW Victorian Blackfish)
- *Galaxias* sp. nov. Hunter (Hunter Galaxias)
- *Galaxias* sp. nov. Morwell (Morwell Galaxias)
- *Galaxiella munda* (Western Mud Minnow)
- *Galaxiella pusilla* (Dwarf Galaxias)
- *Hypseleotris ejuncida* (Slender Carp Gudgeon)
- *Hypseleotris gymnocephala* (Bald Carp Gudgeon)
- *Kimberleyeleotris notata* (Drysedale Gudgeon)
- *Melanotaenia* sp. nov. (Running River Rainbowfish)
- *Mogurnda thermophila* (Dalhousie Mogurnda)
- *Nannoperca obscura* (Yarra Pygmy Perch)
- *Neosilurus gloveri* (Dalhousie Catfish)
- *Pseudomugil mellis* (Honey Blue Eye)
- *Syncomistes rastellus* (Drysedale Grunter)



Some examples of the priority species assessed through this project: the Critically Endangered Daintree Rainbowfish – Michael Hammer; the Critically Endangered Dalhousie Mogurnda – photo Michael Hammer; and the Critically Endangered Morwell Galaxias – photo Tarmo A. Raadik.

Throughout the project, we compiled conservation advice and threat listings for these species in close collaboration with DAFF. All assessments were also reviewed by freshwater fish ecologists who very generously gave their time and shared their expertise.

The assessments showed that ten of the priority species should be listed under the *EPBC Act* as Critically Endangered and eight as Endangered. The major threats identified include invasive species, climate change and habitat degradation. Furthermore, many of the species assessed will experience further population declines unless conservation and recovery actions are implemented. A list of priority actions has been compiled within each conservation advice and will help guide future species management.

As a result of this work, additional species have now been accepted for listing by the national Threatened Species Scientific Committee (the authority that provides scientific advice to the Minister for the Environment). Once a species is listed as threatened, it is considered ‘a matter of national environmental significance’ and approval from the Minister is required before any action can be undertaken that might have a major impact on the species.

Hopefully, the work done through both this project, and the recently completed [‘Saving the spinys: urgent actions to conserve the *Euastacus* freshwater crayfish’](#) project, will boost the visibility of Australia’s freshwater biodiversity and guide its conservation into the future.

This project was supported by the Australian Government Bushfire Recovery for Wildlife and Habitat Program



Australian Government

2.6 Grasslands in the cultural spotlight

Native grasslands are very special places, full of biodiversity, but are now often highly degraded after a long history of grazing, clearance, drainage, and the list goes on. Historically native grasslands were places rejuvenated by fire, with first nations people managing the land through fire to maintain its quality.

We've been working on a project to place our rare, remaining native grasslands in the spotlight, assisted by OneFortyOne. The project involves burning sites to improve their habitat quality, with the help of traditional owners. The burning is involving members of the community to rejuvenate the grasslands and encourage plant diversity. By opening up the grasslands, space is provided between the tussocks for other plants, like lilies, sundew, sedges and riceflowers, to establish. You can [read more in our article about this project from 2021](#).

After a recent visit by the group (including Nature Glenelg Trust and Burrandies Aboriginal Corporation) they found a greater variety of native plants than previously recorded including a high cover of sundew, a tiny carnivorous plant (see below).



Tiny carnivorous sundew plants

During surveys, animals also formed part of the discussion especially when a small snake was seen amongst the grass. It was also encouraging to see many native rat tunnels throughout the kangaroo grass tussocks; a sign that the grasslands are providing good habitat.

Nature Glenelg Trust and Burrandies Aboriginal Corporation field crews are aiming to return to burn a further area along this stretch of road.



The Burrandies First Nations Crew with NGT and the Limestone Coast Landscape Board at the Wattle Range roadside grassland site.

Supporting organisations for this project include: Burrandies Aboriginal Corporation, Limestone Coast Landscape Board, Native Vegetation Council, Region 5 Country Fire Service, Wattle Range Council and OneFortyOne.

2.7 After 40 years, Murray Crayfish have returned to South Australia!



For the first time in 40 years, Murray Crayfish have been released into SA waters!

