



WEEKLY BULLETIN

August 8th 2011. No 60

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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.

News on the Narrung Bund & the Clayton Regulator

The Clayton regular is now set to be removed after the State and Federal Governments have come to a deal regarding funding of the removal. The cost will be around 7.7 million dollars and should begin within months. It seems that the only hold up now is the final tendering process. Under the EPBC Act the South Australian Government has until 30 June 2012 to remove the regulator, with the intention being to remove it as soon as practicable.

This news follows the completion of the first stage of the Narrung Bund removal. Bathymetric tests have now been completed and the second stage is ready to be set in motion.



To view a media release from the Hon. Tony Burke and the Hon. Paul Caica posted August 4th 2011 go to -:

<http://www.environment.gov.au/minister/burke/2011/mr20110804.html>

Reminder-Fleurieu Peninsula Swamps draft recovery plan out for comments by 24 August

For more information go to <http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/threatened/publications/recovery/draft-for-comment-fleurieu-peninsula-swamps-recovery-plan.html>

New NRM Board members appointed – media release - Paul Caica

Minister for Environment and Conservation Paul Caica has recently welcomed five new members to the Natural Resources Management Council. For more information follow this link.

<http://www.premier.sa.gov.au/images/stories/mediareleasesJUL11/nrm%20council.pdf>

Willows species – a major concern

Willows are part of the genus *Salix*, which belongs to the family Salicaceae. There are some 300 species and varieties, none of which are native to Australia.

Over 100 of these species and varieties have been introduced to Australia and are now a major pest of waterways. According to the CSIRO the Willow tree is a major environmental weed of riverbank habitats across much of south-eastern Australia.

Most species of willow are Weeds of National Significance. They are among the worst weeds in Australia because of their invasiveness, potential for spread, and economic and environmental impacts. They have invaded riverbanks and wetlands in temperate Australia, occupying thousands of kilometres of streams and numerous wetland areas.



Unlike most other vegetation, willows spread their roots into the bed of a watercourse, slowing the flow of water and reducing aeration. They form thickets which divert water outside the main watercourse or channel, causing flooding and erosion where the creek banks are vulnerable. Willow leaves create a flush of organic matter when they drop in autumn, reducing water quality and available oxygen, and directly threatening aquatic plants and animals. This, together with the amount of water willows use, damages stream health.

The replacement of native vegetation (eg river red gums) by willows reduces habitat (eg nesting hollows, snags) for both land and aquatic animals.

Millions of dollars are spent each year on willow control in southeastern Australia using chemical and/or mechanical techniques. In Victoria alone, the cost of willow management is about \$2 million annually.

The willow species in SA reproduce asexually meaning they don't need female and male plant to reproduce. Broken-off branches and twigs take root and soon a whole new plant establishes itself. Since they take root so easily, they quickly colonise and spread.

Some willows produce suckers that may separate into clones – allowing one tree to become many. Willows do however, reproduce sexually if there are male and female plants present.

One species of Willow which has been classified as a weed of National Significance is the *Salix cinerea* (Grey Willow) – this species can make 330,000 seeds in a season. These seeds can travel up to 15 kms before germinating. The flowers from this plant are dioecious (each plant is either male or female, thus both genders need to be present to seed) and they are pollinated by bees. This species is **not** the one pictured above.

For information about willow management :

http://searchext.csiro.au/search/search.cgi?query=willow&area=site&collection=CSIROau_All&form=csiro

The fresh bark of all members of the Willow contains salicin, which probably decomposes into salicylic acid (closely related to aspirin) in the human body. This is used as an anodyne and febrifuge (see below). The bark of this species is used interchangeably with *S. alba*. It is taken internally in the treatment of rheumatism, arthritis, gout, inflammatory stages of auto-immune diseases, diarrhoea, dysentery, feverish illnesses, neuralgia and headache. The bark is removed during the summer and dried for later use. The leaves are used internally in the treatment of minor feverish illnesses and colic. The leaves can be harvested throughout the growing season and are used fresh or dried.

Anodyne - Relieves pain, it is milder than an analgesic.

Febrifuge - Reduces fevers.

Please note that there is a disclaimer on this medicinal information – see

http://www.aussiegardening.com.au/findplants/plant/Salix_cinerea

Native seed collecting and propagation workshop

Doctors Creek Landcare Group is hosting a propagation workshop with John Brame on Sat 13th August, 1.00 – 4.30. It's free (thanks to a grant from the SAMDB NRM Board). Venue is currently being determined, but likely to be either Cosgrove Rd or Nyoka Rd (out of Macclesfield towards Strathalbyn).

It's open to anyone who has an interest!

John Brame, who has a native seed collecting and propagation business, will be running the workshop. He will be bringing along plants at various stages of growth to demonstrate how to treat them at different times as well as the initial seed in the soil. There will be plenty of time to pick John's brain over tea as well as during the demonstrations.

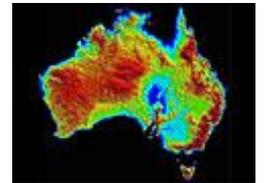
For further details, interested people can contact either Derek Forsyth or Kerry Thomas as follows:

Derek: 8388 9474 ; 0419.811.400 ; nyokaf@bigpond.com

Kerry: 8388 9061; kerry.thomas@interpart.org.au

The Lower Lakes Community Acid Sulfate Soils data is now on ASRIS

The Australian Soil Resource Information System (ASRIS) is a product of the Australian Collaborative Land Evaluation Project (ACLEP). Funding is provided by the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO – Land and Water) and the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF). Collaborating state and territory agencies provide substantial in-kind resources and technical support which include the Goolwa to Wellington Local Action Planning Association (GWLAP) and the community volunteers who have been collecting and monitoring acid sulphate soils around the lower lakes, regional tributaries and the Coorong water bodies for the past few years.



