



## WEEKLY BULLETIN

April 4<sup>th</sup> 2011 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 of Environment and Natural Resources.*

### Murray Valley Encephalitis ( MVE ) warning.

Recently there have been several cases of the Murray Valley Encephalitis disease in humans in the Riverland region. These are the first cases in more than 35 years. Water birds have also been detected with the disease along the River Murray and Riverland region. These areas are understood to be the most at risk of Murray Valley encephalitis infection, a disease passed to humans from mosquitoes.

It is highly recommended for anyone near mosquito breeding areas to be vigilant about mosquito protection.

Some useful links on the subject are below.

<http://www.health.sa.gov.au/pehs/ygw/mvencephalitis-pehs-sahealth-2009.pdf>

<http://www.adelaidenow.com.au/rare-mosquito-bourne-murray-valley-encephalitis-virus-returns/story-e6frea6u-1226030401979>

[http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/factsheets/infectious/murray\\_valley\\_enceph.html](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/factsheets/infectious/murray_valley_enceph.html)



### Milang school entry part of an international tour



‘Play me I’m Yours’ is an international tour which began in 2008 featuring decorated piano’s located in public streets, parks and squares for any member of the public to play. This year Adelaide has included the tour in the annual ‘Come out’ festival where 31 decorated pianos are currently being exhibited throughout the streets of Adelaide from 24<sup>th</sup> March to 12<sup>th</sup> April.

The Milang Campus of the Eastern Fleurieu school entered the piano pictured which is exhibited in Hindmarsh Square and tells the story of the plight of the lakes and the turtles. The ????? year //???? students at Milang were assisted by Silver Moon, John & Liz Yelland, John Bradford, Shirley Smith and Chris Jackson.

For more photos and information on the program visit :

<http://www.streetpianos.com/adelaide2011/pianos/hindmarsh-square>

## **Narrung Bund meeting in Meningie**

On Wednesday the 30th of March residents of Meningie and Districts met at the Meningie Bowling Club to hear about the removal of the Narrung Bund. The Coorong District Council Mayor Mr Roger Strother Chaired the meeting with John Howard and Gemma Cunningham representing the Department of Environment and Natural Resources ( DENR ) and Dan Croucher from the Department for Water ( DFW).

John gave a presentation on the Narrung Bund's history with Dan providing an outline of how the Bund would be removed.

This first phase of removal of the bund involves the excavation and the removal of the sand to Poltalloch, as occurred during the partial breach.

To enable this phase to commence a number of actions need to be taken including building up the bund, erecting additional fencing, installing a silt containment curtain plus removal of sheet piling and concrete anchor blocks.

A bathymetric survey will then be carried out. The mud wave will be dredged to restore bathymetry adjacent to the bund to as near to pre-construction levels as practicable.

Following some enthusiastic questions members closed the meeting for some one on one time with guests and locals.



*Pictured from right to left : John Howard DENR, Mayor Roger Strother and Dan Croucher ( DFW)*

## **Brown's Beach Meningie – updated revegetation plan**

On Friday the 8<sup>th</sup> April the Carole Richardson ( Goolwa to Wellington Local Action Planning Association ) and Andrew Dawes( Lakes Hub Meningie ) will be manning an information table outside the Meningie Foodland to advise community members of the updated revegetation plan for Browns Beach north.

The plants listed for the program will be grown by the local Melaleuca nursery. Examples of the plants and fact sheets will be available on the day along with various maps and site plans.

Information on the Meningie Lakefront Habitat Restoration Project will also be available at the stall. This project is part of the South Australian Government's Murray Futures program, funded through the Australian Government's Water for the Future strategy.

**VENUE : Outside Meningie Foodland complex**

**DATE : Friday 8<sup>th</sup> April**

**TIME : From 11.00am and 2.00pm**

## **Channel 10 visits Meningie**

*By Andrew Dawes – Lakes Hub Meningie*



Brett Clappis from Channel Ten News came down to Meningie on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> April to interview community people with regard to the Narrung Bund removal. The people interviewed Mayor Roger Strother, Tracey Hill, Gary Herasingh and Margie Gambling.

Pictured is Mayor Roger Strother with the Channel 10 News team.

## **Meningie lakefront project update**

*Media release from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources 5.4.2011*

The next stage of the **Meningie Lakefront Habitat Restoration Project** is about to begin, with construction of the new interpretive trail and signage to get underway next month.

The project is a key element of the South Australian Government's Long-Term Plan for the Coorong, Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth (CLLMM) region, which is being funded by the Federal Government's *Water for the Future* initiative.

Construction of the trail and the installation of new seating and signage will begin in May, and is expected to be completed by the end of winter.

The Director of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' CLLMM Program, Clare Kiesewetter, says this is an important project for the community.

"The Meningie community suffered greatly when the water level in Lake Albert fell so dramatically at the height of the drought across the Murray-Darling Basin," says Ms Kiesewetter.

"Restoring the town's lakefront was identified as a key project when the Long-Term Plan was being developed, with the local community, Council and the Ngarrindjeri playing a central role in planning the project.

"The initial stage of the project - including tree removal in Lions Park - has been completed, and the project is now ready to move to the next step.

"Along with the construction of the new interpretive trail and the installation of new seating and signage, the work to 'naturalise' the concrete drain will also be carried out during winter," she says.

Ms Kiesewetter says the government is taking a staged approach to the project.

"Some of the proposed elements of the lakefront restoration project, such as bank stabilisation and lakebed plantings, can only take place when the water levels are lower," she says.