The Murray Crayfish is the second largest freshwater crayfish in the world and can weigh up to 2 kilograms, but has been lost from the southern extent of the Murray River due to over-fishing and environmental degradation.

Following the recent flooding, water quality has now improved sufficiently, so NGT and the Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board have partnered up to release Murray Crayfish in SA. A breeding program is also being trialled to boost numbers, which has not been done before.

The next stage of this involves a tracking program using transmitters and receivers to monitor the newly released individuals. We hope to soon see Murray Crayfish again thriving in their rightful home!

NGT has been involved in the conservation of this species for many years, including monitoring and translocations (moving a species to another location, usually to where it was previously found) in other states (see this [previous post about last year's crayfish surveys](#)).

To learn more about this recent milestone, please take a look at [this ABC news segment on the release](#), featuring NGT's senior aquatic ecologist Sylvia Zukowski.

This project was funded by the Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board.

Project supporters included North West Aquaculture, Ozfish, New South Wales Department of Primary Industries, Victorian Fisheries Authority and Department of Primary Industries and Regions, South Australia (PIRSA).

2.8 Renewal of the NGT Board officially marks the end of NGT's establishment phase

By Mark Bachmann, Managing Director / Founder

Just over 12 years ago, on the 10th of September 2011, a small group of six colleagues that I had approached over the couple of months prior met with me formally together as a group for the first time. That was the day we formed a committee to oversee the creation of a new multi-regional NGO, with its heart and soul in regional south-eastern Australia, now known as Nature Glenelg Trust.

Of course we didn't have a name or logo at that stage, and – a bit like my then recently completed home owner-building project – I can see clearly with the benefit of hindsight that I personally underestimated the enormity and complexity of the roller coaster ride that was about to begin!

(To learn more about the journey, you might find [this overview of common questions about NGT](#) I wrote in 2020, or [this story and video about NGT's first 10 years](#) from last year, of interest.)



The original NGT Committee of Management in 2013 at the newly finished NGT community nursery site in Mt Gambier. From Left to Right: Nick Whiterod, Michael Hammer, Becky McCann, Lachlan Farrington, Melissa Herpich, Cath Dickson, Mark Bachmann

Fast forward to a couple of years ago, and after 10 years of continuing to operate like a 'start-up' organisation, it was clear that the scale that NGT had reached meant we needed to begin transitioning the organisation into a shape and form that would ensure its long-term sustainability. The '10 year review' that we have methodically worked our way through since then, has resulted in a number of key changes over the past couple of years.

Many of those changes have been operational, such as the recent retirement of our formal use of alternative trading names owned by NGT (e.g. Aquasave and NGT Consulting), the [creation of other senior manager roles to oversee our ecological work](#), and a new [business operations manager](#) role to support our internal systems in things like Admin, IT, HR and OHSW.

Other changes have included some strategic amendments to our governing document, our Deed of

Trust, to ensure that [Our Purpose](#) is up to date and reflects the commitments that have been made to our partners and supporters – particularly in relation to our [Permanent Reserves](#) and the [NGT Foundation](#).

More recently, the final important change to come out of our review occurred – renewal of the NGT Board (previously referred to as our Committee of Management), to create the requisite degree of ongoing future separation between the governance of NGT and the organisation's operations. At our recent Board meeting on the 8th of September 2023, we officially welcomed three new members: Ann McGregor OAM (Chair), Todd Burger and Cecilia Myers.



The Nature Glenelg Trust Board in September 2023 (L-R): Todd Burger, Cecilia Myers, Ann McGregor OAM and Mark Bachmann.

While I am remaining on the Board, this was also the moment when our final other remaining original members, Lachlan Farrington and Melissa Herpich, resigned their Board positions, noting that they both remain deeply involved in NGT via their vital operational roles (to learn about our team of professional staff, [please click here](#)). This is a significant milestone for NGT, and officially marks the end of our establishment phase.

Prior to our first Board meeting, the new members joined me for an intensive three-day trip across the south-eastern Australian landscape to meet with a wide range of more than a dozen NGT staff, and to gain an insight into the breadth of our work across the fields of threatened species recovery, ecological restoration and environmental education.