The ASRIS system collates and maintains the best available, nationally consistent soil and land resource information for Australia. It provides scientific information infrastructure for assessing and monitoring the condition of Australia's soil and land resources. ASRIS contains a set of spatial and temporal databases that maintain national

soil and land information in a consistent and usable format. The ASRIS mapping website supports a broad range of users including natural resource managers, educational institutions, planners, researchers, and community groups. Users can zoom into a region of interest, turn data sets on and off, produce customised maps and print the results.

The Lower Lakes Community Acid Sulfate Soil data that has been collected by the local community and the GWLAP is now on the ASRIS web site. <http://www.asris.csiro.au>

CHAIR'S STATEMENT 3 August 2011 from the Hon. Craig Knowles

The Chair of the Murray Darling Basin Authority has released a statement on the progress of the Murray Darling Basin Plan.

To access this media release Control/click on the following link.

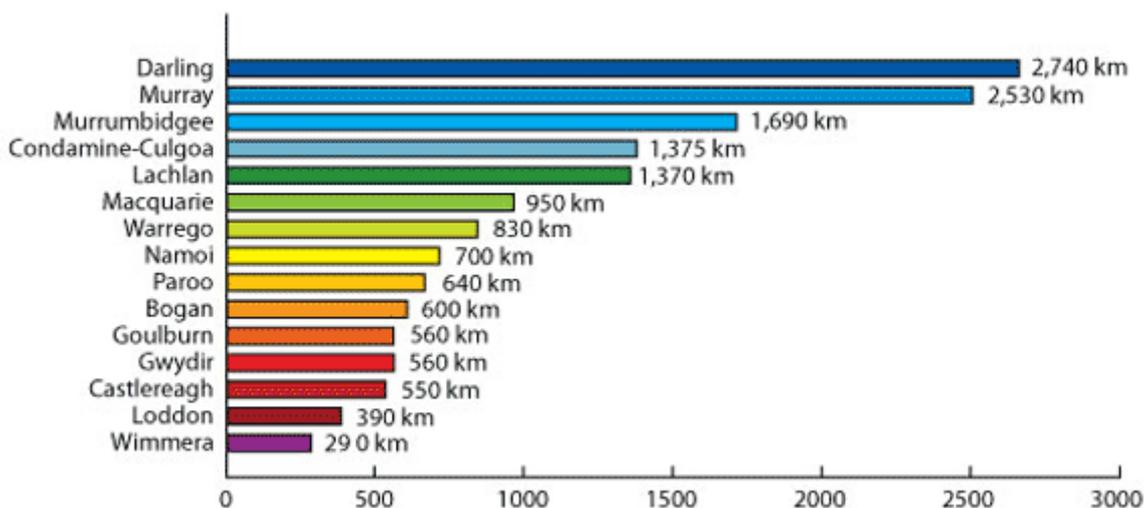
http://www.mdba.gov.au/media_centre/media_releases/progress-on-proposed-basin-plan

Murray-Darling Basin Plan Draft delay

The release of the draft Murray-Darling Basin Plan will now be in mid October 2011. Craig Knowles, Chairman of the Murray Darling Basin Authority said in a statement on 3rd August that he wants to ensure that the broader issues need to be resolved before the draft plan is released. He said that it is also important that any points from the latest science review, and state science reviews, be incorporated into the draft plan before it is made publicly available. For more information contact the MDBA Media office at media@mdba.gov.au

RIVERS OF THE MURRAY–DARLING BASIN

Source : Murray Darling Basin website



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 **August 1st - 5th 2011**

DATE	SITE	WATER LEVEL AHD	SALT (EC)
1	GOOLWA	NR	NR
2		0.71	NR
3		0.686	NR
4		0.678	NR
5		0.693	NR
	AVERAGE	0.692	
DATE	SITE	WATER LEVEL AHD	SALT (EC)
1	MILANG JETTY	0.62	495
2		0.667	517
3		0.68	698
4		0.663	741
5		0.688	551
	AVERAGE	0.663	600
DATE	SITE	WATER LEVEL AHD	SALT (EC)
1	RAUKKAN OFFSHORE	0.668	409
2		0.676	370
3		0.673	398
4		0.669	395
5		0.697	749
	AVERAGE	0.676	464
DATE	SITE	WATER LEVEL AHD	SALT (EC)
1	MENINGIE JETTY	0.751	5281
2		0.737	5518
3		0.736	5514
4		0.738	5475
5		0.761	5743
	AVERAGE	0.744	5506

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.

August 2011

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2	Finniss Nursery working bee 9.00 – noon. Volunteers welcome Contact Helen Fenton 8536 0093 helenf@activ8.net.au
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9	Finniss Nursery working bee 9.00 – noon. Volunteers welcome Contact Helen Fenton 8536 0093 helenf@activ8.net.au
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12	Pelican path planting – Friends of Meningie. Volunteers welcome. Contact Andrew Dawes 85751830 or meningie@lakeshub.com
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16	Finniss Nursery working bee 9.00 – noon. Volunteers welcome Contact Helen Fenton 8536 0093 helenf@activ8.net.au
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23	Finniss Nursery working bee 9.00 – noon. Volunteers welcome Contact Helen Fenton 8536 0093 helenf@activ8.net.au
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30	Finniss Nursery working bee 9.00 – noon. Volunteers welcome Contact Helen Fenton 8536 0093 helenf@activ8.net.au
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Disclaimer

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If you feel a link description, site, piece of advice or anything else mentioned here is inappropriate, do [let me know](#) and I will endeavour to correct it where necessary.