

# Milang habitat restoration project takes flight

The Milang community will celebrate World Environment Day, with this year's celebrations coinciding with the launch of the Milang Habitat Restoration Project.

The event, organised by the Milang and District Community Association, will also kick start the 2017 planting season with some of the 10,000 plants that will revegetate the Milang wetland area being planted on the day.

The community is invited to join the celebration on Saturday 10 June 2017 from 11:00 am, commencing at the Milang wetland site (adjacent the Milang Railway Station) at Daranda Terrace, Milang for the formal part of the festivities.

Following a ceremonial planting, a light luncheon will be provided, and an open invitation is extended to community to participate in Ngarrindjeri cultural activities from 1:00 to 3:00 pm.

The Milang wetland, known colloquially as the 'snipe sanctuary', is the site of the Habitat Restoration Project.

Set on the edge of Lake Alexandrina the wetland is an important site for Latham's Snipe, a 'rare' wetlands bird listed under the South Australian *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972*.

This shy little bird, who weighs in at just 200 grams, flies some 8,000kms from Russia and Japan to summer in parts of south-eastern Australia, including Milang, before starting the long return journey in March.

The habitat restoration project focuses on infrastructure and ecological works in and around the wetland to improve the snipe habitat, and to promote awareness of the environmental significance of this Ramsar wetland and its relationship to social and cultural values of the area.

Specifically, the project will improve access and facilities around the site, including the installation of pathways, seating, viewing nodes and a shelter.

A new bird hide will also be built and interpretive signage erected around the site.

Tasks including revegetation and weed control to improve habitat are currently underway.

Infrastructure works are expected to begin in early July and be completed by October 2017. There will be heavy machinery on site during this time and some restricted access will apply.

For further information on the project visit [www.madca.org.au/habitat](http://www.madca.org.au/habitat)

*Photo caption: The Milang community will celebrate World Environment Day, with this year's celebrations coinciding with the launch of the Milang Habitat Restoration Project.*

## Media contact

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### **Background**

The Milang Habitat Restoration Project has received \$564,510 in financial support from the the Coorong, Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth (CLLMM) Recovery Project, which is funded by the Australian Government and the South Australian Government's *Murray Futures* program.

The project is being carried out in partnership with the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR), Alexandrina Council, Ngarrindjeri Regional Authority, Milang and District Community Association and the Goolwa-Wellington LAP.

### **Quotes attributable to Natural Resources SA Murray-Darling Basin Project Officer, Scott Butler**

The Milang wetland is an important migratory site for the Latham's Snipe during the warmer months in South Australia.

This habitat restoration project will provide important ecological benefits and enhance community and visitor connection to this valued natural resource.

### **Quotes attributable to Milang and Districts Community Association Chief Executive Officer, Fiona Pitcairn**

Milang and Districts Community Association encourages residents, shack owners and visitors who know, use and love this area to join the celebrations as this great projects takes flight.

Milang and Districts Community Association is keen to ensure that through this project we promote the Ramsar values of wise use; achieving positive outcomes for the environment and our community.

### **Quotes attributable to Alexandrina Council Mayor, Keith Parkes**

Alexandrina Council is delighted to work in partnership with DEWNR, the Milang and Districts Community Association, Goolwa-Wellington LAP and the Ngarrindjeri Regional Authority to see this project come to fruition.

The snipe sanctuary, Milang and Lake Alexandrina are significant environmental assets in our district with this project further highlighting the importance of preserving our environment for future generations to enjoy.



**Australian Government**



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South Australia**



**Natural Resources**  
SA Murray-Darling Basin