



WEEKLY BULLETIN

June 27th 2011. No 54

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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

Regina Durbridge : Monitoring & Evaluation Project Officer GWLAP Milang

Leah Sullivan : Revegetation Project Officer GWLAP Milang

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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.

Locals get set to plant to restore our lakefront habitat

By DENR

The Friends of Meningie Group and students from Meningie Area School are getting set to plant next month as part of Meningie Lakefront Habitat Restoration Project.

Andrew Dawes from the Friends of Meningie Group said over 1500 plants grown by local community nurseries will be planted over two days - Friday 8 and Saturday 9 of July.

“The local community, council, schools and the Ngarrindjeri are closely involved in the project and are playing an important role in restoring and maintaining the lakefront habitat,” he said.

“We are excited to be closely involved in this project which will make our lakefront more attractive for the community and visitors to enjoy”.

John Howard, Project Manager, Coorong, Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth Program, Department of Environment and Natural Resources said the work at the Lions Park is progressing well, with construction of a textured pathway nearly finished.

“The benches are now in place and the interpretive signage will be installed within the coming weeks”, he said.

If you are interested in helping with the planting, or becoming involved in the Friends of Meningie Group, please contact Andrew Dawes at the Meningie Lakes Hub on 8575 1830, [email: meningie@lakeshub.com](mailto:meningie@lakeshub.com) or visit the Hub at 79 Princess Highway, Meningie.



Members of the Friends of Meningie group get set to plant in July as part of the Meningie Lakefront Habitat Restoration Project

The project is managed by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and is part of the South Australian Government’s Murray Futures program funded by the Australian Government’s Water for the Future strategy.

More about the Willow at Milang and the visit by Prince Alfred

There were several emails back to the Hub office with more information about last week's story on the Willow tree in Milang (the oldest surviving tree planted by royalty) and the visit by Prince Alfred in 1867.

Thank you to those that supplied the following information -:

By Bob H

This magnificent Weeping Willow, still stands today in wonderful condition, on the corner of Luard Street and Daranda Terrace, in the tiny lakeside town of Milang of the shores of Lake Alexandrina. This lovely Willow tree is still in fine shape today and is 139 years old.

It was planted by the Duke of Edinburgh, Prince Alfred, on the 11th of November, 1867.

Prince Alfred was the second son of nine children of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert and our two lakes were named after the Prince's parents, Alexandrina and Albert.

Prince Alfred was born in 1844, and died in 1900 aged 56 years and was aged 23 years when he visited Milang.

The Adelaide hills were alight with huge bonfires to mark his arrival in Adelaide, and as he travelled to Milang by Stage Coach, he took control of the reins at Strathalbyn, under the escort of the Milang 2nd Cavalry, led by Captain J Rankine, and Cornett [Junior Officer} Gollan.

The Historical Cannon, which was the same as was on the HMS Buffalo, was fired in respect by the then officer in charge, of the Milang Police Station, Mr Dann.

The Prince and his entourage then crossed Lake Alexandrina on the Paddle Steamer Queen, to McBeath's landing at Point McLeay for a corroboree and then onto Campbell Park for a kangaroo hunting trip. The Cannon was eventually removed from Todd's Hill into to Milang memorial Gardens where the president of the Park Committee, Mr E.A.Dunk, had it mounted on a concrete base where it still stands today.



From John Y

You might be interested in the following from Alfred Taylor's memoirs "A tough battle", published in 1911. (***A Tough Battle by Alfred Taylor W.K Thomas & Co., Printers, Grenfell Street, 1911***) Alfred was born at Point Sturt in 1862. The family lived in the little house on the lakeside close to the old Point Sturt School. They left for the Kaniva district in Victoria in the mid 1870s.

In 1867, when Prince Alfred came out to South Australia, among many other picturesque places of resort, Milang was visited, and a regatta was held, when several hundreds of people, including the Prince, were there. Father, mother, and all of us boys were out for the day. I for one was anxious to pick out my namesake, and to our great satisfaction we were all able to have a view of His Royal Highness.

After a good view for some time at the regatta, quite a crowd journeyed on in buggies and carts of all kinds and on horseback to Watson Park, where a large picnic was held, many tarpaulins being spread. While dinner was being prepared many of the young folk were indulging in a game of cricket. When the dinner gong sounded all hands were only too glad to sit down on the tarpaulin and partake of the good things provided. After doing justice to ham, poultry, plum pudding, &c., several of the younger folk were anxious to continue the game of cricket, but the bat was not to be found. My brother Joe, being one of the search party, thought he had made the discovery among the many folk sitting down on the tarpaulin, and catching hold of what he thought was the bat handle, made an attempt to be gone, when to his surprise and disgust it seemed a fixture, and was no more or less than a woman's wooden leg. Needless to say he left in a hurry, blushing much.



