



2018 NATIONAL LANDCARE AWARDS

11 October
Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre

Nominee: Goolwa to Wellington Local Action Planning Association, SA

Category: Australian Government Partnerships for Landcare Award

Goolwa to Wellington Local Action Planning Association (GWLAP) has been engaging the community in environmental works since 1998. Over the last decade GWLAP has focused its efforts on protecting the Fleurieu Peninsula Swamps, home to endangered plants and animals such as the Mount Lofty Ranges southern emu-wren.

The Fleurieu Swamp Project has supported on-ground works to repair and protect swamp habitat, provided education and support for landholders in becoming swamp custodians, and developed the Mount Compass School Swamp as a habitat that is accessible to the public.

GWLAP and the NRM Education Team have worked with the Mount Compass School to restore the school's swamp boardwalk, making it safe for visitors and students, and a Swamp Ambassadors Program has been established. Interpretive signage has been installed so visitors can learn about the swamp, and a plant ID guide has been compiled and published by GWLAP and its partners to assist with education.

Using the Mount Compass School Swamp as a demonstration site has been key to the promotion of the Fleurieu Swamps in the wider community. Natural Resources, SA Murray-Darling Basin have worked closely with the school, providing seedlings for the endangered Mount Compass Swamp Oak. The GWLAP and NRM Education have helped the school develop an education program and activities package that other schools can use when they visit the swamp.

A number of promotional events have been held at the school, and the Fleurieu Swamps are regularly promoted in the mainstream and local media. The Nature Conservation Foundation has invested in the future of Fleurieu Swamps by purchasing the Watchalunga property, turning the area into a reserve. GWLAP, Natural Resources South Australia, and SA Murray-Darling Basin have helped the Foundation with a fundraising campaign to help save the Mount Lofty Ranges southern emu wren, holding volunteer planting days on swampland.

Approximately 90 percent of the swamp is on private land, so engaging landholders has been essential. GWLAP helped operators in the dairy industry protect swamps on their properties with stock exclusion fencing and alternative watering points. The main threats to swamps are stock pugging damage to the ground, as well as overgrazing and trampling of native vegetation. Illegal clearance has been an issue, along with invasive weeds such as blackberry, broom, thistle and African daisy.

Some swamps naturally regenerated once fenced. Exotic weed species were controlled to promote regeneration in others. Careful revegetation with local swamp species was carried out to create wildlife corridors, while landholders were encouraged to promote uninterrupted water flows by holding off on draining their swamps.

This program is supported by Landcare Australia and the National Landcare Network, through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program.





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Landcare is a grassroots movement that harnesses individuals and groups to protect, restore and sustainably manage Australia's natural environment and its productivity. Groups that fall under the Landcare umbrella work on a diverse range of environmental projects and include farmers embracing sustainable farm management and any community group that partakes in volunteer environmental activities. To find out how you can become a Landcare volunteer and for full details on all 2018 National Landcare finalists, visit www.landcareaustralia.org.au

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Web Summary

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Pull-out quote:

Careful revegetation with local swamp species was carried out to create wildlife corridors, and existing swamps have been fenced to protect from stock.

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