



**gwap**

**GOOLWA TO WELLINGTON**

Local Action Planning Association

# Annual Report

## 2015-2016

**Local People | Local Issues | Local Action**



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## Background

The Goolwa to Wellington Local Action Planning Association (GWLAP) is a Not for Profit (NFP), Non-Government Organisation established and incorporated in 1998. We work closely with the local community to protect and restore biodiversity and sustainably manage natural resources, to create an environment where human activity and natural ecosystems can sustainably co-exist.

The GWLAP area covers approximately 265,000 ha encompassing all the plains and catchments flowing directly into Lake Alexandrina between Goolwa and Wellington. This includes the Bremer/Barker, Angas and Finniss River Catchments, the Currency and Tookayerta Creek Catchments, Sandergrove, Monarto South, Mulgandawa, and Brinkley plains areas, the Western half of Lake Alexandrina including Hindmarsh Island and Mundoo Islands, and the River Murray Mouth.

The GWLAP Strategic Plan 2013-2018 provides a framework for GWLAP to focus work and the key elements guiding the organisation are captured in the Vision Statement, Mission Statement and Key Goals, Strategies and Targets of the GWLAP Strategic Plan.

## Vision Statement

To create an environment where human activity and natural ecosystems can sustainably co-exist.

## Mission Statement

Working with local communities to protect and restore biodiversity and sustainably manage our natural resources.

## Goals of the GWLAP Strategic Plan



Promote environmental and agricultural resilience and sustainability within the community



Promote and help implement sustainable land management and farming systems



Manage impacts of climate change



Monitor and evaluate on-ground works



Conserve and restore biodiversity in the GWLAP area



Negotiate with Government



Improve health of creek, river, wetland and coastal systems

## Funding Partners

In 2015-16, GWLAP received grant funding for their projects and programs from the following sources:

Australian Government

South Australian Government – Murray Futures Program

Department for Environment, Water and Natural Resources

SA Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resource Management Board

Rural City of Murray Bridge

Alexandrina Council

Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure

**A number of Fee for Service Projects were undertaken for different organisations:**

Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges Natural Resource Management Board

SA Murray Darling Basin Natural Resource Management Board

Rural City of Murray Bridge

Landcare Association of South Australia

Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure

Angas Bremer Water Management Committee



# **The Goolwa to Wellington LAP Team**

## **GWLAP Board**

Keith Parkes (Chair)

Bruce Brooks (Vice Chair)

Barry Lincoln (Treasurer)

Merri Tothill (Secretary)

Derek Fenton (Public Officer)

Harry Seager

Margaret Wilksch

Anne Welsh

Paul Johnston

Ian Grosser

Tom Bradman

Jo McPhee

## **GWLAP Staff**

Ross Oke (General Manager)

Caroline Holloway (Finance and Administration Manager)

Will Miles (Lower Lakes and Coorong Community Revegetation Program Coordinator)

Kerri Bartley (Lower Lakes and Coorong Community Revegetation Program Project Officer)

Regina Durbridge (Lower Lakes and Coorong Monitoring and Evaluation Project Officer)

Leah Hunter (Lower Lakes and Coorong Community Revegetation Program Planner)

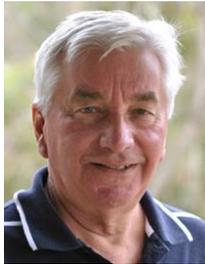
Ben Simon (Senior Project Officer, Eastern Hills and Plains)

Sherie Bain (Eastern Hills and Plains Project Officer)

John Gitsham (Fleurieu Swamps Project Officer)

Jacqui Wilson (Community Engagement Officer)

## Chairperson's Report



It's true that you never know what's around the corner, even with the benefit of foresight and planning. This time last year GWLAP was feeling the loss of some significant on-ground works projects and had yet to see the benefits of many hours spent business planning and preparing proposals. Now I walk into the Strathalbyn Natural Resource Centre and it is a hive of activity, with boxes of native seed on every surface ready to go in the ground for our new grant funded and fee-for-service activities.

GWLAP is well and truly still in business with a strong group of staff and board members, albeit with a few changes from 2014-15.

The start of the financial year saw the retirement of two of our long standing Board members, Chris Bagley and Gerry Thompson. Chris and Gerry joined the board in 2007 and 2012 respectively. Although the contributions of Chris and Gerry are missed, we are lucky to have a twelve member board to guide and support the GWLAP staff.

In the staff team, Liz Schofield left in October 2015 to pursue her interest in working with children at school. Liz had been with GWLAP for eight years, supporting community groups and promoting community education. We are very lucky to have had Liz at GWLAP for as long as we did and know that she will do great things working with the next generation. We have since welcomed Jodie Sommerville as a casual employee to undertake education projects with schools and children in our area.

Work-wise, GWLAP has been holding its own. With the long anticipated completion of the CLLMM Revegetation project looming, GWLAP has been working hard to secure funding for new on-ground works projects. I would like to congratulate Ross and the team on the successful bids for 20 Million Trees funding from the federal government and the achievement of some large fee for service projects.

We still face significant challenges on the horizon, despite many years of building our capacity, remaining hopeful and attempting to influence the manifestation of more secure funding for natural resource management. We find ourselves even more frustrated and struggling to see where the future opportunities are to access appropriate levels of medium and long-term funding to do the work that is required and that is best delivered by community-based organisations such as ours.

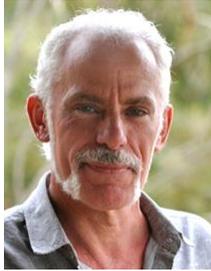
A highlight for the year was the staff and board enjoyed some team bonding in Waikerie for the State Landcare Conference in September 2015. It was a good opportunity to connect in both a work and social setting.

