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## MEDIA RELEASE

29 April 2004

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### SHARING THE SAMPHIRE COAST

A regional community forum - **Sharing the Samphire Coast** - is planned for Sunday, October 10 2004 to celebrate the secrets and hidden treasures of the Samphire Coast along the northern Gulf St Vincent. The forum will be held at the Town Hall in Port Wakefield.

The northern Gulf St Vincent is one of seven priority shorebird sites selected by a national **Shorebird Conservation Project** (SCP) funded by the Natural Heritage Trust and managed by WWF Australia. The project enables communities to conserve and manage internationally and nationally important wetlands across Australia.

The Samphire Coast Forum will include specially selected speakers who will share information on the natural wonders of the coast and describe the many benefits it provides to regional communities.

The forum will provide an opportunity for the community to discuss possible future actions to safeguard the values of the Samphire Coast while allowing continued enjoyment of the treasures and benefits the coastline has to offer.

The need for a Samphire Coast Forum grew out of community interest associated with the Shorebird Conservation Project, which is supporting projects at Middle Beach, Port Gawler and Thompson Beach. These projects aim to protect migratory shorebirds which fly from their breeding grounds in Siberia, Alaska and central and north-eastern Asia to spend their summer feeding on the rich food sources along the beaches of northern Gulf St Vincent. The forum will include the story of these amazing birds which can fly up to 12,500 km one way (20,000 km return) along their flyway between the northern and southern hemispheres (East Asian-Australasian Flyway).

"The Samphire Coast Forum will showcase the many values and benefits for the whole region while lifting the profile of this very rich ecosystem," forum facilitator Anne Jensen said at a recent meeting (in Two Wells).

"The day will be designed to create new networks and links among community groups, and to provide them with better tools to promote and manage the very special resources of the Samphire Coast," Ms Jensen said.

Bookings can be made through the CABRI Centre in Two Wells. Information about the forum and registration forms will be available through the CABRI Centre, local government offices, regional media, websites, newsletters and community groups.



There will be a modest charge for an entertaining and interesting program, including lunch and an information kit with details of information sources, technical advice, funding opportunities and community initiatives.

All interested residents of the Sapphire Coast are urged to put Sunday 10 October in their diaries, and watch for further details in the coming few weeks.

**For further information, contact Anne Jensen on 0407 717 205 or [ajensen@chariot.net.au](mailto:ajensen@chariot.net.au)**

Photo of Local Reference Group meeting at Mallala Council Chambers in Two Wells in attached file

Back row: Simon Millcock, Tim Collins, Andrew Winkler, Malcolm Frost, Katie Rouse, Henri Mueller, Jon Emmett

Front row: Stephen Goldsworthy, Bianca Priest, Lionel Miller, Tim Bond, Michaela Birrell

**Local Reference Group membership list attached**

*For more information on WWF visit [www.wwf.org.au](http://www.wwf.org.au)*