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MEDIA RELEASE

Magnificent Milang Snipe Sanctuary officially opens

28 May 2018

The cold and blustery conditions didn't stop interested stakeholders, community members and local school children from attending the opening of the Milang Snipe Sanctuary on Wednesday, 15 May. A friendly community event was hosted by the Milang and District Community Association to celebrate the opening, which coincided with World Migratory Bird Day.

The Milang Snipe Sanctuary is the result of collaboration between local environmental, cultural and government groups. The project involved habitat restoration focussing on infrastructure and ecological works around the wetland, promoting awareness of its environmental significance and relationship to social and cultural values of the area.

But what is a snipe exactly? Latham's Snipe, is a 'rare' wetlands bird listed under the South Australian National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972. This shy little bird, which weighs in at just 200 grams, flies some 8,000km from Russia and Japan to summer in parts of south-eastern Australia, including Milang, before starting the long return journey in March.

So to enhance the summer home of this curious bird, revegetation works led by the Goolwa to Wellington Local Action Planning group, resulted in Milang community groups planting 10,000 new plants around the wetland over the winter period.

Other works included the installation of pathways, interpretive signage, seating, viewing nodes, a new bird hide and a shelter. The site is culturally enhanced with the installation of a creative sculpture and upcoming mosaic murals.

Alexandrina Mayor Keith Parkes spoke about the value of community collaboration and the environmental benefits the sanctuary offers.

"Alexandrina Council is delighted to see this project come to fruition. We're thrilled with the result, and commend all involved for the collaborative spirit that has brought this project to life.

"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," he said.

The Ramsar listed Milang Snipe Sanctuary is on Daranda Terrace in Milang and open year round. The Ramsar Convention recognises wetlands of international importance and there are just six in South Australia, so next time you want to connect with our feathered friends, be sure to check it out.

Background

The Milang Snipe Sanctuary was an initiative of The Milang Foreshore Habitat Restoration Project. The project received more than \$550,000 in financial support from the the Coorong, Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth (CLLMM) Recovery Project, which is funded by the South Australian Government's Murray Futures program and the Australian Government.

The project was carried out in partnership with the Department for Environment and Water, Alexandrina Council, Ngarrindjeri Regional Authority, Milang and District Community Association and the Goolwa-Wellington LAP.