It has been a roller-coaster of a year at GWLAP but I am very happy that the team is moving in the right direction. Thank you to all board members for the time and effort they voluntarily commit to the management of GWLAP, you have helped steer the organisation in the right direction. Special thanks also to the hard working staff of GWLAP who keep the show on the rails.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Keith Parkes', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Keith Parkes  
Chairperson  
Goolwa to Wellington Local Action Planning Association

## General Manager's Report



**Around 24 separate projects were successfully delivered by the Goolwa to Wellington Local Action Planning Association (GWLAP) during 2015/16. These ranged from small grants and fee-for-service projects to an additional year and one million dollars in total from the South Australian and Federal Governments for the Coorong Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth Community Vegetation Program. We have drawn upon all of our resources – staff, board, partners, contractors and community members – in order to successfully deliver these projects and everyone involved has made a significant contribution. On top of this we have worked hard to secure further projects and gear up for anticipated change.**

I often hear people refer to the volatile and insecure nature of working at “the LAP”, yet this observation is generally qualified with a further comment reflecting optimism, pragmatism and a degree of resignation or acceptance. I wrote about the challenges of securing funding for community-based natural resource management in my report last year and it remains top of mind. We may accept that project-based funding is insecure and make plans to respond to this, but when large, well-funded projects finish, there is still a significant impact for us to deal with – individually and collectively.

Overall, GWLAP has fared very well in preparing for changes that we would prefer were not happening. Having expanded in order to deliver large, well-funded projects, we have needed to respond to the challenges associated with these projects finishing, while funding opportunities diminish. However, our business planning and active tendering, quoting and grant writing have seen some significant projects come to fruition and created a renewed enthusiasm about our activities for the next couple of years. We will be pushing ahead with this approach while continuing to ensure that projects are delivered to a high standard.

Adequate long-term funding for natural resource management, particularly community-based approaches, remains an aspiration, with programs and opportunities continuing to appear, build momentum and often dissipate as we look for the next wave. I used the analogy of catching waves in relation to securing funding in my first contribution to the GWLAP Annual Report in 2014. The metaphor was also used by a colleague recently and prompted me to think more about possible alternatives to the pattern of chasing funding opportunities in this way.

GWLAP staff and board members have identified the need to use different tools and strategies. As you might add a sail to a surfboard to maintain momentum when there are no waves but there is wind, we have identified some alternative funding sources, taken some risks and made some changes to be able to capitalise on them. Adequate public funding for natural resource management to benefit the wider public is still vital and it is insufficient to expect volunteers, community groups and landholders to undertake the work needed without providing the necessary financial contributions and mechanisms for us to access these resources. Groups such as Landcare Australia South Australia and others, including our advocates in government, are doing their best to influence policy and program development. We need to continue to work alongside each other to not only make the most of opportunities but to help create the sort of natural resource management framework that is often spoken about in our industry. One that is far less susceptible to lulls in activity, so that we can get on with the work that is needed.

This report highlights what can be achieved. It contains summaries of a range of excellent projects that demonstrate what is possible when groups such as ours work with funding and delivery partners to do what we do best – engage, inform, collaborate, plan and deliver on ground projects that improve the condition of our natural resources. I hope that you enjoy reading about these achievements and that they inspire you to continue to work with us to plan, secure funding and deliver more great projects in the coming years.

Some exciting and important activities have commenced in mid 2016. I would like to thank the GWLAP Board for their continued support and our great staff for their efforts, achievements and willingness to adapt and respond to the challenges we face. Your support and efforts have been vital in seeing these new projects come to fruition. Our project delivery and funding partners have also played a vital role in working with us to adapt and move forward and I would like to sincerely thank all involved. It has been a pleasure to be part of such a diverse range of inspiring projects and activities that are contributing to the conservation and sustainable use of our natural resources. I look forward to continuing to build on our collective efforts and achievements.

Ross Oke

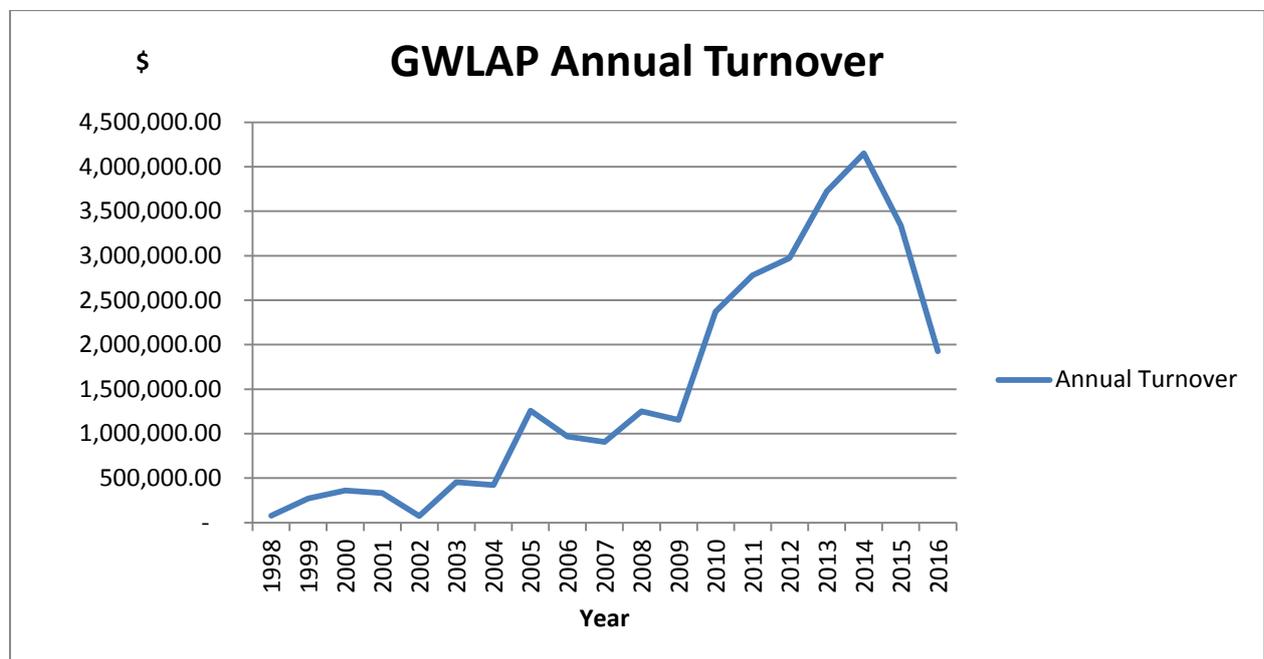
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'ROSS OKE', with a stylized, flowing script.

