



WEEKLY BULLETIN

March 28th 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

Office – Milang phone 8537 0808

Office – Meningie phone 8575 1830

Email Milang Office info@lakesub.com

Meningie Office meningie@lakeshub.com

Web www.lakeshub.com

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.

Work to start on the Narrung Bund removal

An announcement has come through today that the funding for the Narrung Bund has been secured. The Narrung Bund is scheduled for removal immediately. For more information :

<http://www.premier.sa.gov.au/images/stories/mediareleasesMAR11/narrung%20bund%20fully%20removed.pdf>

<http://www.adelaidenow.com.au/dam-removal-lets-river-murrays-lower-lakes-flow/story-e6frea6u-1226029661641>

Lower Lakes: potential for inundation of low-lying areas

Issued 15:00 25 March 2011 from THE DEPARTMENT FOR WATER

BARRAGE OPERATIONS AND WATER LEVELS IN THE LOWER LAKES

Water levels in Lakes Alexandrina and Albert and the Goolwa Channel will increase over the next week or two due to additional water from the recent high flow event and the inability to release more water through the barrages and Murray Mouth.

This is because more water is entering the lakes than is flowing out the Mouth. The majority of barrage gates – 402 out of 593 – are open, but there is very little difference in water levels between the lakes and the Coorong.

In addition, although the Murray Mouth has opened significantly since barrage releases began last September (it is now almost four times larger than in September), the outflow of water is being affected by tides. Recent tides have been high, compounded by strong southerly winds.

These conditions are restricting the volume of water being released through the barrages. Opening the rest of the gates will therefore not make a difference because the restriction for getting water out of the system is the Murray Mouth.

It is important to note that water levels in the Lower Lakes may vary considerably with wind speed and direction and this, when combined with the high water level, could result in some inundation of low-lying areas around the edge of Lake Alexandrina, Lake Albert or the Goolwa Channel.

People with land close to the shore of the lakes or channel that can be inundated at water levels higher than 0.75m AHD should take appropriate action to protect grazing stock, such as moving them to higher ground, and to secure and protect any infrastructure that could be inundated.

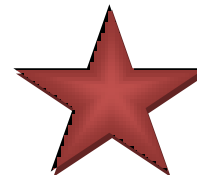
The three-day average water level for the Lower Lakes is now 0.81m AHD.

Up-to-date water level information can be accessed at the following 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>



Invasion by the Oriental Weatherloach (Misgurnus anguillicaudatus)

The Oriental Weatherloach fish is native to Europe and Asia but has been introduced into Australia and was first recorded in the Yarra River, Victoria in 1984. Since then it has been recorded in every state in Australia except Tasmania. Only recently the Oriental Weatherloach has been seen in the Chowilla floodplain and so will be on its way down the Murray.

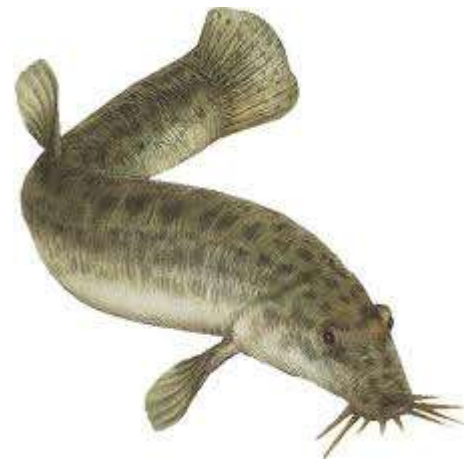
The Oriental Weather Loach is a highly invasive species that is believed to predate on native fish eggs. It may also compete with native fish for food, habitat and spawning sites. They can be particularly troublesome since they have the ability to move over land to colonise new waterways. They can survive out of water by swallowing air and absorbing atmospheric oxygen through the hind gut.

During drought conditions the Weatherloach will burrow into the mud and remain there for extended periods until conditions improve.

Their burrowing habits may also have negative impacts on the aquatic environment by increasing turbidity and uprooting aquatic plants. This species is a particular concern because they display many of the characteristics of previous successful invaders i.e. a broad tolerance to many environmental parameters, low vulnerability to predation, high fecundity and a flexible diet.

This fish grows to a maximum of 25cm and are multiple spawners laying between 4,000 and 8,000 red adhesive eggs in each event.

Reference source : North Central catchment Management Authority and The Australian Museum.



Community Revegetation Project

Clayton Bay Foreshore is one of 24 sites around Lake Alexandrina, Lake Albert and the Goolwa Channel having revegetation works undertaken this year.

At Clayton Bay, 16,300 plants will be put in around the walking trail, following the Clayton Foreshore Management Plan. The majority of plants are under-storey species and will provide habitat, helping to increase biodiversity and environmental resilience.

The planting is expected to commence in late May, and will be undertaken by local community groups.

Site preparation at Clayton Bay will begin during the last week in March and first week in April

WEED CONTROL

Pre planting weed control will take place in March/April targeting Kikuyu grass, and spot spraying will take place in May in preparation for planting.

It is expected that post planting weed control will be undertaken in September/October.