Talking Heads session very informative

Soil and water experts presented monitoring and research results to landholders and residents at both Milang and Meningie Hubs last Tuesday and Wednesday.

Unprecedented low water levels in the Murray River over 2008 to 2010 exposed extensive areas of acid sulphate soils in the Lower Lakes region resulting in soil acidification (pH<4) over large areas. From rewetting of these soils water acidification occurred in localized areas.

Dr Liz Barnett and Ann Marie Jolley from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) explained that research and monitoring for the Coorong, Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth (CLLMM) project had been extensive with both Government and community programs which are delivering critical information to the management plan for this area.

A few key messages that came from the information session were that

- We still have an issue with the acid sulphate soils and are quantifying these issues with research and monitoring.
- It's not just about the production of acid but there are metals being released from sediments that are likely effecting organisms so the water bodies are a long way from recovery.
- More water needs to come into the system to avoid a repeat of the effects of the past drought.



Dr Luke Mosley from the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) explained the impacts of water quality in the lakes and tributaries, the tolerance levels of both flora, fauna and micro-organisms and the effects of water flows etc.

The water quality issues discussed were the salt levels, acid levels and nutrient levels. Luke also discussed the effect of the barrages and the capacity to be able to manipulate water flows for example, to draw water out of Lake Albert to stimulate the mix of water creating a reduced salt level.

Above from left : Dr Liz Barnett, Dr Luke Mosley and Ann Marie Jolley- absent Glynn Ricketts

Glynn Ricketts (DENR) who spoke at Meningie advised of the 12 different options studied to decrease salinity in the Coorong lagoons. He advised that the pumping option had been accepted as the most effective, short term way of removing salt should the drought / weather persist but as the drought had broken and the water levels are predicted to stay stable for at least another few years that the option of capturing water runoff from the South East would be a long term, permanent solution.

A summary report of the Lower Lakes Acid Sulfate Soils Research Program can be viewed at the Lakes Hubs. This report can also be found on the DENR web site <http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/cllmm> The research program is part of the SA Government's \$610 million Murray Futures program funded by the Australian Government's Water for the Future initiative, with additional support from the Murray darling Basin Authority.

Making Sense Of The Water Allocation Plan - What Will Your Response Be?

We have until August 5th 2011 to put in our responses to the publication of the State Government's Draft Water Allocation Plan for the Eastern Mt Lofty Ranges.

The Finnis Catchment Group welcomes all to join us as we make sense of government- speak, have cups of tea and snacks, and figure out our responses to the Draft Plan.

We have divided the plan into 5 sessions and will deal with one a week. Join us for any or all sessions.

Session One: Monday, 27th June at 6.30pm.

- Section 1 The Prescribed Water Resources and
- Section 2 Assessment of Needs of Water-Dependent Ecosystems

Session Two: Monday, 4th July at 6.30pm

- Section 3 Assessment of the Effect on Other Water Resources
- Section 4 The Water Management Framework For This Plan

Session Three: Monday, 11th July at 6.30pm

- Section 5 Water Allocation Criteria

- Section 6 Transfer Criteria

Session Four: Monday, 18th July at 6.30pm

- Section 7 Permits
- Section 8 Monitoring
- Section 9 Miscellaneous

Session Five : Sunday, 24th July at 2pm

- The Appendices.
- Sharing our information
- Getting our responses to government.

All sessions will be two hours. Please note the last session is on a Sunday and at a different time. Bring a snack if you can.

All sessions to be held at the Brooks' place on the Strath/Goolwa Road at Finniss.

For directions phone Finniss Catchment Group Secretary Bruce Brooks on 0417 891 909 or Silver on 0427 226 282

Here's a sneak peek at the 2011 Art of Nature Competition.

This year, it's a t-shirt design comp

Entry to the competition officially opens at 9am on Thursday June 23

This year's comp offers not just one major prize, but three!

By entering your category of choice from either Belair National Park, Cleland Wildlife Park, or any National Park of your you'll be in the running for the following winners' prize pack:

- iPad 2
- Wacom Intuos 4
- \$100 clothing spree with Etiko online
- 2 x tickets to Earth Station in October, where you'll get to see your design launched as part of an eco-clothing range!

And there are heaps more ways to win, with movie tickets and other prizes up for grabs throughout the comp.

Head to the website and 'pick your canvas' today.



<http://www.artofnature.sa.gov.au>



Nominate Now for a 2011 Landcare Award

There are 12 award categories.

Nominations close 29 July Further information

Community groups around Australia can now apply for grants of between \$5000 and \$20 000 to help protect and conserve their local environment and natural resources.