General Manager  
Goolwa to Wellington Local Action Planning Association Inc.

## Treasurer's Report



The 2015-16 financial year saw an annual turnover of \$1.92mill, a decrease of approximately \$1.4mill from the previous financial year due to the completion of three Federal Government Biodiversity Fund grants in the previous year, the final year of the 6 year Coorong Lower Lakes Murray Mouth Program and the continuing changing environmental funding climate.

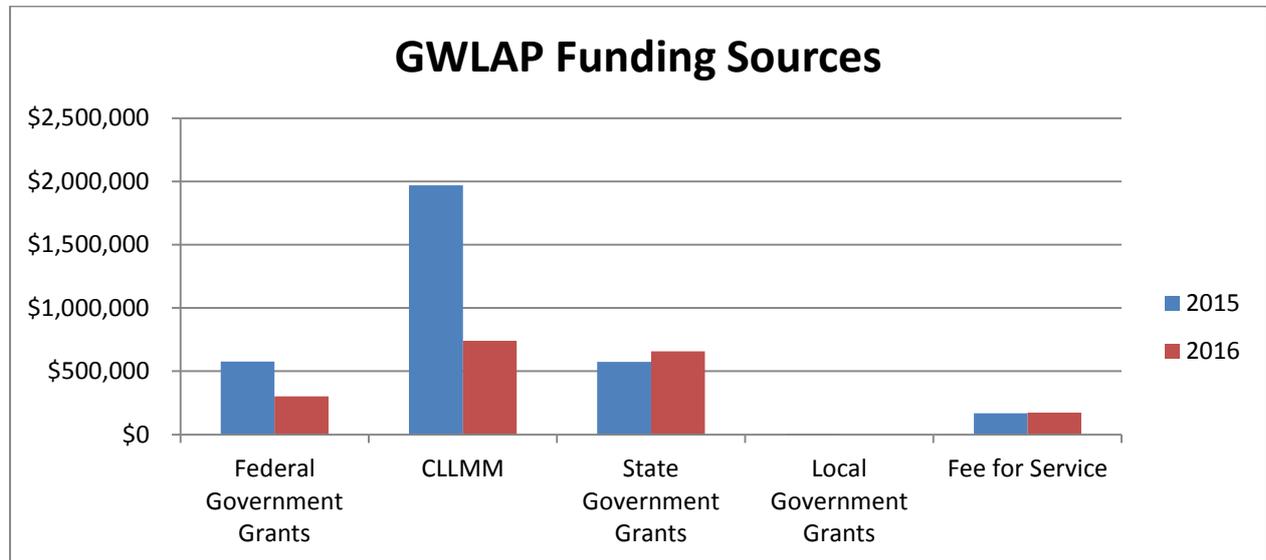


This year GWLAP was successful in winning five 20 Million Trees projects, three of which are funded directly through the Australian Government and two which are being delivered in collaboration with Landcare Australia Limited. In total, these projects will see an investment of \$883,630 over the next two years in the planting of 360 Hectares of native vegetation, using a combination of direct seeding and tubestock plantings, across Currency Creek, Finniss, Point Sturt, Hindmarsh Island, Goolwa, Mulgundawa, Kanmantoo, Wattle Flat and Kyeema Conservation Park areas.

GWLAP continued its collaborative relationship with the Landcare Association of South Australia (LASA) in hosting an Executive Officer and providing financial and HR management. It also established a collaboration with the Angas Bremer Water Management Committee in providing a Project Officer to deliver on the Committee's existing grants and provide support to the Committee. Other fee for service agreements were entered into with Terramin Australia Ltd in providing Secretarial services to the Strathalbyn Community Consultative Committee and Mount

Barker District Council in the delivery of plantings and habitat creation in the Big Green wetland and floodplain project.

GWLAP also provided in-kind finance and administration support to the Angas River Catchment Group, Prospect Hill Bushcare Group, Friends of Kyeema Conservation Park, Goolwa Coastcare Group, Signal Point Riverine Environment Group, Macclesfield Bushcare Group and the Milang and Districts Historical Society.



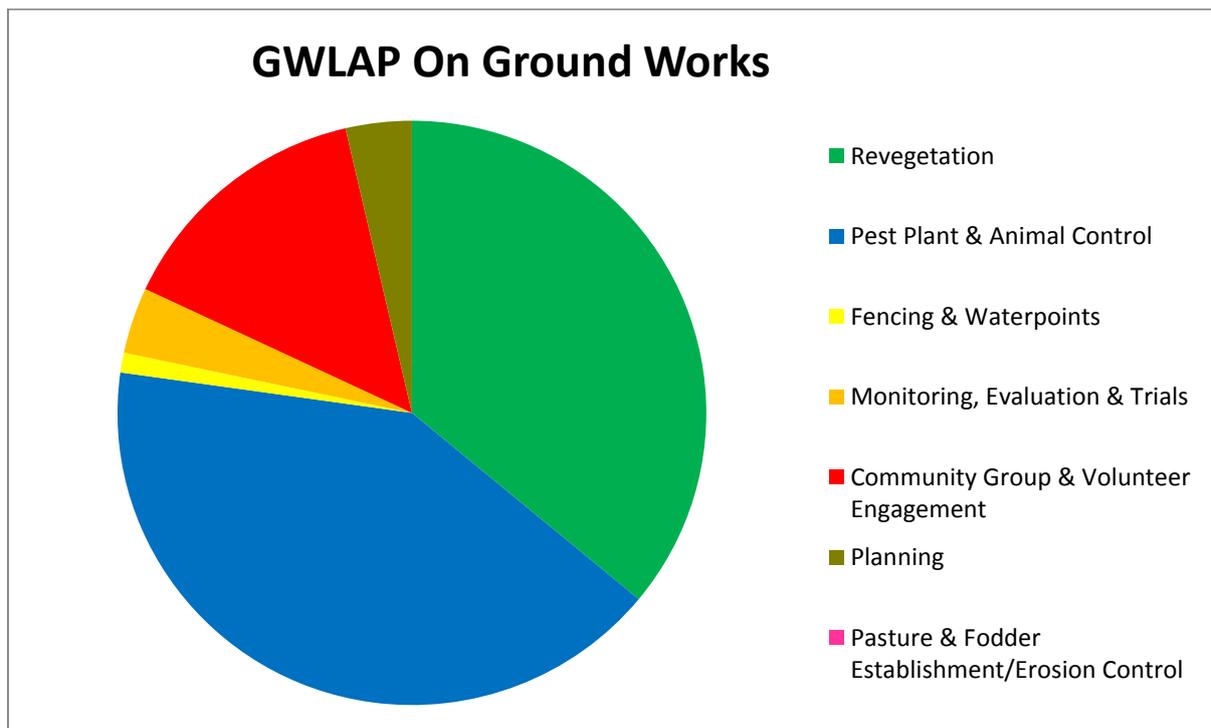
Funding in 2015-16 came through several major funding sources including:

- Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR) (State Gov) -** \$1,143,367.50 for the Community Revegetation Project in the Coorong and Lower Lakes area, GWLAP's biggest single project. It is part of the SA Government's Murray Futures Program funded by the Australian Government's Water for the Future initiative. DEWNR also provided other small grants through State NRM Grants.
- Department for Environment (Federal Gov) -** \$6,000 as an initial payment for three small scale 20 Million trees projects valued at \$300,000 over three years.
- Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (Federal Gov) –** through the Biodiversity Fund GWLAP received the third year of funding for our second-round four-year project, totalling \$222,300. This project will see the delivery of targeted and substantial ecological restoration across 1100 Ha of priority remnant vegetation on sites between Mount Compass and Meadows in the Mount Lofty Ranges.
- Natural Resources SA Murray-Darling Basin (SAMDB NRM) Board (State Gov) –** Over \$264,000 over a number of programs that have enabled GWLAP to engage and support the community over the whole LAP area.
- Mount Barker District Council –** \$44,067 for the Big Green project.

- **Alexandrina Council** - \$10,000 contribution towards the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure Residents Win project which will target removal of large woody weeds on the Goolwa to Middleton Road.
- **Natural Resources Adelaide Mount Lofty Ranges (AMLR NRM) Board (State Gov)** – \$15,000 over three grants predominantly targeting restoration works in the Goolwa Steam Ranger corridor, Tokuremoar Reserve and Stipiturus Conservation Parks area.

Operating expenditure for 2015/16 was in excess of \$2.7 million in the management of 68 major budget lines. The financial year ended with a net deficit of over \$778,000. This is due to the expenditure of funds carried forward from the previous financial year in line with current funding agreements.

A breakdown of how the aggregated funding was spent shows that the majority of funds received was spent on pest plant and animal control (threat abatement) in the LAP area, followed closely by revegetation, then community engagement. The following graph shows the allocation of funding for each category of activity and includes project officer salaries according to the time spent on each activity.



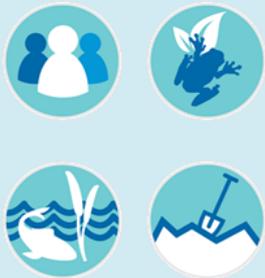
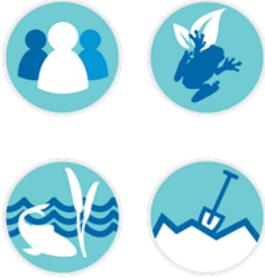
Barry Lincoln  
Treasurer, Goolwa to Wellington Local Action Planning Association

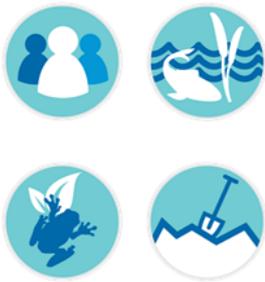
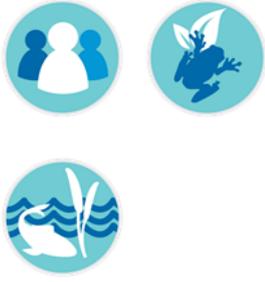
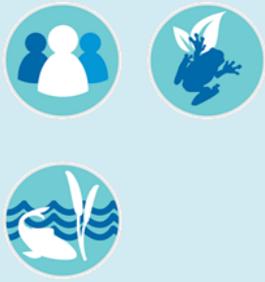
## List of Projects Undertaken by GWLAP in 2015-16

Project	Project Description	Finance	Goals of the strategic plan met by this project
<p><b>Coorong, Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth Community Revegetation Project</b> 2015/16</p> <p>Funded by <b>Department of Water and Natural Resources</b></p>	<p>Undertake the Lakes community revegetation project through (but not limited to) engaging landholders, preparing site plans, site preparation, contracting nurseries to grow plants, engage community to plant and guard seedlings, follow up weed control and site monitoring.</p>	<p><b>Project Value</b> \$1,972,761</p> <p><b>Project Start</b> Sept 2014</p> <p><b>Project Finish</b> Sept 2015</p>	     
<p><b>Coorong, Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth Community Revegetation Project</b> 2016/17</p> <p>Funded by <b>Department of Water and Natural Resources</b></p>	<p>As above</p>	<p><b>Project Value</b> \$1,000,000</p> <p><b>Project Start</b> Nov 2015</p> <p><b>Project Finish</b> Oct 2016</p>	     
<p><b>Coorong, Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth Community Revegetation 2015/16 GWLAP Pest Management Projects</b></p> <p>Funded by <b>Department of Water and Natural Resources</b></p>	<p>To build upon and extend previous environmental weed control undertaken at strategic sites in the GWLAP area</p>	<p><b>Project Value</b> \$400,000</p> <p><b>Project Start</b> Oct 2015</p> <p><b>Project Finish</b> April 2016</p>	   

