



WEEKLY BULLETIN

May 30th 2011

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

Jo McPhee : Community Nursery Coordinator Milang

Carole Richardson : Project Officer Coordinator GWLAP Milang

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Leah Sullivan : Revegetation Project Officer GWLAP Milang

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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.

Volunteers we need your help with Community Planting!!!

By Deb Melville – Community planting coordinator for the Milang & District Community Association

We hope to plant 3000 seedlings at the Clayton foreshore on

Sunday June 5th

It will be a great day to bring the whole family!!!

There is something for everyone to do!!!

WHEN : Sunday 5th June starting at 9.30am

VENUE : Island view Drive Clayton,

TO REGISTER :

Online visit : www.moshcc.com.au

Email: MECNursery@lakeshub.com

PH: 0885370687 or 0448959699 or drop into Lakes Hub Milang or

Milang Old School House to fill in a register of interest form.



Guest Speakers

Lunch provided

Bring along: Enclosed footwear, warm clothing, hat, water bottle, gloves and a hand trowel if you have one.

This planting Day is part of the Lower Lakes Bioremediation and Vegetation Project.

The Melbourne AGE giving us a good wrap.

My brother in Melbourne sent me a text on Saturday 21st May to say, “ Good article on the Coorong and your fishermen in the Age today”. He was right – it’s worth a read. To view the transcript follow the link.

http://newsstore.theage.com.au/apps/viewDocument.ac?page=1&sy=age&kw=coorong&pb=all_ffx&dt=selectRange&dr=week&so=relevance&sf=text&sf=headline&rc=10&rm=200&sp=nrm&clsPage=1&docID=AGE11052115DSO3F218G

Oviparous animals

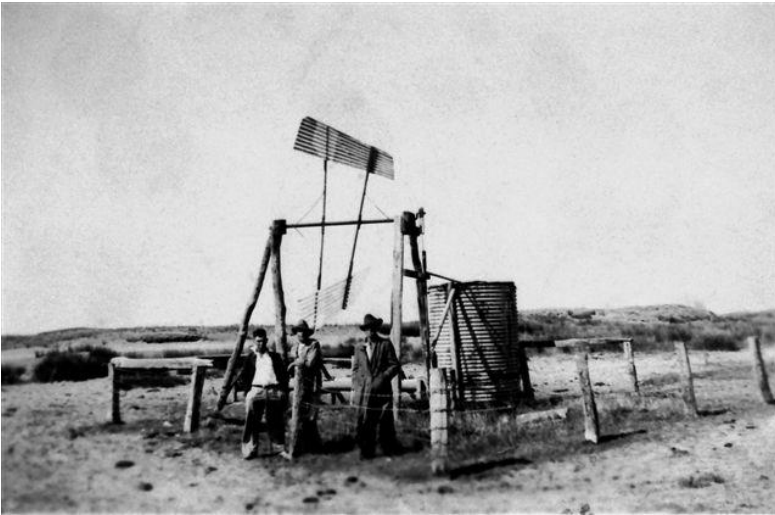
From Wikipedia

Oviparous animals are animals that lay eggs, with little or no other embryonic development within the mother. This is the reproductive method of most fish, amphibians, reptiles, all birds, the monotremes, and most insects and arachnids.

Flip Flop Windmills of the Coorong

No one knows when people first built windmills to do work. The first instance may have been in China more than 2,000 years ago, but archaeologists have found no definite record of their use there before 1219 AD. The earliest recorded windmill design found was Persian in origin, and was invented around 500–900 AD. This design was the panemone, with vertical lightweight wooden sails attached by horizontal struts to a central vertical shaft. It was first built to pump water, and subsequently modified to grind grain as well.

From Wikipedia http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Panemone_windmill



Photo's courtesy of Ken Strother (Coorong / Tatiara LAP & historian/photographer)

LEFT : Flip Flop windmill at McGrath Flat – no longer in existence.

BELOW : The remains of last Flip Flop on Narrung, on a property now owned by Raukkan.



Flip Flop Windmills were common on the Narrung Peninsular and parts of the Coorong from the early 1900,s and are believed to be unique to the area.

