



WEEKLY BULLETIN

September 5th 2011. No 62

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
Kerri Bartley : Lower Lakes and Coorong Community Revegetation Program Project Officer GWLAP Milang
Ken Strother : Revegetation Project Officer GWLAP Meningie
Joy Mayberry : Hub Office Admin assistant (part time) Milang
Robbyne Barrett : Hub Office Admin assistant (part time) Meningie

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 (DENR).

Vale Matthew Rigney



Matthew Rigney, Chair of the Ngarrindjeri Regional Authority Inc. has recently passed away (18th August) in Meningie. He was a Ngarrindjeri elder and leader who made an enormous contribution to Indigenous affairs locally, nationally and internationally. He was Chair of the Murray Lower Darling Rivers Indigenous Nations, the Ngarrindjeri Native Title Management Committee and a member of the Murray-Darling Basin Ministerial Council's Community Advisory Committee. He had a long professional career in Aboriginal Community Welfare, Education, Youth Affairs, Sport, Employment and Training, Natural Resource Management, Community Development and Native Title. For over a decade he worked at Camp Coorong: Race Relations and Cultural Education Centre as a cultural and political educator. His long political career in Indigenous Affairs

included Chairing the Patpa Warra Yunti Regional Council of the Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander Commission and membership on the Ngarrindjeri nation leadership group who meet directly with State and Federal Ministers to advocate for rights, justice, fairness and equality for Ngarrindjeri and Aboriginal people in general.

In recent years he has been a tireless advocate for Indigenous rights to water.



In 1999, on Kumarangk (Hindmarsh Island), the now famous Ngarrindjeri Flag, designed by Matthew Rigney, was first flown.

The 18 dots represent the 18 tribes (Laklinyeris) that make up the Ngarrindjeri Nation.

The spears represent the traditional fishing spears of the Ngarrindjeri.

The Boomerang is the Sacred Boomerang that when thrown, circles the Laklinyeris informing their clan leaders to attend a National Meeting called Tendi (Tendi made and interpreted Ngarrindjeri Law).

The Blue colour represents the waters which surround Ngarrindjeri country.

The Sun is the giver of life.

The Ochre colour of the Boomerang represents our Mother - Mother Earth.

We extend our sincere sympathies to Matt's family, the Ngarrindjeri community and the Aboriginal people of South Australia.

Information session – Removal of the Clayton regulator

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Department for Water will be holding a **Public Information Session** on **Tuesday 20th September, 2011** to discuss timeframes and methods for the removal of the temporary flow regulator at Clayton Bay.

Date: Tuesday, 20 September 2011
Time: From 7:30pm
Location: Clayton Bay Community Hall, Clayton Bay

Tea and Coffee will be provided.

For further information contact Gemma Cunningham, Coorong and Lower Lakes Recovery Community Liaison Officer via [email](#) or call 0427 018 783.

NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY MONTH September 2011

Biodiversity is the variability of all living organisms and has been described as the 'web of life', 'the variety of living things' or 'the different plants, animals and micro-organisms, their genes and ecosystems of which they are a part'.

It makes up the structure of the ecosystems and habitats that support essential living resources, including wildlife, fisheries and forests. It helps provide for basic human needs such as food, shelter, and medicine. It composes ecosystems that maintain oxygen in the air, enrich the soil, purify the water, protect against flood and storm damage and regulate climate. Biodiversity also has recreational, cultural, spiritual and aesthetic values.

Australia is home to between 600,000 and 700,000 species, many of which are found nowhere else in the world. About 84 per cent of our plants, 83 per cent of our mammals, and 45 per cent of our birds are endemic — that is, they are only found in Australia.

Human activities have raised the international rate of extinction to 1,000 times its usual rate. Already, an estimated two of every three bird species are in decline worldwide, one in every eight plant species is endangered or threatened, and one-quarter of mammals, one-quarter of amphibians and one-fifth of reptiles are endangered or vulnerable.

Also in crisis are forests and fisheries. The World Resources Institute estimates that only one-fifth of the earth's original forest cover survives unfragmented, with 180 million hectares in developing countries deforested between 1980 and 1995. Forests are home to 50-90% of terrestrial species, provide ecosystem services such as carbon storage and flood prevention, and are critical resources for many millions of indigenous people. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN estimates that nearly two-thirds of ocean fisheries are exploited. Over one billion people, mostly in developing countries, depend on fish as their primary source of animal protein.

Human beings are dependent for their sustenance, health, well-being and enjoyment of life on biodiversity. We derive all of our food and many medicines and industrial products from the wild and domesticated components of biological diversity. Biodiversity is the basis for much of our recreation and tourism, and includes the ecosystems which provide us with many services such as clean water.

References: Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities <http://www.environment.gov.au>
The Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL) <http://www.ciel.org/Biodiversity/WhatsBiodiversity.html>

Four new species of zooplankton found

Ecologists working with the Coorong, Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth program (Department of Environment and Natural Resources - DENR) have found four new species of zooplankton in water bodies from Goolwa to Lake Albert. The zooplankton species are microscopic animals that juvenile native fish feed upon which is good news for the future of the native fish species in lakes Albert, Alexandrina and Coorong. The zooplankton are also very sensitive to changes in water quality. These species are yet to be formally documented and named.

