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The Lakes Hubs are the initiative of the Milang and District Community Association and are part of the South Australian Government's Murray Futures program, funded by the Australian Government's Water for the Future initiative.

Increase in Carp numbers – widespread concerns

Recently the Murray Valley Standard reported on Carp numbers throughout the Murray Darling Basin with an increase of more than 4000% in the lower Darling River below Menindee during the 2010 – 2011 breeding season. The numbers are also rapidly increasing in the River Murray and its tributaries which are causing widespread concerns for the environment.



Carp are believed to increase the water turbidity, increase algal blooms and riverbank damage, they cause destruction of aquatic vegetation, degrade water quality and they out-compete native fish species for food and habitat. In some cases they directly prey on native species of fish, plants and invertebrates.

Carp have been the focus of control efforts by both Governments and communities for decades and are listed as a noxious species under the Fisheries Management Act 2007. The Act prohibits a person to be in possession or control of Carp without the appropriate authorization and prohibits the release in to the River Murray or any other fresh water lakes, rivers or streams.

It is believed that recent high river flows and widespread flooding had exacerbated the Carp population numbers.

Pelican path official opening

By Andrew Dawes



On Wednesday the 5th of October in excess of 100 people attended the opening of the Meningie Lakefront Habitat Restoration Project pathway. The name chosen for this pathway was selected from over forty entries with the students of Meningie Area School successfully nominating "Pelican Path" along with the Ngarrindjeri words "Yunti Ngopun Ngami" meaning "together we walk".

The Coorong District Council Mayor Roger Strother said a few words before introducing Tom Trevorrow who welcomed all to traditional Ngarrindjeri land. Following on from Tom was Minister Paul Caica who opened the "Pelican Path" which was followed by a walk along the path and a Smoking Ceremony conducted by Major Sumner. Afterward guests were invited to join the dignitaries for morning tea which was catered for by the Meningie Progress Association.

Photos : Above: Tom Trevorrow, Hon Paul Caica MP and Ellen Trevorrow inspecting a plaque of a woven reed mat designed by Ellen Trevorrow.

Photo courtesy of Andrew Dawes

Right : The smoking ceremony conducted by Major Sumner. Photo courtesy of Wendy Conaghty



On-ground works funding available

Perennial pastures funding-\$80 per ha is currently available for establishing pastures on *high priority salinity recharge areas.

Fencing remnant vegetation-up to \$3000/km is available to fence *priority remnant vegetation

*For further info about the funding or priorities for funding contact On-ground Works Project Officer, Ben Simon on 0418 828 949 at the Goolwa to Wellington Local Action Planning Assoc (GWLAP).

REMINDER – ‘Migratory Birds of the Coorong’ presentation

GWLAP AGM this Wednesday night with a presentation by: Dr. Daniel Rogers (DENR)

WHEN : Wednesday 12th October 2011 commencing at 7.30pm

WHERE : the St. Andrews Hall (Corner of Alfred Pl. and Russell St., Strathalbyn

GENERAL : Members of the Public welcome.

Nominations for Goolwa to Wellington LAP Board membership and positions welcome.

Light refreshments will be served following the AGM and presentation.

Please RSVP Tony Randall on 8536 5612 or 0427 917 511 or by email: tony.randall@gwlap.org.au

Waterbird and Wetland survey



The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) are calling for your help to assist with the annual Waterfowl and Wetlands Survey - **Saturday October 22- Sunday October 30 2011.**

The waterfowl survey is a relatively quick assessment of the duck population at 100 wetland sites each year. It's a great opportunity to visit your local wetlands, and provides DENR with some very useful information. Several different people can count at the same site, so please encourage as many friends /club members as you can.

It is important that we maintain the consistency and intensity of the annual survey, so don't feel shy about visiting sites that have little or no water. Zero is an important count, so please send back your forms even if you don't physically see a duck. We'll be out counting as intensively as ever, and we're counting on your help...

Many of you have association/member lists. Can you please circulate this to anyone who you feel may be able to assist?

Useful Tips:

- You can count any time during the survey period
- Surveys of dry wetlands or 'zero' duck counts are still important results, so please send back your form(s).
- If your favourite wetland is large, select a manageable part of the wetland and fill in the AREA of wetland you counted (estimate) on the survey form.
- Please try to complete as many of the fields on the form as you can.

Copies of the **survey data sheet and a list of sites we count each year** are available from Paul Wainwright (If you would like some sent to you, please let him know) The data sheet can be emailed or faxed back. If you're short on time, please call Paul to download your data!

Contact : **Paul Wainwright**, Senior Ecologist, Aquatic Ecosystems Policy, Department of Environment & Natural Resources
Ph: 08 8124 4739 Mbl: 0429 678 475 Email paul.wainwright@sa.gov.au

Hardhead (White-eyed Duck) *Aythya australis*, also known locally as Punkeri.

By Terry Sim.

Recently small flocks of this duck have been seen on Lake Alexandrina and Albert. In the past it was much more common and flocks of birds (referred to as rafts) covering several acres were not unusual. It frequented deeper waters where it fed, by diving, on small cockles.