Because they were not easily turned off they pumped water for stock from shallow wide wells into a tank or large stone trough which over flowed back into the well. The fresh water table supplying these wells was very shallow, 3-4 m (mostly on the East side of a hill), and soon became saline if over used. The local Blacksmith made the iron work for twelve Pounds Six Shillings, the rest was constructed from existing materials. The last examples of these mills were destroyed about twenty years ago.



This is a picture of a replica Flip Flop windmill was built by Sandy Macfarlane and erected by the Meningie Historical Society in the late 1970's or early 1980's. This replica is situated at the site of the original Meningie Well which is on the northern side of the Meningie township, alongside the information bay on the Princes highway.

Photo courtesy of Andrew Dawes, Lakes Hub Meningie

Restoring Ruppia in the Coorong

Up to \$46 million dollars has been earmarked to reduce salinity in the Coorong South Lagoon and reintroduce *Ruppia* (an important aquatic plant) to the Coorong (following an initial investigation phase).

From the DENR website <http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/Home>

***Ruppia* is a native seagrass and is a crucial part of the Coorong ecosystem. Waterbirds (including migratory shorebirds) eat the leaves and seeds of *Ruppia*. The plants also provide food and habitat for invertebrates, fish (particularly the small-mouthed hardyhead) and other species of the region.**

In the Coorong, two types of *Ruppia* are important:

- *Ruppia megacarpa* (commonly known as large-fruit tassel), which was formerly dominant throughout much of the North Lagoon (north of Parnka Point)
- *Ruppia tuberosa* (commonly known as tuberous tassel), which formerly dominated the South Lagoon (south of Parnka Point).

What has happened to Ruppia?

The beds of *Ruppia*, once prominent in the Coorong have declined because of changed water levels and increased salinity, a consequence of inadequate flows of freshwater over the barrages.

Ruppia megacarpa has not been recorded in the Coorong since 1994. The more salt tolerant *Ruppia tuberosa*, which was dominant in the South Lagoon in the late 1990s, now occurs only in the North Lagoon in small patches.

The loss of *Ruppia tuberosa* and other key species from the South Lagoon has coincided with a decline in many waterbird species, including those protected under international agreements.

What is being done to address this issue?

Research led by Associate Professor David Paton of the University of Adelaide is investigating the factors that influence the distribution and abundance of *Ruppia tuberosa* in the Coorong. The objective is to develop a strategy to re-establish the species in the South Lagoon when conditions improve.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the Department of Water (DFW) are working together to monitor the abundance and distribution of *Ruppia* in summer and winter. This monitoring will be used to inform the research.

Visit the following web site to view a paper written by Daniel J Rogers & David C Paton titled 'Changes in the distribution and abundance of *Ruppia tuberosa* in the Coorong – June 2009.

<http://www.clw.csiro.au/publications/waterforahealthycountry/clamm/CLLAMM-Ruppia-Tuberosa.pdf>

Photo courtesy of Associate Professor David Paton



Bonzle Digital Atlas



I came across this site the other day and have found it to be quite handy. You can add pictures, stories, information about your area. I have popped a few pictures up of Milang and was surprised to see that the photos had been looked at 25 times over a 2 day period. This forum maybe a good way to promote your area and get the message across about regional issues? You will need to register to add photos etc but it's not difficult.

The web address is www.bonzle.com

Left is an example of a Bonzle map.

It shows the Mount Boothby area.

Please see the note below advising of a postponed prescribed burn by DENR in the Mount Boothby area.



Please be advised that DENR have placed a hold the prescribed burn at Mt Boothby Conservation Park due to high moisture content. This burn has now been re-scheduled for Spring 2011.

King tides cause high salinity levels

Reference: *The Victor Harbor Times* 25.5.2011 – Anthony Gaggiano

King tides on May 22nd and 23rd caused the salt levels in the Goolwa channel to increase from around 465 Electrical Conductivity (EC) units in mid May to up to 40,000+ EC units a few days later.

Some fish species, including the tough European Carp, Redfin etc were unable to cope with the increase in salinity and consequently perished. These species are known to be susceptible to salinities over 20,000-25,000EC.