<p><b>Coorong, Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth Community Revegetation Site Maintenance Project</b></p>	<p>Delivery of a site maintenance program on all sites planted in the Community Revegetation Programs 2014-15 planting season</p>	<p><b>Project Value</b> \$313,280</p>	
<p>Funded by <b>Department of Water and Natural Resources</b></p>		<p><b>Project Start</b> Sept 2015</p>	
		<p><b>Project Finish</b> June 2016</p>	
<p><b>Mt Compass to Meadows Biodiversity Links Project</b></p>	<p><u>Targeted ecological restoration</u> across 1100 Ha of priority remnant vegetation between Mount Compass and Meadows in the Mount Lofty Ranges.</p>	<p><b>Project Value</b> \$841,900</p>	
<p>Funded by <b>Australian Government</b></p>	<p>Weed control, fencing from livestock, field days, workshops and monitoring.</p>	<p><b>Project Start</b> Sept 2013</p>	
		<p><b>Project Finish</b> June 2017</p>	
<p><b>Connecting Communities in the GWLAP area</b></p>	<p>Support community groups, provide technical support to property owners and promote sustainability to the wider community.</p>	<p><b>Project Value</b> \$278,000</p>	
<p>Funded by <b>SA Murray-Darling Basin NRM Board</b></p>		<p><b>Project Start</b> July 2014</p>	
		<p><b>Project Finish</b> June 2017</p>	
<p><b>Fleurieu Swamps recovery project – Phase 4</b></p>	<p>Follow up on ground works on 20 of the properties currently involved in the program.</p>	<p><b>Project Value</b> \$103,000</p>	
<p>Funded by <b>SA Murray-Darling Basin NRM Board</b></p>		<p><b>Project Start</b> July 2015</p>	
		<p><b>Project Finish</b> June 2016</p>	

<p><b>20 Million Trees Programme: Goolwa to Wellington - Connecting Catchment to Coast</b></p>	<p>Reconstructing pre-clearance vegetation types at 4 sites comprising 24Ha of cleared land adjoining the internationally recognised Ramsar zoning of the Coorong and Lower Lakes Region</p>	<p><b>Project Value</b> \$100,000</p>	
<p>Funded by <b>Australian Government</b></p>		<p><b>Project Start</b> Feb 2016</p>	
		<p><b>Project Finish</b> June 2018</p>	
<p><b>20 Million Trees Programme: Kanmantoo to Wattle Flat - Connecting endangered Peppermint Box Woodlands sites</b></p>	<p>Reconstructing 20 Ha of pre-clearance vegetation types focussing on Peppermint Box Woodlands across two sites in the eastern foothills and plains of the Southern Mount Lofty Ranges</p>	<p><b>Project Value</b> \$100,000</p>	
<p>Funded by <b>Australian Government</b></p>		<p><b>Project Start</b> Feb 2016</p>	
		<p><b>Project Finish</b> June 2018</p>	
<p><b>20 Million Trees Programme: Reconstructing priority ecosystems in a SE Mt Lofty Ranges biodiversity hot spot</b></p>	<p>Reconstructing pre-clearance vegetation types at 2 sites comprising 20Ha of cleared land contiguous with high value remnant vegetation in Kyeema Conservation Park</p>	<p><b>Project Value</b> \$100,000</p>	
<p>Funded by <b>Australian Government</b></p>		<p><b>Project Start</b> Feb 2016</p>	
		<p><b>Project Finish</b> June 2018</p>	
<p><b>Management of the Strathalbyn Natural Resource Centre</b></p>	<p>Management of the Strathalbyn Natural Resource Centre to engage and facilitate community group, volunteer and school participation in a broad range of NRM activities, skills development and educational initiatives</p>	<p><b>Project Value</b> \$32,000</p>	
<p>Funded by <b>SA Murray-Darling Basin NRM Board</b></p>		<p><b>Project Start</b> Jul 2015</p>	
		<p><b>Project Finish</b> Jun 2016</p>	

<p><b>Delivery of Coastal Works and Wetland Community Engagement Support</b></p>	<p>Wetlands OGWs program - Provide community engagement to the Wetlands and Floodplains in the CLLMM region in 2015/16</p> <p>Coastal Program – Engage the community of Goolwa and Middleton in the management of Coastal environments through various OGWs activities</p>	<p><b>Project Value</b> \$30,000</p> <p><b>Project Start</b> July 2015</p> <p><b>Project Finish</b> May 2016</p>	
<p>Funded by <b>SA Murray–Darling Basin NRM Board</b></p>			
<p><b>Environmental watering project support and region-wide community frog workshop</b></p>	<p>Promotion of Frog Watch program and FrogSpot app; Provision of community engagement support to the Wetlands and Floodplains program to assist with the delivery of environmental water and increase volunteer capacity to undertake wetland monitoring activities</p>	<p><b>Project Value</b> \$26,000</p> <p><b>Project Start</b> May 2016</p> <p><b>Project Finish</b> May 2017</p>	
<p>Funded by <b>SA Murray–Darling Basin NRM Board</b></p>			
<p><b>Linking schools, sites and community groups in the GWLAP area</b> <b>‘Our Place’</b></p>	<p>Connecting school students and local community groups at a shared special site</p>	<p><b>Project Value</b> \$24,000</p> <p><b>Project Start</b> Jul 2015</p> <p><b>Project Finish</b> Jun 2016</p>	
<p>Funded by <b>SA Murray–Darling Basin NRM Board</b></p>			
<p><b>Collaborative Farming</b></p> <p>Funded by <b>SA Murray–Darling Basin NRM Board</b></p>	<p>Investigate the feasibility of implementing collaborative style farming practices for smaller landholders in the Eastern Mount Lofty Ranges</p>	<p><b>Project Value</b> \$16,000</p> <p><b>Project Start</b> July 2014</p> <p><b>Project Finish</b> May 2016</p>	

