



## WEEKLY BULLETIN

March 15<sup>th</sup> 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

**Joy Mayberry** : Hub Office Admin assistant ( part time ) Milang

### 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.

### Acid Water in salt drains

Acid water has been found in the salt drains in the lower River Murray. The water is of an orange, brown colour and may pose risk to livestock if ingested. This is a temporary condition being a by product of the prolonged drought.

### Concerned about the pH level of water or soil on your property?

*By Regina Durbridge,*

*GWLAP -Lower Lakes and Coorong Monitoring and Evaluation Project Officer – Lakes Hub Milang*

The Goolwa to Wellington Local Action Planning Association's (GWLAP) Lower Lakes Community Acid Sulfate Soil Monitoring Project has qualified personnel to monitor soil and water acidity or alkalinity ( pH) and salt levels ( EC).

Samples can be brought in for free testing at the Lakes Hub, Shop 2, 10-17 Daranda Terrace at Milang or dropped off at the Meningie Hub at 79 Princes Highway, Meningie.

To submit a water sample rinse a clean jar 3 times with the sample water then fill the jar to 90% full. For a soil sample partially fill a clean jar with the soil that is to be tested. Gloves and safety glasses should be worn while collecting soil or water samples. Provide your name and contact details, the date the sample was collected and the GPS location (if possible) or location details with your test sample/s.



### E.Coli levels in cockles rise

Recent tests have shown that there has been a significant rise in E.Coli levels in local cockles which is considered to be above the safe level for human consumption.

A ban on taking cockles ( Pipis) from Goolwa beach has been extended for another month ( until 4<sup>th</sup> April ) and Primary Industries and Resources of SA ( PIRSA) has extended the area of closure to include all of Goolwa beach.

## **Four Corners program ABC TV**

On the 7<sup>th</sup> of March the Four Corners program showed a documentary titled 'Backlash in the Basin' – The furious battle over the future of the Murray Darling Basin. Our very own Henry Jones had the opportunity to once again put up a fighting argument for our lakes and Coorong. To view this documentary control/click on the link below.

[http://www.abc.net.au/iview/?gclid=CJqrm5OXwKcCFQTxbwod2HnIAQ#/series/FourCorners?WT.srch=1&WT.mc\\_id=CORP\\_srch\\_iview](http://www.abc.net.au/iview/?gclid=CJqrm5OXwKcCFQTxbwod2HnIAQ#/series/FourCorners?WT.srch=1&WT.mc_id=CORP_srch_iview)

## **Submerged hazards in the lakes**

*Media Release by DENR*

Submerged fence posts, star droppers, and other obstacles placed on previously exposed lakebeds have created hazards for wildlife, boats, and others using the Lower Lakes.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is working closely with Transport Safety Compliance Officers to identify the highest risk hazards, which will be marked with a buoy until they can be removed.

Land owners are urged to make sure any items that are partially or fully covered by water are removed for the safety of everyone using the lakes - this is the legal responsibility of land owners and lessees.

DENR staff will be speaking with land owners and lessees to ensure they are aware of their responsibilities to remove any obstacles.

Any hazards that can't be removed should be marked with a buoy. This is an interim measure, however, and does not remove the ultimate responsibility and public liability from the person who placed the object in the lake.

DENR staff will also work with the community to address those hazardous objects that are difficult to remove.

Maps showing the location of known hazards are available at the Lakes Hubs at Shop 2, 10 Daranda Terrace, Milang, and 79 Princess Highway, Meningie. Further information can be obtained by contacting Gemma Cunningham - Coorong, Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth Program - on (08) 8204 9453.

## **Mapland – DENR Mapping**

Mapland sells a range of products from the DENR mapping and aerial photography library to the general public and business community. They have a wealth of expertise in the management of property boundaries, topographic data, aerial and satellite imagery. You will find information about spatial land information products and services as follows:

- aerial photography
- CD products
- land boundaries
- land features
- Emergency services map books series
- CFS map books series
- new products

To order maps online you can use the application ( control click to follow the link ), [Product Finder](#), where you can view map details and thumbnail images of photography currently available in an area. You can then place your order and purchase the product online. There is also a Mapland Store at Level 1, 100 Pirie Street Adelaide

Phone: (+61 8) 8463 3999 Fax: (+61 8) 8115 5594 Email: [denrmapland@sa.gov.au](mailto:denrmapland@sa.gov.au)

Business Hours Monday to Friday 9 am - 5 pm.