"But we are moving ahead with the work that can be done now.

"We'll be taking water availability advice from the Murray-Darling Basin Authority into account as we plan the future stages of the project."

Brochures with updated information about the project are available at the Lakes Hub at Meningie (79 Princess Highway) and at the local Council office. Site plans can also be viewed at both locations.

Signage with information about the project will also be erected in Lions Park.

## **General**

- The Murray Mouth is now 4 times wider than it was last September ( 7 months ago)
- Recent high tides and strong southerly winds have been preventing water leaving the mouth system. The Department of Water has warned that there is potential for flooding in lower lying areas over the next few weeks.

## **Aquatic pests workshop**

The NRM Biosecurity Division of PIRSA is running a free full day workshop on aquatic pests. There will be three workshops held throughout the region. The workshop plans to help Authorised Officers, Water Watch staff and others working in aquatic environments to increase awareness and improve early detection of aquatic pests.

The workshops will be in mid April and will be in Gawler, West Beach and Loxton.

For more information contact Leah Feuerherdt on 08 8463 7427 ( please try to register by April 4<sup>th</sup> )

## **SAVING WATER DOESN'T COST THE EARTH – SA Water Retrofit Scheme**

Information from the **WATER FOR GOOD** updates 30<sup>th</sup> March 2011

As part of the South Australian government's H2OME rebate scheme you can have a licensed plumber come to your home and help you to save water and energy.

Knowing where and when you use the most water around the home helps you to understand where water savings can be made.

The H2OME Retrofit program will help you maximise the efficiency of your internal plumbing fixtures and fittings, with the average household estimated to save between \$100 and \$200 on their yearly energy and water bills (based on findings of similar programs in other Australian states).

For \$30 (or free for concession card holders), a licensed plumber will:

- check your plumbing fixtures and fittings for leaks;
- fit water-saving devices – including Aqualocs, flow regulators and up to two water-efficient showerheads
- provide water saving advice to help you save water and energy.

The service is available on weekdays from 8am to 6pm and on Saturdays from 8am to 2pm. Payment of \$30 by cash, credit card or cheque should be made to the plumber on the day of the visit.

A number of terms and conditions and some eligibility criteria apply to the H2OME retrofit program, which may not be suitable for all householders. Please note that this service is not suitable for gravity fed and some older instantaneous hot water systems.

To check all the terms, conditions and eligibility requirements, or to apply, visit the SA Water website <http://www.sawater.com.au/sawater> or call 1300 327 577.

## **Wetland Day at Riverglades Wetland Saturday 16 April 10 am - 3 pm**

Riverglades Wetland corner Murray Drive & Tooma Drive Murray Bridge

Come along and learn about the region's beautiful wetlands and the array of plants and animals they support whilst enjoying a tour of the wetland via kayak and foot.

A bbq lunch will be provided free of charge and families and friends are also encouraged to attend.

RSVP 14 April to SA MDB NRM Board on 85321432 SA MDB NRM website <http://www.samdbnrm.sa.gov.au>

## **FLOW INFO :**

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

### **INUNDATION MAPS**

These maps are available at [www.waterconnect.sa.gov.au](http://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](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](http://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.sawater.com.au/SAWater/Environment/TheRiverMurray/River+Murray+Levels.htm)

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

## DAILY RECORDINGS – RIVER MURRAY DATA

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

Date : 28th Mar- 1st April 2011

DATE	SITE	WATER LEVEL AHD	PH	SALT (EC)
28	Clayton Bay	0.650	7.62	476
29		0.627	7.54	474
30		0.626	7.56	474
31		0.635	7.37	468
1		0.622	7.32	467
	Average	<b>0.632</b>	<b>7.48</b>	<b>472</b>
28	Milang 7km SE	0.728	7.19	454
29		0.725	7.11	476
30		0.714	7.21	474
31		0.732	7.34	472
1		0.710	7.19	484
	Average	<b>0.782</b>	<b>7.21</b>	<b>472</b>
28	Hindmarsh Is. Beacon 23	0.507		554
29		0.494		529
30		0.527		523
31		0.550		507
1		0.488		494
	Average	<b>0.513</b>		<b>521</b>
28	Warrenjie Point Lake Albert	0.776	8.97	6758
29		0.782	8.42	6781
30		0.772	8.72	6791
31		0.751	9.02	6765
1		0.731	9.09	6672
	Average	<b>0.762</b>	<b>8.84</b>	<b>6753</b>

**MONTHLY AVERAGES FOR MARCH 2011****THIS TIME 8 MONTHS AGO – AUGUST 2010**

	WATER LEVEL AHD	PH	SALT (EC)
Clayton	0.625	7.61	489
Milang	0.712	7.27	487
H.Island	0.499	-	492
Albert	0.694	9.02	6978

	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

**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.

**April 2011**

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8	Information table – Meningie Lakefront Restoration project and the updated revegetation plan for Browns Beach north - outside the Foodland Supermarket from 11.00am – 2.00pm, Meningie. For more information Andrew Dawes Lakes Hub Meningie 85751830
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16	Wild Wetland Day Murray Bridge RSVP SA MDB NRM 08 8532 1432 <b>April 16<sup>th</sup> – April 20<sup>th</sup></b> – Murray Cod Seminar – Nick Whitrod (DENR) Port Elliot RSL 6.45pm More info. Clare Manning 0428757015
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**May 25<sup>th</sup>** – Native freshwater fish – Arkellah Hall (DENR) Port Elliot RSL 6.45pm More info.  
Clare Manning 0428757015