



WEEKLY BULLETIN

February 28st 2011

Lou Mawson : Lakes Hub Coordinator

Andrew Dawes : Lakes Hub – Info. & Admin. Officer Meningie

Jo McPhee : Community Nursery Coordinator Milang

Carole Richardson : Project Officer Coordinator GWLAP Milang

Regina Durbridge : Monitoring & Evaluation Project Officer GWLAP Milang

Leah Sullivan : Revegetation Project Officer GWLAP Milang

Terry Sim : Fencing grants Project Officer GWLAP Milang

Ken Strother : Revegetation Project Officer GWLAP Meningie

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Lakes Hub contacts

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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 of Environment and Natural Resources.

General Info.

Flood peak has arrived

The flood peak has arrived with 93,900 ml (93.9 GL) per day travelling into SA and is now reducing. It is said that this is the most significant environmental event to occur on the River Murray in 130 years because it follows the longest dry sequence of years even though it has been classified as a medium sized flood.

The Black Water has also reached the Murray Mouth this week.

Free Bird Nesting Boxes

The Rotary Club of Strathalbyn offers any local interested bird groups, free bird nesting boxes. They can be made in a variety of sizes.

If any group would like to take advantage of this potential need, contact Mike Galea on 08 8537 0530.



Proposed metering of dams on properties.

On Monday March 28th there will be a meeting chaired by Independent Senator Nick Xenophon regarding the metering of dams proposed by the Draft Western Mount Lofty Ranges Water Allocation Plan (WAP). It is planned that the meeting will give local farmers more information on the plan and give them opportunity to voice their concerns. The meeting will be held at the Strathalbyn Town Hall from 7.30pm.

For more information on the plan go to

<http://www.amlrnrm.sa.gov.au/Plans/Waterallocationplans/WesternMtLoftyRangesWAP.aspx>

Meningie Talking Heads 18th February

By Andrew Dawes

Lake Albert Foreshore Restoration Project

John Howard and Theresa Myburgh from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) gave an overview on the Lake Albert Foreshore Restoration Project which has started in Meningie. John explained that the plantings for the bank stabilization were planned for June and July with the interpretive pathway to follow soon after. The pathway will include interpretive pillars explaining the vegetation in the wetland, information on the Ngarrindjeri people the traditional owners and European settlement. It is proposed that an adjacent storm water drain will be re naturalized to enhance the wetland.

Theresa explained the need for the establishment of a Friends of Meningie Group (FOM) to operate along the lines of the Friends of the Coorong. The purpose of this group would be to maintain and monitor this new wetland. The ecological monitoring would help record the environmental outcomes achieved by this wetland. Monitoring with before and after photos, recording of water bugs and macro invertebrates will be part of the process. The opportunity to network with other wetland experts such as Wetland Care from Ballina in NSW was also discussed.

After the presentation Andrew thanked the presenters and invited everyone for a BBQ lunched cooked by Lou Mawson (not bad for a girl). An invitation was given to attend next Friday the 25th meeting for the FOM establishment.

Carole Richardson from the Goolwa to Wellington Local Action Planning Association (GWLAP) played a movie over lunch of last year's Community plantings and the associated propagation of the seedlings in the Community Nurseries. Carole expressed her thanks to everyone who volunteered and took part in the plantings for 2010.

NatureLinks

The afternoon's presentation was given by Lachlan Farrington from DENR. Lachlan informed us of 5 Nature Link Corridors which are East meets West, Flinders to Olary, Cape Borda to Barossa, Arid Lands and River Murray to Coorong. The vision for NatureLinks is to re-establish important linkages in nature to assist with biodiversity conservation and a sustainable future for all. Lachlan informed us that there is only 16% of the natural vegetation left and that 90% of wetlands were drained or cleared.



Naturelinks is organised by community groups with one in the south east of the state called SE Coast Community Group.

A number of people were interested in a picture of Thrombolites from a lake in the SE of SA, Lesley Fischer felt we have something similar around Lake Albert and they are apparently thousands of years old.

A very interesting presentation thanks Lachlan.

For more information on Thrombolites see

<http://www.westaustrianvista.com/thrombolites.html>

Picture taken by Ben Taylor (DENR)

Community Acid Sulfate Soil monitoring

By Regina Durbridge

The Lower Lakes Community Acid Sulfate Soil monitoring project volunteers monitored 44 sites over the December and January period. This round of monitoring was the first time all Lake Albert soil monitoring sites had been inundated since the project began in August 2009. Soil pH's have remained stable around the Lower Lakes and tributaries, but some areas are still recording low pH soils and there is still community concern as to when all soil pH's will return to pre-drought levels.