RABBIT CONTROL

Rabbit control is a necessary part of ensuring success with the revegetation. This will be undertaken by the Alexandrina Council at a date to be advised. Signs will be posted around the walking trail alerting dog owners and other trail users when the control is taking place.

The community revegetation program is part of the Murray Futures Coorong and Lower Lakes Recovery funded by the Australian Government and supported by the South Australian Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

ENQUIRIES: Leah Sullivan - GWLAP Revegetation Project Officer - Lakes Hub MILANG Ph: 8537 0808

Opportunity for local businesses

Primary Industries and Resources of SA (PIRSA) are requesting tenders by **commercial contractors** for the planting of approximately 540,000 native seedlings at the Lower Lakes from May to July 2011.

The Autumn 2011 commercial planting program will collaboratively plant 8 different species that have been grown by 4 commercial nurseries. Planting will commence in May 2011.

Multiple local, commercial suppliers may be required (preferably from the Lower Lakes local area) with any one supplier committing to plant a minimum of 200,000 seedlings. All applicants will need to meet the evaluation criteria.

The tenders will be in this week's Tuesday's Advertiser (29th March) and will also be advertised in the Victor Harbor Times, The Meningie Lakelander and the Strathalbyn Southern Argus.

Documents are available on the SA tenders website www.tenders.sa.gov.au - the reference number is PIRSA020778
Tenders close on April 12th 2011.

For more information contact Tom Kloeden on 0439 682 605 or email on tom.kloeden@sa.gov.au

This initiative 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 (DENR). Rural Solutions SA are managing the tender process.

Yellow Tailed Black Cockatoo survey

The Biodiversity Conservation Unit is conducting a Yellow Tailed Black Cockatoo census this year and would appreciate any help 'observing' and 'reporting in' any sightings. The information sought is as follows -:

- Observer name
- Date of observation
- Time of observation
- Approximate number of birds
- Location description (corner of x road and x road)
- Habitat description (e.g Stringybark woodland)
- GPS coordinates (if possible)
- Behaviour (feeding or flying)
- Photograph if possible



For more information contact Luke Price
luke.price@sa.gov.au

Lake Albert foreshore restoration project – info stall

The Lakes Hub Meningie will be having an information stall in regard to the Lake Albert Foreshore Restoration Project, Interpretive Trail and Lower Lakes Revegetation Project at the front of the Foodland Supermarket at Meningie on Friday the 8th of April between the hours of 11.00am and 2.00pm.

Please come and discuss these upcoming projects with Carole or Andrew.

Meningie School – interest in being involved with local environmental issues

By Andrew Dawes, Lakes Hub - Meningie



On Thursday 24th March Kat Goss from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) organised a meeting with Deputy Principal Mal Jurgs at Meningie Area School. In attendance was Nikki Brookman from DENR, Harry Beauchamp from the Natural Resource Management Board (NRM) and Andrew Dawes from Lakes Hub at Meningie. The purpose of the visit was to see if there were any opportunities for the School to become involved in the proposed Friends of Meningie (FOM) group. Kat explained the types of monitoring that the students could be involved in and Harry explained the types of projects other schools were doing. Andrew Dawes explained why he thought the FOM was important and was of the opinion that the proposed Lake Albert Foreshore Restoration and Interpretive Trail coupled with the Ramsar Wetlands being of international significance, has the potential to make Meningie the focus of the Coorong.

After the round table conference Mal invited us to accompany him on a tour of Swamp 333 (pictured) a Wetland adjacent the school which students and teachers have been working on with various Government assistance and have developed a very informative bird hide which has

reference panels depicting species of birdlife likely to be observed from the bird hide. Thank you to Nikki for supplying the photo of Andrew Dawes, Kat Goss and Mal Jurgs at the Swamp 333 bird hide.

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>

DAILY RECORDINGS – RIVER MURRAY DATA

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

Date : 21 March- 25 March 2011

DATE	SITE	WATER LEVEL AHD	PH	SALT (EC)
21	Clayton Bay	0.587	7.65	480
22		0.603	7.62	480
23		0.572	7.77	480
24		0.644	7.38	620
25		0.651	7.71	479
	Average	0.611	7.63	507.8
21	Milang 7km SE	0.648	7.45	496
22		0.660	7.49	496
23		0.654	7.38	499
24		0.674	7.26	531
25		0.781	7.39	432
	Average	0.683	7.39	490.8
21	Hindmarsh Is. Beacon 23	0.488		507
22		0.525		515
23		0.409		532
24		0.582		537
25		0.538		711
	Average	0.508		560.4
21	Warrenjie Point Lake Albert	0.628	9.08	6914
22		0.610	9.08	6917
23		0.693	8.99	6775
24		0.661	9.03	7445
25		0.763	8.90	6685
	Average	0.671	9.02	6947.2

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 – Lake Albert foreshore restoration project - 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 April 16th –April 20th – Murray Cod Seminar – Nick Whitrod (DENR) Port Elliot RSL 6.45pm More info. Clare Manning 0428757015
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May 25th – Native freshwater fish – Arkellah Hall (DENR) Port Elliot RSL 6.45pm More info.
Clare Manning 0428757015