<p><b>Supporting Citizen Science bird monitoring in the SA Murray Darling Basin</b></p> <p>Funded by <b>SA Murray–Darling Basin NRM Board</b></p>	<p>Supporting the SA MDB NRM Board’s bird monitoring program for community members across SA MDB through the collection of data on the presence of birds.</p>	<p><b>Project Value</b> <b>\$10,800</b></p> <p><b>Project Start</b> July 2014</p> <p><b>Project Finish</b> June 2016</p>	
<p><b>Weed Control Trials</b></p> <p>Funded by <b>SA Murray–Darling Basin NRM Board</b></p>	<p>Trialling and demonstrating alternative weed control options with Fleurieu Farmers</p>	<p><b>Project Value</b> <b>\$9,000</b></p> <p><b>Project Start</b> March 2015</p> <p><b>Project Finish</b> March 2016</p>	
<p><b>Addressing threats to priority coastal vegetation at Goolwa Beach</b></p> <p>Funded by <b>Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges NRM Board</b></p>	<p>Management of 20Ha of priority coastal remnant vegetation</p>	<p><b>Project Value</b> <b>\$5,000</b></p> <p><b>Project Start</b> Oct 2015</p> <p><b>Project Finish</b> Oct 2016</p>	
<p><b>Protecting Endangered biodiversity through weed and revegetation maintenance</b></p> <p>Funded by <b>Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges NRM Board</b></p>	<p>Management of priority remnant vegetation at Stipiturus Conservation Park</p>	<p><b>Project Value</b> <b>\$5,000</b></p> <p><b>Project Start</b> Oct 2015</p> <p><b>Project Finish</b> Oct 2016</p>	

<b>Coastal Restoration through Community Collaboration</b>	Restoration of priority coastal remnant vegetation with local community volunteers, landholders, Govt. agencies and bush management contractors	<b>Project Value</b> <b>\$5,000</b>	 
Funded by <b>Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges NRM Board</b>		<b>Project Start</b> Dec 2015	 
		<b>Project Finish</b> Oct 2016	
<b>Addressing red alert weeds with community</b>	Addressing red alert weeds with a committed community at Finniss Conservation Park	<b>Project Value</b> <b>\$5,000</b>	 
Funded by <b>Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges NRM Board</b>		<b>Project Start</b> Dec 2015	 
		<b>Project Finish</b> Oct 2016	
<b>Community Bird Monitoring workshops in the Murray Bridge Council area</b>	Conduct 3 x Community Bird monitoring workshops for individuals and groups to monitor declining bird populations in the Brinkley and Ferries McDonald Conservation Parks	<b>Project Value</b> <b>\$2,727</b>	 
Funded by <b>Rural City of Murray Bridge</b>		<b>Project Start</b> April 2015	
		<b>Project Finish</b> April 2016	

## Fee for service contracts

<b>Employment of an Executive Officer for the Landcare Association of South Australia</b>	Facilitating LASA to progress its strategic plan and the strengthening of existing network linkages through employing a LASA Executive Officer on behalf of LASA	<b>Project Value</b> <b>\$85,000</b>	
Undertaken for <b>Landcare Association of South Australia</b>			

<p><b>Angas Bremer Water Management Committee (ABWMC) Project Officer 2016</b></p>	<p>Project Officer to collect, interpret and report on irrigation and other water resource management information; collaborate with irrigators; undertake ABWMC projects and apply for further project funding.</p>	<p><b>Project Value:</b> <b>\$18,000</b></p>	
<p>Funded by <b>Angas Bremer Water Management Committee</b></p>			
<p><b>Fleurieu Peninsula Vegetation Offset</b></p>	<p>Offset of vegetation removal with revegetation with locally indigenous plant species, bushcare works and weed control at various sites within the GWLAP region</p>	<p><b>Project Value</b> <b>\$4,728</b></p>	
<p>Funded by <b>Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure</b></p>			
<p><b>Bird ID and Monitoring training</b></p>	<p>Conduct community bird monitoring and ID training courses in the EMLR and Fleurieu</p>	<p><b>Project Value</b> <b>\$5,830</b></p>	
<p>Undertaken for <b>SA Murray–Darling Basin NRM Board</b></p>			



# Coorong, Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth Community Revegetation Projects



The Coorong, Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth Recovery Project is funded by the South Australian Government's *Murray Futures* program and the Australian Government.

Since 2010, the CLLMM Community Revegetation Program has engaged the community to propagate and plant in excess of 1.5 million local native plants covering 206 species in targeted high biodiversity sites around the Coorong, Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth Region. To date, 104 properties have been planted, with many sites revisited and planted across multiple years. At the completion of the 2016 planting season more than 95 local community groups were involved, with a large majority of these groups planting in consecutive years throughout the program.

## Community Revegetation 2015-16 Propagation and Planting Program

In 2016 planting season, 161,152 local native seedlings were planted on 27 carefully selected sites, around Lake Alexandrina, Lake Albert, the Finniss River, Currency Creek, the Tookayerta Creek and Hindmarsh Island.

Seventeen individual site plans and 2 multi-site plans were developed.

All plants propagated and planted for the project were grown from local provenance seed that was collected by local seed collection contractors, GWLAP staff, Green Army Teams and local community groups

adhering to strict permit guidelines. The Community Nurseries Network propagated all of the plants covering 143 local native species.

The seedlings were planted by 2,521 volunteers from 59 community groups contributing more than 13,782 volunteer hours over 151 planting days. The range of groups was diverse including schools, sporting clubs, CFS, Rotary, Landcare, special needs support groups and employment services.

Casual site managers were employed to support planting groups and ensure quality outcome. Extra site managers were issued for school groups and larger community groups to ensure planned outcomes were achieved.

Together with extensive weed management and increased community awareness, this project has considerably increased the ecological resilience of the Lower Lakes and Coorong region, and better prepared the community and the environment for any future droughts.

### The six nurseries and supporting school group involved in the project included:

Clayton Bay Nursery and Environment Group

Finniss Catchment Group

Hindmarsh Island Landcare Group (supported by Investigator College, Goolwa)

Milang Environment Centre

Orana Melaleuca

Raukkan



## Mt Compass to Meadows Biodiversity Links Project



The Mount Compass to Meadows Biodiversity Links project is a four year project due to be completed in June 2017. The project is funded by the Australian Government.