Round 7 of soil monitoring is due to commence in March 2011.

The Goolwa to Wellington Local Action Planning Assoc (GWLAP) is in the process of setting up fixed photo-monitoring points around the Lower Lakes to monitor the changes taking place. We thank the Alexandrina, Coorong District & Murray Bridge councils for their approval to place photo-points on council reserves.

Monitoring of last year's re-vegetation works is to commence in Autumn and followed up in Spring 2011.

For further information, or to become involved in any of these projects contact;

Regina Durbridge - Lower Lakes and Coorong Monitoring and Evaluation Project Officer (GWLAP)
Lakes Hub, Milang Ph: 08 8537 0808

Funding available for local landholders.

The Coorong / Tatiara Local Action Planning Assoc (C/T LAP) has funding available for local landholders to address wind erosion and biodiversity issues.

For more information contact Graham Gates (C/T LAP) 85752100

Last weekend at Chinaman's Well, Coorong.



Spiny-Cheeked Honey Eater.
Uncommon. Sedentary;
nomadic



Eastern Ringneck ?????
Other names : Mallee Ringneck, Cloncurry Ringneck
Common, sedentary; locally nomadic

DAILY RECORDINGS – RIVER MURRAY DATA

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

Date : Feb21st -25th 2011

DATE	SITE	WATER LEVEL AHD	PH	SALT (EC)
21	Clayton Bay	0.709	7.43	566
22		0.733	7.44	566
23		0.703	7.62	557
24		0.625	7.67	539
25		0.622	7.28	531
	Average	0.678	7.49	552
21	Milang 7km SE	0.787	7.33	483
22		0.796	7.34	483
23		0.775	7.37	515
24		0.718	7.08	516
25		0.700	7.07	503
	Average	0.755	7.24	500
21	Hindmarsh Is. Beacon 23	0.622		544
22		0.650		548
23		0.600		499
24		0.478		435
25		0.475		423
	Average	0.565		490
21	Warrenjie Point Lake Albert	0.767	9.05	7188
22		0.753	9.11	7251
23		0.728	9.13	7182
24		0.773	8.81	7433
25		0.749	8.95	7404
	Average	0.754	9.01	7292

MONTHLY AVERAGES FOR FEBRUARY 2011

	WATER LEVEL AHD	PH	SALT (EC)
Clayton	0.630	7.38	539
Milang	0.667	7.21	540
H.Island	0.545	-	542
Albert	0.664	9.02	7474

THIS TIME 6 MONTHS AGO – AUGUST 2010

	WATER LEVEL AHD	PH	SALT (EC)
Clayton	0.121	8.27	15146
Milang	0.456	7.95	3581
H.Island	0.435	8.67	18924
Albert	-0.389	8.79	12159

THIS WEEK'S FLOW INFO :

MDBA website – weekly reports http://www.mdba.gov.au/water/river_info/weekly_reports

INUNDATION MAPS

These maps are available at www.waterconnect.sa.gov.au

The latest River Murray High Flow advice is available on the Department for Water Website

<http://www.waterforgood.sa.gov.au/news-info/publications/river-murray-update/>

under the related news section on the right hand side of the web page.

This advice will be issued each Friday by 5pm while high flows remain.

Link to the hazard map is

http://www.transport.sa.gov.au/safety/marine/rec_boating/emerging_hazards.asp

People interested in actual levels should check the following websites for regularly updated daily levels, as the projections do not take into account wind.

SA Water

www.sawater.com.au/SAWater/Environment/TheRiverMurray/River+Murray+Levels.htm

Department for Water

<http://www.waterconnect.sa.gov.au/RMWD/Pages/default.aspx>

Information is also available from SA Water on 08 8595 2299

FURTHER INFORMATION

Up to date River Murray flow information can be accessed at the DFW, SA Water and Murray-Darling Basin Authority websites:

<http://data.rivermurray.sa.gov.au>

www.sawater.com.au/SAWater/Environment/TheRiverMurray/River+Murray+Levels.htm

<http://www.mdba.gov.au/water/live-river-data>

Details of river height and rainfall information in the River Murray within Victoria and New South Wales are available at the Bureau of Meteorology website:

<http://www.bom.gov.au/vic/flood>

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

If you have any community event or courses that you would like added to the **Calendar of Events** please contact the Lakes Hub.

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22	World Water Day
23	Sampling & testing of water workshop. ACE Space Milang. 9-4pm More info. 85370687
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