Reflecting on the past 12 years, it is with great pride and gratitude that I look back at what we have achieved for the environment by working cooperatively with people on the land, supported by an increasing number of so many other wonderful people in the wider community who have joined us for the journey.

As this chapter closes, I would especially like to thank and recognise the efforts of the other original NGT Committee members for their role over the years in helping to shape the successful organisation that NGT is today: Dr. Lachlan Farrington (member: 2011 – 2023), Melissa Herpich (member: 2011 – 2019, 2022 – 2023), Dr. Cath Dickson (member: 2011 – 2022), Dr. Nick Whiterod (member: 2011 – 2021), Dr. Michael Hammer (member: 2011 – 2021), and Becky McCann (member: 2011 – 2013).

3. Plans for the 2023-24 Financial Year

3.1 Prepare and finalise a new Strategic Plan for NGT

With a new Board commencing in September 2023, a key priority for the 2023-24 financial year is the preparation and finalisation of a new Strategic Plan for NGT, as a concise, standalone document.

As well as outlining NGT's current priorities and approach to our work, the NGT Board have committed to the new plan protecting and building upon NGT's culture and reputation as leaders in restoration ecology in south-eastern Australia.

Goal: To prepare a new strategic plan for NGT, as a concise, standalone document.

3.2 Significant upgrade and update to the NGT website

The Nature Glenelg Trust website serves a number of important functions, and some of these functions have evolved over time. While it currently provides a huge library of information on previous work, in the form of newsletter updates and reports, this information is not easy to intuitively access, especially first-time visitors to the site. The structure of the website is also out of date, with some content kept up to date but other early content now requiring replacement, refreshment or removal.

Now that NGT has settled into a consistent way of operating and undertaking our work, we have an opportunity to upgrade and update the website. This will allow us to put in place a new format and structure for the site, that will better support its future use by our staff, partners, supporters and general public in the future. We will consider the different users of our website and their needs, and ensure that we continue to support NGT's desire to make the website the organisation's electronic 'library' for documenting our work, and for supporting the ongoing engagement of the public with our email newsletter.

Goal: To upgrade and update the NGT website to improve its accessibility, use and appeal to our staff, partners, supporters and the general public.

4. Employee Statistics

Nature Glenelg Trust employs seven full-time, 18 part-time and 25 casual staff.

Our full-time and part-time employees at the time of writing (Nov 2023) are:

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Mark Bachmann (Managing Director / Founder) | 13. Leah Kemp (Senior Threatened Species Ecologist) |
| 2. Carmen Bliss (Business Operations Manager) | 14. Greg Kerr (Senior Ecologist) |
| 3. Jessica Bouchier (Project Ecologist) | 15. Maiko Lutz (Ecologist) |
| 4. John Bradford (Grassland Restoration Ecologist) | 16. Lisa McIntyre (Partnerships & Community Coordinator) |
| 5. Ayesha Burdett (Wetland Restoration Ecologist) | 17. Tessa Roberts (Wetland Ecologist) |
| 6. Paul Drummond (Field Aquatic Ecologist) | 18. Angus Samson (Field Officer) |
| 7. Lachlan Farrington (Principal Ecologist) | 19. Tom Sheehan (Field Ecology and Works Officer) |
| 8. Bryan Haywood (Senior Ecologist) | 20. Bec Sheldon (Senior Wetland Ecologist) |
| 9. Melissa Herpich (Ecological Programs Manager / 2IC) | 21. Ben Taylor (Senior Wetland Ecologist) |
| 10. Sheryl Holliday (Field Officer) | 22. Rose Thompson (Project Ecologist) |
| 11. Scott Huntley (Aquatic Ecologist) | 23. Jonathan Tuck (Senior Ecologist) |
| 12. Angela Jones (Community Nursery Coordinator) | 24. Rosemary Wilson (Field Officer) |
| | 25. Sylvia Zukowski (Senior Aquatic Ecologist) |

5. Membership

As a duly constituted fixed charitable trust, Nature Glenelg Trust does not have a voting financial membership base, outside of Board members. The Board of the Trustee for Nature Glenelg Trust, also comprise the Committee of Management with legally accountability for the administration of the Public Fund (the Habitat Restoration Fund). The Board currently has four voting members:

1. Ann McGregor (Chair)
2. Todd Burger
3. Cecilia Myers
4. Mark Bachmann

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 monthly updates on our projects and organisational activities.