## **Bathurst Burr (*Xanthium spinosum*) outbreak in the Lakes & Coorong areas**

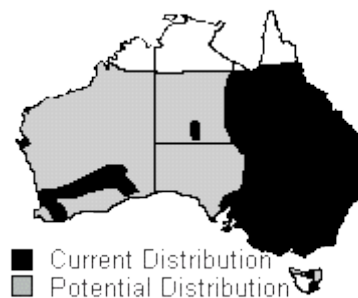
FOR A SA FACT SHEET CLICK ON THE LINK BELOW

<http://www.samdbnrm.sa.gov.au/Portals/9/Plant%20Identification%20sheets/Bathurs%20burr.pdf>

Landholders around the Lakes and Coorong have noticed significant Bathurst Burr outbreaks especially along water courses or flood threatened areas. This weed is a native of South Africa and is spread by seed in burrs. Burrs are spread attached to animals, clothing and grain bags. **Burrs float and are moved by water.**



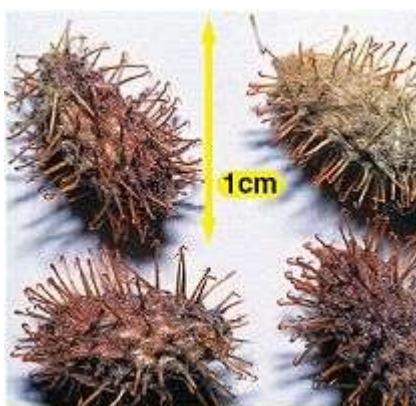
The Bathurst Burr is a major problem in pasture, crops and wasteland. Impedes shearing and is a major cause of vegetable fault in wool. Seedlings are poisonous to livestock, particularly horses and pigs and can cause contact dermatitis in some humans. A number of insects and pathogens damage Bathurst Burr and biological control agents are being sourced from South America.



Distinguished by 3-pronged spines at base of leaves and at stem nodes; leaves 3–8 cm long, dark green above, greyish downy below, entire to divide into 3–5 linear segments; burrs 8–15 mm long and covered with hooked spines.



Seedling



Burrs with hooked spines



Infestation, Balranald, NSW, January

photo J.J.Dellow &  
R.W.Medd

**Web References:** [Search Australian web sites for further information on this weed.](#)

## **BT Finance Group Volunteer Day**

*By Jo McPhee, Community Nursery Coordinator, Lakes Hub*



On Monday the 28<sup>th</sup> of February a group of 7 volunteers from the BT Finance corporate group donated a day at the Milang Nursery.

The day was arranged through iCare Communities and Dan French from iCare also attended and helped at the working bee.

The day was a great success with the group transplanting over 2 000 seedlings with the help of local volunteers.

It was a good opportunity for us to discuss the many issues that are facing the Lower Lakes and how the local community is involved in addressing some of these issues to help save our environment.

The group enjoyed being outdoors for the day and enjoyed a lovely lunch at the Milang Old School House Community Centre.

You can read the full story, see pictures from the day and add your comments by visiting [www.icarecommunities.org.au](http://www.icarecommunities.org.au)

## **Meningie Probus learn about the Lakes Hub.**

*By Andrew Dawes*

On 15th March Andrew Dawes Information and Administration Officer for the Lakes Hub at Meningie was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation from the Meningie Probus Club. The Certificate was for a presentation given to the Meningie Probus Club by Karyn Bradford Coordinator for Milang Old School House and Andrew on the 15th of February to approximately 40 members and guests at the Waterfront Motel at Meningie. Karyn and Andrew gave a Power Point Presentation on the Role and History of the Lakes Hubs and the establishment of the Community Nursery's around Lakes Albert and Alexandrina.