Farmers, fishermen and others report that in the 1960s huge numbers of these cockles died, describing the shells washing up on the shores of the Lakes in huge numbers. Those same people attribute the death of the cockles to the (then) new practice of the use of chemicals on farms, not only around the Lakes, but throughout the wider Murray Darling basin.

It is interesting that over the last year or so it has been noted that the numbers of these cockles have increased in the waters of the Lakes.



Pictured : Hardhead (White-eyed Duck) *Aythya australis* (photo courtesy of Terry Sim)

The Finnis Catchment Group and GWLAP invite you to a free workshop on the use of

NatureMaps

The format of NatureMaps has changed recently so refresh your knowledge or learn for the first time.

The workshop will cover the following:

- Call up a map
- Set your area and style of map
- Overlay online data sets and information
- Draw lines
- Outline areas
- Measure lines and areas
- Shade areas
- Insert labels
- Download and enter GPS points
- Save your data maps on line
- Print off finished maps

Where: The Internet Centre in the Library of the Strathalbyn 7-12 Campus of the Eastern Fleurieu School on Callington Road

When: 6.30 – 8.30pm, Wednesday 16th November

Numbers are limited by the number of computers available

Book your place by emailing Derek Fenton at derekf@activ8.net.au

RIVER MURRAY – weekly FLOW ADVICE

For weekly 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 **OCT 3rd - 7th 2011**

| DATE | SITE | WATER LEVEL AHD | SALT (EC) |
|------|--|--------------------|-------------|
| 3 | GOOLWA | 0.841 | 1524 |
| 4 | | 0.831 | 512 |
| 5 | | 0.811 | 675 |
| 6 | | 0.813 | 646 |
| 7 | | 0.770 | 485 |
| | AVERAGE | 0.813 | 768 |
| DATE | SITE | WATER LEVEL AHD | SALT (EC) |
| 3 | MILANG JETTY | 0.838 | 463 |
| 4 | | 0.839 | 457 |
| 5 | | 0.822 | 512 |
| 6 | | 0.812 | 587 |
| 7 | | 0.632 | 538 |
| | AVERAGE | 0.789 | 511 |
| DATE | SITE | WATER LEVEL AHD | SALT (EC) |
| 3 | RAUKKAN OFFSHORE | 0.836 | 322 |
| 4 | | 0.822 | 340 |
| 5 | | 0.809 | 323 |
| 6 | | 0.808 | 418 |
| 7 | | 0.801 | 480 |
| | AVERAGE | 0.815 | 377 |
| DATE | SITE | WATER LEVEL AHD | SALT (EC) |
| 3 | MENINGIE JETTY | 0.774 | 4688 |
| 4 | | 0.814 | 4638 |
| 5 | | 0.839 | 4583 |
| 6 | | 0.844 | 4465 |
| 7 | | 0.826 | 4534 |
| | AVERAGE | 0.819 | 4582 |
| DATE | SITE | WATER LEVEL AHD | SALT (EC) |
| 3 | NORTH WARRENGIE POINT LAKE ALBERT | 0.797 | 5518 |
| 4 | | 0.842 | 5551 |
| 5 | | 0.866 | 5605 |
| 6 | | 0.875 | 5529 |
| 7 | | 0.842 | 5576 |
| | AVERAGE | 0.844 | 5556 |

BARRAGE OPERATIONS AND WATER LEVELS IN THE LOWER LAKES

The water level in Lake Alexandrina is currently around 0.83m AHD, after reaching 0.85m AHD early this week. The water level in Lake Albert remains slightly higher at 0.86m AHD. Given that the previous target water level of 0.85m AHD has been reached, barrage gates are now being operated to lower the water level in Lake Alexandrina with the aim of reaching a target water level of 0.8m AHD by mid October 2011. This will continue to facilitate the freshening of Lake Albert.

Water levels and barrage operations are continually monitored by the Department for Water, SA Water and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

For more information visit
www.waterforgood.sa.gov.au

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.

October 2011

| | |
|----|---|
| 1 | Native plant sale – Alexandrina Nursery, Kessell Rd, Goolwa (near council Depot) 11.00-3.00pm Contact ph 8554 2555 |
| 2 | |
| 3 | Public holiday – Strathalbyn Show (GWLAP & HUB trade site near Football Clubrooms) |
| 4 | |
| 5 | |
| 6 | |
| 7 | |
| 8 | Port Elliot Show – Hub site Goolwa Alive – Hub site |
| 9 | Port Elliot Show – Hub site |
| 10 | |
| 11 | |
| 12 | GWLAP AGM 7.30pm. Speaker Dr Daniel Rogers ‘Migratory Birds of the Coorong’ All welcome Contact Tony Randall by Friday October 7th 2011 on 8536 5612 or 0427 917 511 or by email: tony.randall@qwlap.org.au |
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| 25 | Samphire workshop – Narrung Hall 10.00am RSVP by Monday 17 th October to Jo McPhee jomcphee@lakeshub.com Ph 0488 465 043 office 85370808 |
| 26 | TALKING HEADS – Planning Priority Planting. Milang 10.00-11.00am. Meningie 1.00pm – 2.00pm |
| 27 | |
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| 29 | |
| 30 | |
| 31 | |

Disclaimer

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