6. Financial Statement

NATURE GLENELG PTY LTD T/A NATURE GLENELG TRUST

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30th JUNE 2023

		2023 \$	2022 \$
	Note		
Revenue			
Sales		3,377,312	2,310,168
Administration Fees		101,080	145,390
Donations		504,353	1,147,085
Other Income		662,557	185,744
Total Revenue		4,645,302	3,788,387
Less			
Expenses			
Cost of Goods Sold		1,207,378	749,904
Employee benefits expense		1,932,294	1,403,938
Other expenses		404,039	481,437
Total expenses		3,543,711	2,635,279
Net surplus for the Year		1,101,591	1,153,108
Other comprehensive income		-	-
Total comprehensive income		1,101,591	1,153,108

The accompanying notes form part of the financial report.

NATURE GLENELG PTY LTD T/A NATURE GLENELG TRUST

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AS AT 30th JUNE 2023

		2023 \$	2022 \$
	Note		
Current Assets			
Cash and Cash Equivalents		3,090,281	3,130,170
Receivables	2.	698,322	516,938
Inventories	3.	1,163,082	1,337,115
Total Current Assets		4,951,685	4,984,223
Non-Current Assets			
Investments	4.	1,149,940	1,029,451
Property Plant and Equipment	5.	10,019,129	8,742,708
Total Non-Current Assets		11,169,069	9,772,159
Total Assets		16,120,754	14,756,382
Current Liabilities			
Trade Creditors and Other Payables	6.	3,121,859	3,334,117
Interest Bearing Liabilities	8.	29,391	-
Provisions	8.	189,915	479,247
Total Current Liabilities		3,341,165	3,813,364
Non-Current Liabilities			
Interest Bearing Liabilities	7.	418,148	-
Provisions	8.	490,092	173,260
Total Non-Current Liabilities		908,240	173,260
Total Liabilities		4,249,405	3,986,624
Net Assets		11,871,349	10,769,758
Equity			
Issued Shares & Settled Sum		396	396
Retained Surplus		11,870,953	10,769,362
Total Equity		11,871,349	10,769,758

The accompanying notes form part of the financial report.

NATURE GLENELG PTY LTD T/A NATURE GLENELG TRUST

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
AS AT 30th JUNE 2023

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Cash Flow from Operating Activities		
Receipts from		
Donations and Gifts	504,353	1,147,085
Government/Other Grants & Income	3,826,160	2,538,328
Interest	21,090	2,967
Payments to		
Suppliers and Employees	(3,463,499)	(2,202,759)
Interest paid	(7,883)	(2,559)
Net cash flow from operating activities	880,221	1,483,062
Cash Flows from Investing Activities		
Purchase of Property Plant & Equipment	(1,359,475)	(919,161)
Purchase of Investments	(8,174)	(1,152,551)
Net cash flow from investing activities	(1,367,649)	(2,071,712)
Cash Flow from Financing Activities		
Proceeds from interest-bearing liabilities	447,539	-
Repayment of interest-bearing liabilities	-	(254,090)
Net cash flow from financing activities	447,539	(254,090)
Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	(39,889)	(842,070)
Cash and Cash Equivalents at the beginning of the year	3,130,170	3,972,910
Cash and Cash Equivalents at the end of the year	3,130,281	3,130,170
Reconciliation of Net Surplus for the year to net Cash Flows from Operations		
Net Surplus for the year	1,101,591	1,153,108
Unrealised gain on Investments	(112,315)	-
Loss on sale of Plant & Equipment	33,744	-
Depreciation Expense	49,310	37,498
(Increase)/Decrease in Inventories	174,033	(425,991)
(Increase)/Decrease in Receivables	(181,384)	23,093
Increase/(Decrease) in Provisions	27,500	46,790
Increase/(Decrease) in Trade Creditors	(212,258)	648,384
Net Cash Flow from Operations	880,221	1,483,062

The accompanying notes form part of the financial report.