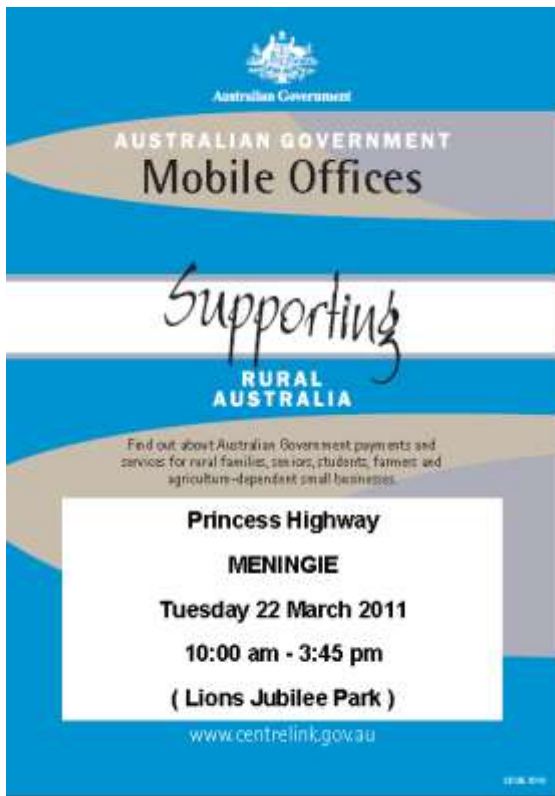


## DAILY RECORDINGS – RIVER MURRAY DATA

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

Date : March 7th - March 11th 2011

DATE	SITE	WATER LEVEL AHD	PH	SALT (EC)
7	Clayton Bay	0.573	8.01	489
8		0.621	7.91	488
9		0.636	7.77	488
10		0.667	7.86	489
11		0.649	7.86	487
	Average	<b>0.629</b>	<b>7.88</b>	<b>488</b>
7	Milang 7km SE	0.646	7.12	511
8		0.652	7.19	499
9		0.697	7.36	498
10		0.742	7.36	475
11		0.728	7.15	491
	Average	<b>0.693</b>	<b>7.24</b>	<b>495</b>
7	Hindmarsh Is. Beacon 23	0.431		438
8		0.502		457
9		0.507		476
10		0.528		509
11		0.501		510
	Average	<b>0.494</b>		<b>478</b>
7	Warrenge Point Lake Albert	0.731	9.11	7325
8		0.736	9.00	7338
9		0.683	9.02	7146
10		0.646	9.08	6474
11		0.677	8.99	7091
	Average	<b>0.695</b>	<b>9.04</b>	<b>7075</b>



## **Centrelink to visit Menungie**

A visit by the Australian Government Mobile Servicing Unit to Menungie 22 March 2011 will enable people to access information about Australian Government payments and services for rural families, seniors, students, farmers and agriculture dependent small businesses.

The mobile bus will be in the Lions Jubilee Park from 10.00am to 3.45pm on Tuesday March 22<sup>nd</sup>

**No appointment is necessary – just drop in**

## **THIS WEEK'S 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>

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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16	GIS workshop Tony Randall – provided by the Finniss Catchment Group. More info from Derek Fenton <a href="mailto:derekf@activ8.net.au">derekf@activ8.net.au</a>
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22	World Water Day Centrelink mobile office visit to Meningie – Lions Jubilee Park 10.00am – 3.45pm
23	Sampling & testing of water workshop. ACE Space Milang. 9-4pm More info. 85370687  Marine Bio-diversity seminar – Dr Marty Deveney(SARDI) Port Elliot RSL 6.45pm More info. Clare Manning 0428 757 015
24	
25	
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**April 20<sup>th</sup>** – Murray Cod Seminar – Nick Whitrod (DENR) Port Elliot RSL 6.45pm  
More info. Clare Manning 0428757015

**May 25<sup>th</sup>** – Native freshwater fish – Arkellah Hall (DENR) Port Elliot RSL 6.45pm More info.  
Clare Manning 0428757015