Kerri Bartley GWLAP – welcome to the Lakes Hub

The Lakes Hub welcomes a new member of the Goolwa to Wellington Local Action Planning Association (GWAP) to the Lakes Hub office.

The Hub's premises at Milang and Meningie now accommodate six GWLAP project officers along with Lakes Hub staff – the newest GWLAP member being Kerri Bartley (pictured). Kerri is the Lower Lakes and Coorong Community Revegetation Program Project Officer for the GWLAP and will be focussing on the Community Revegetation project of the Coorong Lower Lakes and Tributaries.



More from Kerri

The Lower Lakes and Coorong Community Revegetation Program is part of the Lower Lakes Bioremediation and Revegetation Project, funded by the Australian Government and supported by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and will enhance biodiversity and habitat around Lake Alexandrina and Albert and Tributaries.

Local Community groups grow specific local provenance plant species at nurseries for the Lower Lakes and Coorong region. 220,000 plants have been planted on land around the Lakes, Coorong and Tributaries over the past few months. Local Community groups have also been contracted to undertake this planting, providing an opportunity for income and ownership for local groups.

Local contractors have been engaged to prepare sites for planting and eradicate weeds in the planting sites, again keeping the work and funds in the local area.

This project is very much community based with help from community nurseries, landholders, contractors and other planting groups. It has been a good community capacity building exercise in the local area and will continue on in 2012.

[Kerri Bartley](#)

The Coorong / Tatiara LAP

The Coorong /Tataira Local Action Plan Committee (CT LAP) is currently under review with hopes that the programs future is secured.

The CT LAP program began in 1997 to address local natural resource issues and has worked on many 'on ground' projects covering around 150,000 hectares. Funding of around \$17 million dollars for these programs has come mostly from external sources (mainly state and federal Government) plus a substantial contribution from the Coorong and Tatiara District Councils and has been utilized for programmes including perennial pasture incentives, planting of windbreaks, revegetation programs, farm forestry projects, clay spreading, sand drifts and education and will continue with these activities in the future.

In the near future the CT LAP plan to attack emerging local natural resource management issues such as water security, weed control carbon costs and opportunities and the threat of pests such as mice, locusts, snails etc.

If you would like to be involved or want more information on the CT LAP please contact ;
Graham Gates , Project Officer - Coorong District Local Action Plan Committee
(a Committee of the Coorong District Council)
Phone (08) 8757 2100
Mobile 0427 572330
PO Box 1021
Tintinara SA 5266

Coorong Tatiara LAP – upcoming courses and Winter Newsletter

Pasture Cropping and No Kill Cropping

<http://www.coorong.sa.gov.au/site/page.cfm?u=281&c=2933>

Stress Free Stockmanship for Healthy Landscapes

<http://www.coorong.sa.gov.au/site/page.cfm?u=281&s=search&searchTemplate=gui&searchMode=searchResults&searchType=query&searchString=stockmanship&x=15&y=8>

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 **AUG 29 - SEPT 2 2011**

DATE	SITE	WATER LEVEL AHD	SALT (EC)
29	GOOLWA	0.501	586
30		0.529	547
31		0.517	569
1		0.531	575
2		0.554	547
		AVERAGE	0.526
DATE	SITE	WATER LEVEL AHD	SALT (EC)
29	MILANG JETTY	0.519	550
30		0.569	551
31		0.575	552
1		0.565	561
2		0.541	583
		AVERAGE	0.554
DATE	SITE	WATER LEVEL AHD	SALT (EC)
29	RAUKKAN OFFSHORE	0.539	695
30		0.56	645
31		0.565	541
1		0.556	428
2		0.539	826
		AVERAGE	0.551
DATE	SITE	WATER LEVEL AHD	SALT (EC)
29	MENINGIE JETTY	0.614	5349
30		0.577	5352
31		0.59	5403
1		0.583	6019
2		0.569	6017
		AVERAGE	0.587

MONTHLY AVERAGES FOR August 2011

	WATER LEVEL AHD	SALT (EC)
Goolwa	0.611	629
Milang	0.625	636
Raukkan	0.633	570
Meningie	0.703	5513

THIS TIME 12 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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS for more info contact the Lakes Hub

September 2011

1	NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY MONTH
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	NATIONAL THREATENED SPECIES DAY
8	
9	
10	
11	
12	
13	
14	Meningie History Trail meeting 4.30pm Lakes Hub Meningie – All welcome. Andrew Dawes 0427751488 or 8575 1830
15	
16	
17	
18	WORLD WATER MONITORING DAY
19	
20	Clayton Temp. Flow Regulator removal info session. 7.30pm Clayton Bay Hall. Contact Gemma 0427 018 783 or email gemma.cunningham@sa.gov.au for catering purposes
21	
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If you have any relevant community event or courses that you would like added to the Calendar of Events please contact the Lakes Hub.

Disclaimer

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