NATURE GLENELG PTY LTD T/A NATURE GLENELG TRUST**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30th JUNE 2023****NOTE 1: STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)****(e) Provisions**

Provisions are recognised when the company has a legal or constructive obligation, as a result of past events, for which it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will result and that outflow can be reliably measured.

(f) Employee benefits*(i) Short-term employee benefit obligations*

Liabilities arising in respect of wages and salaries, annual leave and any other employee benefits expected to be settled within twelve months of the reporting date are measured at their nominal amounts based on remuneration rates which are expected to be paid when the liability is settled. The expected cost of short-term employee benefits in the form of compensated absences such as annual leave is recognised in the provision for employee benefits. All other short-term employee benefit obligations are presented as payables.

(ii) Long-term employee benefit obligations

Liabilities arising in respect of long service leave and annual leave which is not expected to be settled within twelve months of the reporting date are measured at the present value of the estimated future cash outflow to be made in respect of services provided by employees up to the reporting date. Employee benefit obligations are presented as current liabilities in the balance sheet if the entity does not have an unconditional right to defer settlement for at least twelve months after the reporting date, regardless of when the actual settlement is expected to occur.

(h) Goods and services tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and purchased assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Tax Office. In these circumstances the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of an item of the expense. Receivables and payables in the statement of financial position are shown inclusive of GST. Cash flows are presented in the statement of cash flows on a gross basis, except for the GST component of investing and financing activities, which are disclosed as operating cash flows.

(i) Comparatives

Comparative amounts may have been reclassified in order to comply with the presentation format. The reclassification of comparative amounts has not resulted in a change to the equity of the company as reported in the prior year's financial report.

NATURE GLENELG PTY LTD T/A NATURE GLENELG TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30th JUNE 2023

	2023 \$	2022 \$
NOTE 2 Receivables		
Trade Debtors	650,238	516,938
Other Debtors & Prepayments	48,084	-
	<u>698,322</u>	<u>516,938</u>
NOTE 3 Inventories		
Work in Progress	1,163,082	1,337,115
	<u>1,163,082</u>	<u>1,337,115</u>
NOTE 4 Investments		
ACF Extension Fund	1,149,940	1,029,451
	<u>1,149,940</u>	<u>1,029,451</u>
NOTE 5 Property Plant & Equipment		
Land at Cost	9,750,479	8,500,479
Leasehold Improvements	85,021	85,021
Accumulated Amortisation	(34,018)	(30,617)
	<u>51,003</u>	<u>54,404</u>
Computer Equipment	49,037	36,709
Accumulated Depreciation	(34,092)	(28,388)
	<u>14,945</u>	<u>8,321</u>
Motor Vehicles Equipment	155,671	122,671
Accumulated Depreciation	(69,144)	(46,551)
	<u>86,527</u>	<u>76,120</u>
Office Equipment	6,048	6,048
Accumulated Depreciation	(5,660)	(5,393)
	<u>388</u>	<u>655</u>
Plant & Equipment	186,149	158,814
Accumulated Depreciation	(70,362)	(56,084)
	<u>115,787</u>	<u>102,730</u>
Total Fixed Assets	<u>10,019,129</u>	<u>8,742,708</u>

NATURE GLENELG PTY LTD T/A NATURE GLENELG TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30th JUNE 2023

	2023 \$	2022 \$
NOTE 6 Trade Creditors & Other Payables		
Current		
Deferred Revenue	2,860,186	3,262,042
GST Payable	140,342	107,732
PAYGW Payable	43,966	28,266
Other Creditors	77,365	5,927
	<u>3,121,859</u>	<u>3,334,117</u>
NOTE 7 Interest Bearing Liabilities		
Current-Bank Loans	29,391	-
Non-Current-Bank Loans	418,148	-
NOTE 8 Provisions		
Current		
Employee Entitlements	<u>189,915</u>	<u>479,247</u>
	<u>189,915</u>	<u>479,247</u>
Non-Current		
Employee Entitlements	<u>490,092</u>	<u>173,260</u>
	<u>490,092</u>	<u>173,260</u>
NOTE 9 Key Management Personnel Remuneration		
Short-term employee benefits	741,022	775,217
Other long-term benefits	-	-
	<u>741,022</u>	<u>775,217</u>

NOTE 10 Related Party Transactions**(a) Transactions with key management personnel of the entity or their personally related entities**

There have been no significant transactions with key management personnel of the entity or their personally related entities during the financial year ended 30 June 2023 other than as disclosed as at Note 9 above (2022: Nil).