According to a report in the Victor Harbor Times newspaper 25.5.11, there was even a seal swimming about in the Goolwa channel on Monday May 23rd.

SA Water have explained that a large number of barrage gates are open to accommodate for the increased flow down the River Murray. This allowed salt water from the King tides to backwash into the Lakes. This was only temporary as river flow will again flush the salt water back out to sea within days of the tides subsiding.

As of Friday 27th May the EC readings for the Hindmarsh Island Beacon (just on the Goolwa side of the barrage) was down to 4983EC (see table below). The average EC levels for all locations has dropped significantly over the past 10 months (see averages table below).

MONTHLY AVERAGES FOR APRIL 2011

	WATER LEVEL AHD	PH	SALT (EC)
Clayton	0.608	7.76	655
Milang	0.643	7.76	411
H.Island	0.543	-	6518
Albert	0.691	9.14	6841

THIS TIME 10 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

DAILY RECORDINGS – RIVER MURRAY DATA

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

Date : 23rd May -27th May 2011

DATE	SITE	WATER LEVEL AHD	PH	SALT (EC)
23	Clayton Bay	0.686	7.88	401
24		0.740	7.79	675
25		0.754	7.79	924
26		0.598	8.36	2249
27		0.557	8.33	2745
	Average	0.667	8.03	1399
23	Milang 7km SE	0.545	7.67	419
24		0.751	7.71	390
25		0.732	7.65	426
26		0.643	7.51	529
27		0.598	7.34	411
	Average	0.654	7.58	435
23	Hindmarsh Is. Beacon 23	0.720		18398
24		0.690		46617
25		0.726		41813
26		0.537		9699
27		0.502		4983
	Average	0.635		24302
23	Warrenjie Point Lake Albert	0.634	9.13	6480
24		0.622	9.01	6491
25		0.664	9.03	6537
26		0.710	9.02	6526
27		0.684	9.04	6510
	Average	0.663	9.05	6509

CALENDAR OF EVENTS for more info contact the Lakes Hub

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

June 2011	
1	
2	Orana Melaleuca celebrations Contact Jane Phone: 8575 1259 or 0407 181 096 Email: jswan@orana.asn.au
3	
4	
5	WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY Community planting – volunteers Contact Deb Melville 0448959699 or Lakes Hub Milang 85370808 MOSHCC email mecnursery@lakeshub.com
6	Community planting - Brown's Beach, Meningie with the Meningie Progress Association in conjunction with Meningie Area School. For more info contact the Lakes Hub Meningie 8575 1830 or email meningie@lakeshub.com MOSHCC – Using Chemicals Responsibly & Chem Cert Accreditation Contact : Contact 85 370 687 Email moshcc@bigpond.com
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12	100 th anniversary of the Narrung Hall – lunch time. Contact Marianne 0437320779 or cunneen@internode.on.net
13	PUBLIC HOLIDAY – Queens birthday
14	
15	
16	Point Sturt Shed Meeting (Eastern Mt Lofty Ranges Water Allocation Plan) Contact Anne Hartnett on 85370187 or email annelhartnett@gmail.com Information kits available at the Lakes Hub Milang.
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19	Community planting – volunteers Contact Deb Melville 0448959699 or Lakes Hub, MOSHCC email mecnursery@lakeshub.com
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29	Eastern Mount Lofty Water Allocation Plan Shed Meeting at "Campbell House" Meningie west on the 29th of June at 1.30pm. For more info contact the Lakes Hub Meningie 8575 1830 or email meningie@lakeshub.com
30	

July 3rd Community planting – volunteers Contact Deb Melville 0448959699 or Lakes Hub, MOSHCC email mecnursery@lakeshub.com

July 17th Community planting – volunteers Contact Deb Melville 0448959699 or Lakes Hub, MOSHCC email mecnursery@lakeshub.com

July 31st National Tree Day

July 31st Community planting – volunteers Contact Deb Melville 0448959699 or Lakes Hub, MOSHCC email mecnursery@lakeshub.com