



WEEKLY BULLETIN

July 18th 2011. No 57

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.

First railway in Australia was here

Reference : *Regiment on the River*, Author Heather Partridge 1994



In 1851 a short horse drawn tramway line was constructed from Goolwa (the port for river trade) to Port Elliot (the sea port).

The line extended to Victor Harbor in 1861 as Port Elliot was considered too shallow and not sheltered enough (it was at this point that the potential site for the colony's capital city was moved from Port Elliot to the site where Adelaide stands today).

In 1866 a horse tram line from Strathalbyn to connect at Middleton was constructed which included the construction of the Currency Creek viaduct (also the first of its kind in Australia).

In 1883 the horse tramways were adapted to take steam locomotives – the last horse drawn tram ran in 1885. During the 30 years of horse drawn trams the line carried 639,140 passengers and transported 253,156 tons of goods.

Steam trains continued the link between the rivers and the sea ports until they were eventually replaced by diesel locomotives until 1960 when the line looked like being closed. In 1980 the Finniss Station was demolished and the last passenger train passed through, along with the goods services.

At that time the Finniss railway was the oldest railway station still in use in Australia, being built in 1869.

After much negotiation the 'Steam Ranger' was finally appointed by the State Government to take full responsibility for the Strathalbyn to Victor Harbor railway and to provide tourist train services from Adelaide – the line re-opened in 1987.

The length of the railway operated and maintained by the Steam Ranger is now 82kms and is believed to be the longest volunteer-manned tourist railway in the world.

Nature Maps – free workshop.

If there is anybody out there who is thinking about planning some new fencing, replanting an area, or developing a farm plan, there are still some places for the Naturemaps Workshop on the 27th July.

The 2 hour workshop is free to anybody in the community, not just Landcare and Environmental groups.

NatureMaps

Venue : Strathalbyn library

When : Wednesday 27th July

Time : 6.30pm – 8.30pm

Contact : Derek Fenton derekf@actv8.net.au

WATER FOR GOOD - Issued 8 July 2011

BARRAGE OPERATIONS AND WATER LEVELS IN THE LOWER LAKES

The water level in Lake Alexandrina is currently around 0.74m AHD. Water levels in Lake Alexandrina, Lake Albert and the Goolwa Channel have increased due to the closure of barrage gates. Over the coming months, barrage operations will continue to lower and raise water levels to further freshen Lake Albert and remove accumulated salt from the Lower Lakes. It is anticipated that water levels will remain within a range of 0.55m to 0.8m AHD.

In order to decrease and increase water levels in both lakes, it is necessary for some of the barrage gates/bays to be opened and closed to maintain the desired water level target. Water levels and barrage operations are continually monitored by the Department for Water, SA Water and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

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

A number of seawater backflow events have occurred during May and June 2011, which has caused elevated salinity levels upstream of each of the barrages. This situation has generally only lasted for a few days after each event, dissipating as water is again released into the Coorong. Elevated salinity levels have lasted slightly longer in some locations. The potential for these events should reduce with a lower number of barrage gates open over the coming months.

The Department for Water is also responsible for monitoring salinity in the Lower Lakes and maintains a network of salinity recording devices at a number of locations. Data collected from this monitoring network informs the Murray-Darling Basin Authority and Government of South Australia for barrage operations, conducting scientific analysis and formulating policy positions.

COORONG/TATIARA LAP REVIEW

On Tuesday 12th of July the Coorong Tatiara LAP held a meeting at the Lakes Hub at Meningie to gain community comment on the review of their **Coorong District Local Action Plan** (a new, separate plan is currently being prepared for the Tatiara Council area).

This meeting was one of a number of meetings which are being held around the LAP area. Faith Cook and Graham Gates outlined the achievements of the Coorong Tatiara LAP which have include the following;

- 107,321 ha of perennial pasture established.
- 5,022 ha of salt-tolerant pastures planted.
- 1,245 ha of fodder shrubs planted.
- 30,968 ha of remnant vegetation protected.
- 4,686 ha of revegetation.
- 2,105 ha of sand hills and blowouts stabilised.
- 148 ha of farm forestry.
- Decommissioning of 110 leaking confined aquifer wells.
- Large areas of lake shore fenced and revegetated.
- Promotion of natural resource education within schools.
- Field days and workshops.
- Support of other community groups.
- Preparation and implementation of wetland management plans.
- Trial of proof-of-check leak detection systems for mains water supplies.



Coorong Tatiara LAP welcome discussion on their local action plan with comments closing on the **15th of August 2011.**

Concerns raised at this meeting included -:

The price of SA Water for stock water which the meeting felt was a significant threat to livestock production for properties serviced by the Tailem Bend to Keith pipeline.

The spread of weeds and the costs of control.

Carbon credits, dryland salinity and others.

For further details contact Graham Gates on 0427572330.

Narrung Bund removal – nearly there

Picture taken July 1st 2011- L Mawson



Conservation assessment for SE coastal region

Reference : *The Lakelander* XXXV1/25 15.07.11 pg 8

The Limestone Coast and Coorong Coastal Action Plan (LCCCAP) is a detailed report into coastal habitat between the Murray Mouth and the Victorian border. This action plan has been developed to assist in management and aims to coordinate the conservation, protection and maintenance of the region.

The South East Natural Resources Management Board commissioned DENR to carry out the study. It is funded by the Commonwealth's Caring for our Country initiative.

The final report of the Limestone Coast and Coorong Coastal Action Plan is available from the SA NRM Board in hard copy and on DVD which includes an interactive digital mapping tool.

The plan is also available to download from the following web link :

www.senrm.sa.gov.au/coastsmarine/coastalactionplan.aspx

Socio-economic report on the Guide released

The report [Community impacts of the Guide to the proposed Murray-Darling Basin Plan](#) is now available.

This report is an in-depth retrospective about how the proposals in last year's Guide would have affected communities in the Basin. It analyses the socio-economic vulnerability of communities based on the Guide's proposals. It also identifies a set of policy options that can be developed and implemented so that environmental results can be gained at a lower socio-economic cost to Basin communities.

This socio-economic study was commissioned by the Authority in response to feedback from communities. From January to April 2011, nearly 700 key community members were interviewed in 119 towns. These community members represented a range of employment groups across 48 'social catchments' and 80 local government areas.

Control/click on the link at the top of the story for more information.

REMINDERS

27	NatureMaps – free workshop. Strathalbyn library 6.30pm – 8.30pm Contact Derek Fenton derekf@activ8.net.au
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

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 **Note new sites**

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

Date : 11th July - 15th July 2011 (new sites)

Date	Site	WATER LEVEL AHD	SALT (EC)
11	Goolwa	0.764	5116
12		0.752	5765
13		0.723	2292
14		0.812	2159
15		0.767	2263
11	Milang Jetty	0.759	610
12		0.754	612
13		0.727	557
14		0.766	560
15		0.737	572
11	Raukkan offshore	0.772	684
12		0.759	543
13		0.746	870
14		0.738	520
15		0.732	534
11	Meningie Jetty	0.791	5611
12		0.799	5639
13		0.817	5724
14		0.764	6123
15		0.737	6215

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.

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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7	Friends of Meningie meeting – Lakes Hub Meningie 5.00pm Contact Andrew Dawes 85751830 or 0427751488
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 Allnutt (Secretary)8536 0114 Chris Bagley (Committee) 8537 0533
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12	Review of the Coorong District LAP - A workshop on the future of the Coorong /Tatiara LAP - 7:30PM at the Lakes Hub Meningie. Contact Graham Gates on 0427 572 330, or the Lakes Hub Meningie 85751830
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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
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