NATURE GLENELG PTY LTD T/A NATURE GLENELG TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30th JUNE 2023

2023	2022
\$	\$

(b) Transactions with other related parties

There have been no significant transactions with other related parties during the financial year ended 30th June 2023 (2022: Nil)

NOTE 11 Capital and Leasing Commitments

Capital Commitments as at year end	\$515,000	-
	\$515,000	-

NOTE 12 Contingent Liabilities

There were no contingent liabilities as at 30th June 2023 (2022: \$Nil).

NOTE 13 Company Details

The registered office of the company is:
Nature Glenelg Pty Ltd
P O Box 2177
Mount Gambier
SA 5290



LVM Audits Pty Ltd
ATF LVM Audits Unit Trust
ABN: 59 287 598 247 P.O. Box 355 Mitcham SA 5062
Liability limited by a Scheme approved under Professional Standards

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

REPORT ON THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL REPORT

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 2023, the statement of comprehensive income, the statement of change in equity and the statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, other explanatory information and the Board members' declaration.

In our opinion,

the accompanying financial report of NATURE GLENELG PTY LTD ATF NATURE GLENELG TRUST is in accordance with Division 60 of the Australian Charity and Not-for-profit Commission (ACNC) Act 2012, including:

- (a) giving a true and fair view of the registered entity's financial position as at 30 June 2023 and of its financial performance for the year 2023, then ended; and
- (b) complying with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1, and Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2022.

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 registered entity in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's (APES 110) Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards) (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 believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

EMPHASIS OF MATTER – BASIS OF ACCOUNTING

We draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling the registered entity's financial reporting responsibilities under the ACNC Act. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

OTHER INFORMATION

The Board Members are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the Directors' Report, Directors, Principal Activity, Review of Operations, State of affairs, Events since the end of the financial year, Likely developments, Environmental regulations, Information on Directors, Meeting of Directors, Auditor's Independence declaration confirmation note and the Directors' Declaration, but does not include the financial report and our auditor's report thereon.

Our opinion on the financial report does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial report, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial report or our knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information; we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.



LVM Audits Pty Ltd
ATF LVM Audits Unit Trust
ABN: 59 287 598 247 P.O. Box 355 Mitcham SA 5062
Liability limited by a Scheme approved under Professional Standards

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

REPORT ON THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL REPORT

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE RESPONSIBLE ENTITIES FOR THE FINANCIAL REPORT

The responsible entities of the registered entity is 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 ACNC Act and the need of the members.

The responsible entities' responsibility also includes such internal control as the responsible entities determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the 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 responsible entities are responsible for assessing the registered 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 the responsible entities either intend to liquidate the entity or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

The responsible entities are responsible for overseeing the registered entity's financial reporting process.

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 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 management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the Board 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.



LVM Audits Pty Ltd
ATF LVM Audits Unit Trust
ABN: 59 287 598 247 P.O. Box 355 Mitcham SA 5062
Liability limited by a Scheme approved under Professional Standards

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

REPORT ON THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL REPORT

We communicate with responsible entities 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.

INDEPENDENCE

We confirm that the independence declaration required by the ACNC Act. Which has been given to the responsible entities of the Nature Glenelg Pty Ltd atf Nature Glenelg Trust, would be in the same terms if given to the responsible entities as at the time of this auditors' report.

REPORT ON OTHER LEGAL AND REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS

In addition, we have:

- i. Obtained an understanding of the internal control structure for the registered company;
- ii. Examined on a test basis of evidence supporting compliance with the accounting and associated record keeping requirements for fundraising activities pursuant to the Act and Regulations.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Barrie Lloyd'.

**BARRIE LLOYD
PARTNER
RCA - 5357**

Signed at Adelaide on the 30th November 2023.