The project aims to restore 1100 Ha of priority remnant vegetation on sites between Mount Compass and Meadows and has so far doubled this target

The ecological restoration is achieved through weed control and fencing bushland to protect it from grazing stock. The works link with projects in adjacent areas to create landscape scale habitat corridors.

Work is currently being done on more than 2,350 Hectares of vegetation, more than 8 km of fencing has been erected.

In the 2015/16 financial year weed control has continued with many sites receiving secondary control works to address weeds made accessible by the removal of blackberries. Weeds include garlic, Arum lily, Montpellier broom, Freesia, Watsonia and follow-up on blackberry.

### Highlights:

**New populations of rare and endangered plants were discovered and received threat abatement works including a new patch of SA rare *Brachyscome graminea* (Grass Daisy), 2 new populations of the nationally listed critically endangered *Veronica derwentiana* ssp. *Holmalodonta* (Mt Lofty Speedwell) and 1 new population of the SA rare *Mentha diemenica* (Slender Mint).**

### The project has involved a huge number of people and organisations including:

Large farming entities

Natural Resources SA Murray-Darling Basin

Natural Resources Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges

Department of Transport, Energy and Infrastructure

Department for Environment Water and Natural Resources

SA Murray Darling Basin Threatened Flora Recovery team

Aboriginal Learning on Country (ALOC)

Friends of Prospect Hill Bushland Group

SA Forestry Corporation

Threatened Flora Recovery Project

Adelaide Botanical Gardens Seed Conservation Unit

Fleurieu Peninsula Swamps Recovery Program

Alexandrina Council

Mount Barker District Council and Local botanists

The use of very professional weed control contractors has meant that hard to access areas with entire creek-lines infested with weeds has been treated. The contractors have used long-line weed spraying equipment and have excellent plant identification skills.

Good natural regeneration of native species has started occurring at these sites after the removal of woody weeds, including orchids and lilies that were previously unable to grow due to shading out from weeds.

Broad-leafed selective herbicides have been used so native grasses, sedges and rushes have been minimally disturbed and are also growing up through the dead woody weeds.



## Combined Connecting Communities Projects



### **Connecting Communities in the GWLAP Area | Management of the Strathalbyn Natural Resource Centre | Supporting Citizen Science Bird Monitoring in the SA Murray Darling Basin | Our Place – linking schools and community groups in the GWLAP area**

The GWLAP Connecting Communities projects are supported by the SA Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Programme and the NRM levy.

The Connecting Communities projects provides a foundation for all GWLAP activities by providing the resources to respond to public enquiries, website and social media management, support local community groups, work with schools and provide educational opportunities such as workshops and events.

#### **Highlights for the year included:**

Launching a new GWLAP website and blog – 288 people have already signed up for the blog/email newsletter.

Several successful workshops were held over the year, attracting up to 60 participants at a time.

Landholders new to GWLAP have sought advice and property visits – and then following up with on-ground works.

The sale of local native seedlings out the front of the Strathalbyn Natural Resource Centre has increased the number of people entering the centre. The plant sales are

supporting the Community Nurseries Network and raising the profile of the SNRC.

The schools program is going from strength to strength with 10+ local schools being involved in environmental projects or education through the Goolwa to Wellington LAP.

Over 120 children and two community groups were involved in the Our Place program. Through field activities and in-class events, these children have been immersed in environmental education over a full year. Teachers report that this has led to a much higher level of environmental awareness and a stronger connection with nature among their students.

Birdwatching and monitoring courses were held throughout the SAMDB for volunteers and NRM/LAP officers and bird surveys were undertaken in key habitat areas.

Community Groups in our area continue to be well supported by GWLAP. Funding support, financial services, Green Army time for on-ground works, advice and moral support have been provided to different groups throughout the year. We are very happy that the community groups in our area continue to undertake on-ground projects with enthusiasm.

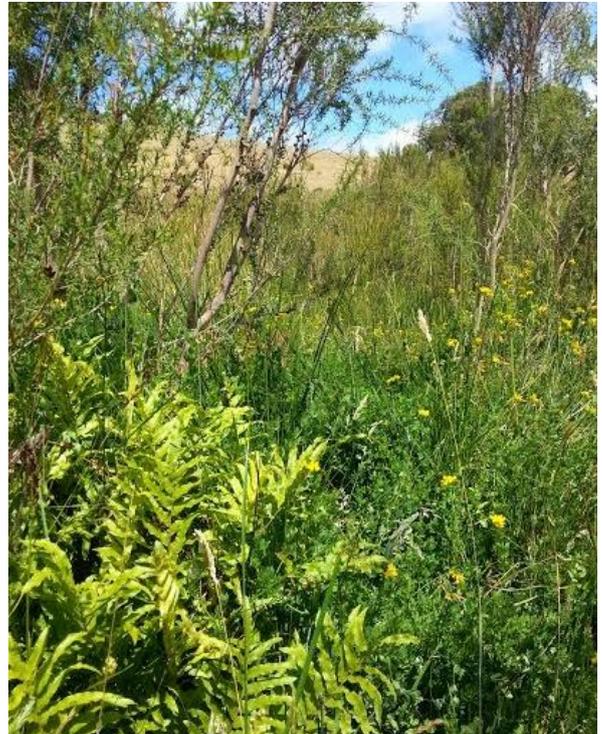


## Fleurieu Swamps Recovery Project – Phase 4



Fleurieu Peninsula Swamps are a Critically Endangered vegetation community that is only found on the Fleurieu Peninsula in South Australia, mainly in the Mount Compass area and to the south and west of Yundi and Finniss. They are located in and around waterlogged areas and are home to approximately 170 native species, of which almost half are considered rare or endangered.

Phase 4 of the Fleurieu Swamps Recovery Project has built on the work of previous years with 20 of the best swamps receiving follow up weed control (276 Ha of swamps plus 73 Ha of revegetation) by expert contractors.



