



# WEEKLY BULLETIN

October 19th 2010

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*The Lakes Hub is part of the Lower Lakes Bioremediation and Revegetation Project funded by the Australian Government and supported by the South Australian Department for Environment and Natural Resources.*

## General Info.

### QUESTION ANSWERED - thank you Keith.

Hi Lou,

In the last issue you asked why we say “River Murray” rather than “Murray River”. I might not have the complete answer, but...

The form “River Murray” was customary in the 19th Century. It was once applied to the “River Darling”, and it is used even now for the “River Torrens” in Adelaide.

It is still a familiar convention in England, where it originated (for example, the “River Thames”).

“River Murray” is the name used in early legislation (for example, the *River Murray Waters Agreement (1915)*). It was applied to the former *River Murray Commission*, and it persists in the present-day *River Murray Water*.

The Geographic Names Board has endorsed “Murray River”, the name bestowed by Charles Sturt, and that is now preferred in other states. I think this contemporary name implies a little less grandeur, and perhaps it downplays the differences between the lower Murray and its parent rivers. It also invites confusion with the Murray River in Western Australia.

It is a colonial legacy, but I don't think it is such a bad thing if South Australians continue to refer to the river as we do, knowing that we might be worn down in time. In deference to other states, we could say that the Murray River joins with the Darling River to become the River Murray!

Best regards, Keith Walker

### **Congratulations ! Turtles to benefit from proactive groups in Milang**

It was announced today ( October 11<sup>th</sup> ) that Eastern Fleurieu School Milang Campus and their partners Milang Old School House Community Centre were winners in the NAB Schools First Award, winning an Impact Award of \$50000.

The Save the Turtles project sought to raise national awareness of water issues in the River Murray, Lake Alexandrina, Lake Albert and the Coorong and to rehabilitate sick turtles from the River Murray's Lower Lakes who are affected by record low water levels and increased salinity.

### **What the judges said:**

An outstanding example of how a small group of students, working together in a partnership, can have a positive impact on the wider community. This project demonstrates to other students that if they are passionate about a need or opportunity they can make a difference.

**Native Fish Forum** - Places limited - for more information see the Calendar of Events and the Lakes Hub web site [www.lakeshub.com](http://www.lakeshub.com)

## **BANKSIA AWARDS 2010**

The Banksia Awards is the most prestigious, national, environmental award that celebrates those people who have made it their mission to make the future of the earth better than it is today. Winners can come from any walk of life : volunteers, scientists, business people, anything at all.

Five hundred and sixty people gathered at the Sydney Town Hall for the presentations on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> October where the **DENR Lower Lakes and Coorong Recovery – Community Partnership Program** won the Land and Biodiversity Award, Preserving our Ecosystems.

**Russell Seaman from DENR** who has been managing the project won the Prime Minister’s Environmentalist of the Year Award.

### **AWARD**

Coorong, Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth - a Government / Community Partnership to ensure a Future for the Lower Murray

*Department of Environment & Natural Resources South Australia*

The Murray-Darling Basin is experiencing the worst drought since records began in 1981. The Coorong, Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth Program is underway to tackle some of the urgent environmental problems such as, salinity, acidification, soil erosion loss of habitat and risk to many species in the region due to low river flows and unprecedented low lake water levels. The Lower Lakes Bioremediation and Revegetation Project is one of several urgent projects being implemented in consultation with the local community to secure a healthy, sustainable future for the region. In partnership with the Milang & Districts Community Association, the Ngarrindjeri Regional Authority, the Department for Environment and Natural Resources and the scientific community have determined the most feasible options and begun to implement processes to stabilize the ecosystem, help manage acid sulfate soils and improve biodiversity. Funding is from the Federal Government.

Limestone treatment, aerial seeding, community propagation and revegetation planting, community monitoring, habitat restoration as well as monitoring breeding projects for endangered species are all coming together through community consultation and partnership.



### **Goolwa to Wellington LAP AGM**

The AGM will be held on Wednesday November 10<sup>th</sup> held in the St. Andrews Hall, Strathalbyn (opposite the Strathalbyn Cathedral) commencing at 7.30 pm, and will be followed by our guest speaker, Mr. Peter Hayman from SARDI Climate Applications who will be speaking on the topic of

***'Climate change in the Eastern Mount Lofty Ranges – impacts for primary production and biodiversity'***

Please RSVP Tony Randall by Friday November 5th 2010 on

0427 917 511, or by email: [tony.randall@gwlap.org.au](mailto:tony.randall@gwlap.org.au)

Members of the public welcome.

### **Murray-Darling Basin Authority - A Communication alert**

MDBA will hold 28 community information sessions in centres across the Basin over the coming weeks to discuss the Guide to the Basin Plan. Presentations will be posted on our website after each session, along with community feedback as it becomes available.

Feedback from the community information sessions held in Deniliquin on Wednesday, 13 October is now available on our website: [www.mdba.gov.au](http://www.mdba.gov.au)

The presentations given at the Shepparton and Deniliquin information sessions are now available on our website's events calendar.