\$5 million will be available in the 2011-12 Community Action Grants round to help local communities undertake activities such as revegetating landscapes, rehabilitating dunes, removing weeds, controlling pests and improving sustainable land management practices.

In response to community feedback, eligibility has been broadened this year to include all community groups that deliver environmental and sustainable agriculture projects.

Applications close on Monday 1 August http://www.landcareonline.com.au/?page_id=3988

For information on how to apply phone 1800 552 008. Or <http://www.nrm.gov.au>

The NRM Community Grants scheme for 2011-12 is now open.

The Minister for Environment and Conservation Paul Caica has announced \$2 million in funding to support community groups and non-government organisations to carry out local land care, coast care and water care projects.

Funding will be provided for a range of NRM activities such as sustainable land management, weed control, native plant revegetation, soil protection, fencing watercourses, and habitat protection for native animals.

Small grants up to \$10,000 and medium grants between \$10,000 and \$30,000 are available.

The closing date for applications is 5pm Friday 24 June

Further information including how to apply is available at <http://www.nrm.sa.gov.au/Funding/CommunityGrants>

Enquiries relating to the program contact denrnmprogram@sa.gov.au or 8303 9712

Trees For Life: Trees For Towns

Trees For Towns is a joint initiative of Trees For Life and ElectraNet and will see 30 South Australian communities growing and planting 1,000 native trees and shrubs in their towns over the next 18 months. Local communities are invited to register their interest.

Further information <http://www.treesforlife.org.au/home/releaf/treesfortowns>

RIVER MURRAY FLOW ADVICE

For current flow / level reports on the River Murray and Lakes go to the following website

www.waterforgood.sa.gov.au

Up-to-date River Murray flow and water level information can be accessed at the Department for Water, 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>

Information on the discharge of acid drainage water into the Lower River Murray can be accessed online at

www.waterforgood.sa.gov.au

DAILY RECORDINGS – RIVER MURRAY DATA

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

Date : 20th June -24th June 2011

DATE	SITE	WATER LEVEL AHD	PH	SALT (EC)
20	Clayton Bay	0.611	8.46	1768
21		0.553	8.39	1610
22		0.593	8.32	1492
23		0.700	8.47	1400
24		0.741	8.24	1426
	Average	0.640	8.38	1539
20	Milang 7km SE	0.570	7.66	614
21		0.552	7.77	459
22		0.601	7.77	478
23		0.679	7.44	447
24		0.701	7.51	451
	Average	0.621	7.63	481
20	Hindmarsh Is. Beacon 23	0.595		24507
21		0.500		25439
22		0.570		27461
23		0.684		25965
24		0.722		21277
	Average	0.614		24930
20	Warrenegie Point Lake Albert	0.687	9.10	6227
21		0.727	9.07	6249
22		0.709	9.03	6204
23		0.766	8.95	6147
24		0.781	8.93	6192
	Average	0.734	9.02	6204

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

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
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JULY 2011

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3	Milang & District Community Assoc. (MDCA) Community planting – volunteers Contact Deb Melville 0448959699 Email mecnursery@lakeshub.com or Lakes Hub Milang 85 370 808 or MDCA 85 370687
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8	Friends of Meningie Community planting – Meningie lakefront habitat restoration project - VOLUNTEERS WANTED Contact Andrew Dawes 0427751488
9	Friends of Meningie Community planting – Meningie lakefront habitat restoration project - VOLUNTEERS WANTED Contact Andrew Dawes 0427751488 GWLAP – Pasture management workshop Contact Will Miles 0427917515 or 85365621 or email (preferred) will.miles@gwlap.org.au Point Sturt Landcare planting on the Pt Sturt Water Reserve VOLUNTEERS WANTED Contact Anne Hartnett (President) 8537 0187 Bruce Allnut (Secretary)8536 0114 Chris Bagley (Committee) 8537 0533
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14	Meningie Progress Assoc. Community Planting VOLUNTEERS WANTED Contact Andrew Dawes 0427751488
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16	Meningie Progress Assoc. Community Planting VOLUNTEERS WANTED Contact Andrew Dawes 0427751488
17	Milang & District Community Assoc. (MDCA) Community planting – volunteers Contact Deb Melville 0448959699 Email mecnursery@lakeshub.com or Lakes Hub Milang 85 370 808 or MDCA 85 370687
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27	NatureMaps – free workshop. Strathalbyn library 6.30pm – 8.30pm Contact Derek Fenton derekf@activ8.net.au
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31	NATIONAL TREE DAY Milang & District Community Assoc. (MDCA) Community planting – volunteers Contact Deb Melville 0448959699 Email mecnursery@lakeshub.com or Lakes Hub Milang 85 370 808 or MDCA 85 370687