## Combined 20 Million Trees Projects



GWLAP have been successful in obtaining grant funding for 3 major projects through the 20 Million Trees program. The projects are funded from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program.

All three projects started in February 2016 and the background planning is well underway.

Three Green-Army teams will be established to support the projects and will run one after the other until June 2018. The first of the teams are already up and running and busy doing site preparation for the projects.

All projects will use a combination of tubestock planting and direct seeding to reconstruct habitat types. GWLAP will team up with community based Community Nurseries Networks and other groups to help propagate and establish the plants. The Community Nurseries Network has been contracted to grow 60,000 plants for next season.

Green Army participants will be involved in all aspects of the projects including seed collection, plant propagation, site preparation, plant establishment, maintenance and monitoring. The teams will also undertake threat abatement activities such as weed control within and surrounding the project areas to enhance environmental outcomes. The Green Army teams will be managed by Workskil Australia Inc.

All three projects will be undertaken on a combination of private and publicly owned

lands, in areas that are known biodiversity hotspots due to the presence of EPBC listed ecological communities, flora and fauna.

GWLAP 20 Million Trees projects:

**Connecting Catchment to Coast** – this project will reconstruct pre-clearance vegetation types on 24 Ha of cleared land adjoining the internationally recognised Ramsar zoning of the Coorong and Lower Lakes region. It will provide vital habitat for declining woodland birds and nationally threatened native plant and animal species including Orange-bellied Parrot, Southern Bell Frog and Silver Daisy Bush.

**Kanmantoo to Wattle Flat – connecting endangered Peppermint Box Woodlands sites** – Peppermint Box Woodlands will be reconstructed on 22Ha in the eastern foothills and plains in the Mount Lofty Ranges. Community Landcare groups, farmers, members of the public and 4WD clubs will be involved in the project, particularly planting tubestock.

**Reconstructing priority ecosystems in a SE Mt Lofty Ranges biodiversity hotspot** – 20 Ha of land adjoining high value remnant vegetation in the Kyeema Conservation Park will be revegetated with pre-clearance vegetation types. The project will connect previous revegetation and remnant vegetation to provide vital habitat for declining woodland birds and nationally threatened species. Community groups, a 4WD club and local school students will be involved in activities.



## Green Army



Goolwa to Wellington LAP is currently hosting its fourth Green Army team since the Green Army program started in September 2014. The first three teams were allocated from round one of the program, the third and final team finished in March 2016.

GWLAP are hosting six teams over the next two years (May 2016 to June 2018) with the first of these teams currently on the ground. The Green Army are linked to 3 projects funded by the Australian Government through the 20 Million Trees program. The teams will continue to work on local projects on public and private land as well as making a significant contribution to delivering successful 20MT projects throughout the GWLAP region.

### Community partners

GWLAP Green army teams have assisted the following groups with on-ground works:

- Community Nurseries Network
  - Clayton Bay Community Nursery
  - Milang Community Nursery
- Finniss Catchment Group
- Macclesfield Bushcare Group
- Kanmantoo/Callington Landcare Group
- Flaxley Landcare Group
- Goolwa Coastcare
- Angas River Catchment Group
- Prospect Hill Bushland Group
- Many Private Properties

### Issues/Environmental Significance

Issues of environmental significance in the GWLAP area that have been tackled by the Green Army include improving habitat for declining woodland birds, controlling weeds

of national significance, and rehabilitating EPBC listed Fleurieu Swamps. The teams have undertaken revegetation to create habitat corridors between patches of remnant vegetation, watercourse rehabilitation and erosion control to enhance the ecological resilience of the area.

Some of the tasks undertaken by the Green Army teams include:

- Woody weed control
- *Sollya heterophylla* control
- Revegetation
- Site preparation and maintenance of revegetation:
  - Spraying
  - Brushcutting
  - Guard collection
  - Woody weed control
  - Mulching
- Seed collection
- Water quality monitoring
- Bird and frog monitoring
- Carp control
- Fencing
- Weeds mapping
- Erosion Control

### Education

GWLAP have provided workshops and instruction to Green Army participants on the following topics:

- Bird id and monitoring
- Frog id and monitoring
- Water quality monitoring
- How to operate machinery including brush cutters

- Chemical handling and use
- Nursery work – plant propagation
- Revegetation – how to plant and guard
- Plant provenance and habitat structure
- Timing and techniques of seed collection

### Benefits to Green Army team members

- Learning to work with community
- Learning to work as a team
- Being exposed to a wide range of environmental activities
- Learning about their own local environment
- Employment opportunities with GWLAP
- Conservation and Land Management Certificate
- First Aid certificate

### Outstanding achievements

- Four Green Army team members have moved to paid positions with GWLAP as part of an on-ground works crew. Two of these four have also been employed site managers for the Community Revegetation Program and are responsible for managing teams of community volunteers.
- Good feedback letters from landholders and groups.
- Their value to programs in a time of reduced funding is welcome – it has been possible to achieve a greater degree of on-ground works that otherwise would not have been possible.

### The Green Army Teams

Team	1	2	3	4
<b>Duration</b>	October 2014 – March 2015	April 2015 – September 2015	October 2015 – April 2016	May 2016 - present
<b>Host</b>	GWLAP	GWLAP	GWLAP	GWLAP
<b>Service Provider</b>	Workskil	Workskil	Workskil	Workskil
<b>Team Supervisor</b>	Ben Croft	Ben Croft	Ben Croft	Ben Croft
<b>Members</b>	Jet Sam Stephanie Daniel Jessica Emma Josh Andrew	Dylan Ben Luke Shane Derrick Alistair Priya Jacob Chris	Ben Luke Michael Alyssa Zoe Brandon Steve Will Jordan	Brandon Sarah Alyssa Taletha Joshua Keith Wade Acacia Yasmin







**gwlap**

**GOOLWA TO WELLINGTON**

Local Action Planning Association

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**Further information on Goolwa to Wellington  
Local Action Planning Association and this  
Annual Report can be obtained from the  
GWLAP General Manager:**

**Ross Oke**

**P:** 08 8536 5612

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