Deniliquin:

<http://www.mdba.gov.au/communities/meetings-events/events?event=65>

Shepparton:

<http://www.mdba.gov.au/communities/meetings-events/events?event=64>

Apply now for a grant for your local land care, coast care or water care project, through the Natural Resources

### **Management (NRM) Community Grants Scheme.**

Small grants up to \$10,000 or medium grants from \$10,001 to \$30,000 are available to community groups for natural resources management projects. Grants are given for a range of activities like fencing watercourses, sustainable land management, soil protection, weed control, native plant revegetation and habitat protection for native animals.

[Application forms and help applying are available here.](#)

### **Applications close on 19 November 2010.**

The NRM Community Grants scheme is part of the State NRM Program, a \$14 million initiative of the South Australian Government that supports natural resources management across the State.

**FLOW INFO.** 10<sup>th</sup> October 2010 - Flow over Lock 1 is still increasing, 22.8 GL/day today. Minor changes but the flow upstream is still coming. I also note there are 20 gates open at Goolwa, up from 3 last week and 12 at Tauwitcherie so there is strong flow through the Lakes to the Mouth.

Regards

John Y ( *thanks John* )

### **ALSO -**

Menindee Lakes are currently surcharged to 1,866 GL ( 108 % capacity ). The level has risen 36GL throughout last week. Increased flows from the Darling are expected over the next 4-5 weeks.

Current releases through the Barrages are 16,000mL/day and will increase as higher flows arrive from upstream.

For more up to date information control/click on the following link.

MDBA website – weekly reports [http://www.mdba.gov.au/water/river\\_info/weekly\\_reports](http://www.mdba.gov.au/water/river_info/weekly_reports)

## DAILY RECORDINGS – RIVER MURRAY DATA

Data received from <http://e-nrims.dwlbc.sa.gov.au/Telemetry/Default.aspx?App=RMW>

Date : October 4th - 8th 2010

DATE	SITE	WATER LEVEL AHD	PH	SALT (EC)
4	Clayton Bay Beacon 65	0.678	8.26	3775
5		0.647	8.2	3682
6		0.667	8.05	3514
7		0.578	8.09	3671
8		0.620	8.03	3361
	Average	<b>0.638</b>	<b>8.126</b>	<b>3600.6</b>
4	Milang 7km SE	0.610	8.42	3297
5		0.620	8.26	3269
6		0.620	8.03	3265
7		0.589	8.22	3264
8		0.618	8.19	3218
	Average	<b>0.611</b>	<b>8.224</b>	<b>3262.6</b>
4	Hindmarsh Is. Beacon 23	0.687	8.7	5760
5		0.636	7.24	5538
6		0.660	8.37	4233
7		0.537	8.21	4296
8		0.597	8.1	4214
	Average	<b>0.623</b>	<b>8.124</b>	<b>4808.2</b>
4	Warringie Point Lake Albert	0.658	8.96	10154
5		0.640	8.84	10752
6		0.646	8.74	10175
7		0.594	8.95	9759
8		0.645	8.79	9316
	Average	<b>0.637</b>	<b>8.856</b>	<b>10031.2</b>

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS – for more info. contact the Lakes Hub

### OCTOBER

1	
2	Milang Regatta Club season opening – meals available
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4	Strathalbyn Show – visit the DENR & Lakes Hub site
5	Clayton Regulator – future plans explained by Govt. Milang Adult Learning Centre 7.00pm
6	Talking Heads – Terry Sim – local historian – history of the lakes since European awareness. Evening session at the Milang Adult learning centre 7.00pm. Contact the Lakes Hub for more info.
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8	Guide to draft Basin Plan release
9	Pt Elliot Show – visit the DENR & Lakes Hub site
10	Pt Elliot Show – visit the DENR & Lakes Hub site
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17	Meadows Show – visit the DENR & Lakes Hub site National Water week 17 – 23 <sup>rd</sup> .
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25	MDB Authority – community information session regarding the ‘Guide to the proposed Basin Plan’ – Adelaide afternoon session venue TBA Kanmantoo – Callington Landcare AGM and speaker Dr Michael Hammer on the native fish in our local area.
26	MDB Authority – community information session regarding the ‘Guide to the proposed Basin Plan’ – Murray Bridge AM session venue TBA
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If you have any community event or courses that you would like added to the **Calendar of Events** please contact the Lakes Hub.

**NOVEMBER 2010**

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10	GWLAP AGM – Strathalbyn – all welcome. Please RSVP Tony Randall by Friday November 5th 2010 on 0427 917 511, or by email: <a href="mailto:tony.randall@gwlap.org.au">tony.randall@gwlap.org.au</a>
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14	Opening of the Milang Campus TURTLE SHED 11.00am then BBQ lunch RSVP by 7.11 to Amanda by email <a href="mailto:amanda.vivian@easternfleuriu.sa.edu.au">amanda.vivian@easternfleuriu.sa.edu.au</a> or call 85370223
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17	Native Fish Forum – Sardi aquatic Sciences 8.30 – 5.00. Bookings essential. <b>Places limited to 100</b> To reserve a seat contact: Dos O’Sullivan Community Stakeholder Taskforce, Native Fish Strategy 0418 130 595 or <b>click here at:</b> <a href="mailto:dos@dosaquacom.au">dos@dosaquacom.au</a>
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