



WEEKLY BULLETIN

October 17th 2011. No 68

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 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.

TALKING HEADS – Planning Priority Planting



Here is your opportunity to help guide future vegetation and conservation works across the region. Work is underway to determine priority sites for vegetation projects over the next five (5 years). Find out how these sites are identified and how you can give your input to develop this long term vegetation program. The Government recognizes the vast community knowledge in this area and is asking for your input. This project is part of the South Australian Government's *Murray Futures* program, funded by the Australian Government's *Water for the Future* initiative.

| WHERE | Lakes Hub MILANG | Lakes Hub MENINGIE |
|---------|---|--|
| WHEN | Wednesday 26 th October 10.00am – 11.00am | Wednesday 26 th October 1.00pm – 2.00pm |
| CONTACT | Lou 85 370 808 info@lakeshub.com | Andrew 85 751 830 meningie@lakeshub.com |

Signal Point Riverine Environment Group Inc. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Signal Point Riverine Environment Group has been involved in monitoring water quality in the Lower Lakes and tributaries of the Eastern Mount Lofty Ranges (EMLR) since 1993. The group also participates in frog monitoring, macro-invertebrates, acid sulfate soil monitoring and revegetation activities.

New members welcome, training provided for activities.

WHEN : Tuesday 18th October, 2011

WHERE : at the Goolwa Museum Porter Street, GOOLWA from 7:30pm

CONTACT : Phone: 8555 0251 / 0401 295 937

Guest Speaker : Dr. Nick Whiterod

Presenting on MURRAY COD

Dr Nick Whiterod, DENR ecologist, will discuss the ecological and cultural significance of the Murray cod, and the management of the species.



The Barrages

Discussion and consultations regarding the construction of the barrages took place from the very early 1900's. In 1931 the River Murray Commission recommended barrages be constructed on the channels leading from Lake Alexandrina to the Murray mouth at the Coorong and in 1933 a SA Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works concluded that , *"After having given the question thorough consideration the Committee have come to the conclusion that the proposed barrages will operate successfully, and that a modification of the River Murray Agreement, as suggested by the River Murray Commission, is desirable, not only on the score of the advantages it will confer on the settlers concerned, but on the ground of economy"*. Excerpt from a 1933 SA Parliamentary Report "Barrages Near Murray Mouth" ordered by the House of Assembly Nov 21st 1933.

The Engineering and Water Supply Department undertook the construction of the barrages from 1935 - 1940.

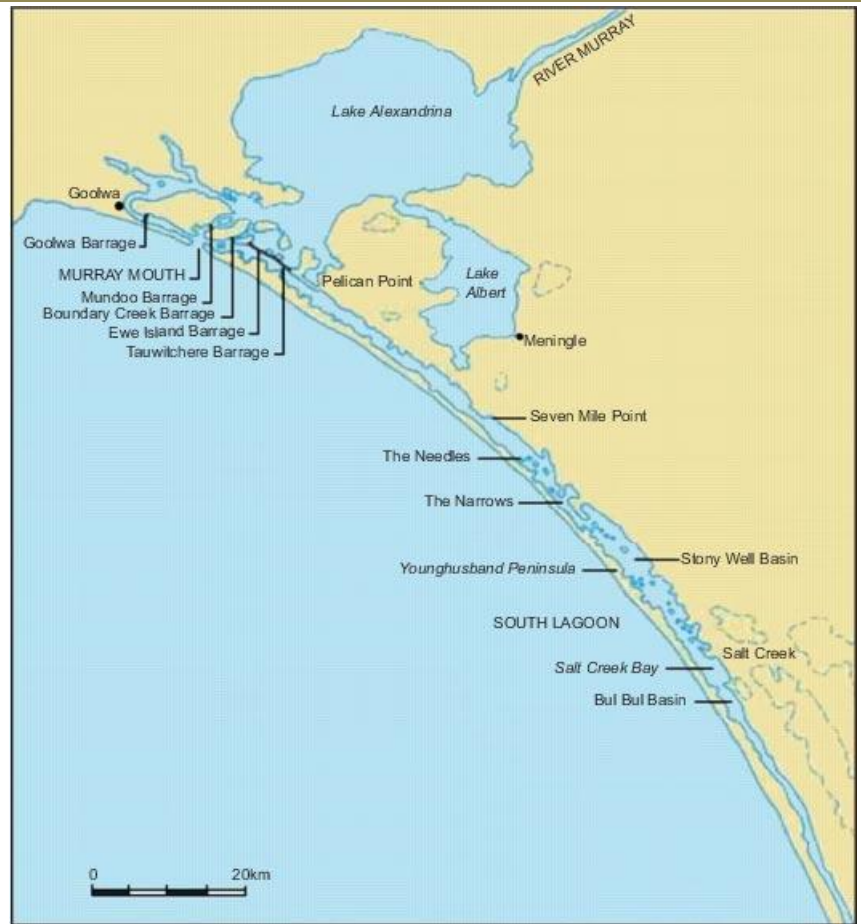
The barrages were designed to withstand tidal pressure but not to obstruct flood waters. There are five barrages that make up the group:

- Goolwa
- Mundoo
- Boundary Creek
- Ewe Island
- Tauwitchere

Both the Goolwa and Tauwitchere barrages were built with locks, allowing passage between the Murray mouth and the Coorong. During construction coffer dams were built to keep the areas free of water. Coffers are levees built around the construction site.

The construction of the barrages has regulated the flow of the river and keeps salt water out of the lower reaches of the Murray. This made the construction of major pipelines (Mannum - Adelaide and Tailm Bend - Keith) possible - helping to supply South Australia with water.

Completed in 1940 the barrages were built by 700 hundred men over three years at a cost of £6,000,000.



Tauwitchere barrage under construction 1935

Today the barrages are owned by the Murray Darling Basin Authority and operated by SA Water. Recent improvements to the barrages have seen a rock ramp and vertical slot fish ways included in the structures to help native fish species travel between fresh and sea water. Some remotely operated hydraulic gates have been fitted to the barrages to help expedite the opening and closing of the barrage gates as the needs arise.

Christmas pressies

The following regional references are available from the Hubs. All monies go directly to the local authors.

Ken Strother photography / dvd's \$10 each – raising funds for the Meningie Cheese Factory Museum.

Coorong Sunsets – 10 minute dvd of sunsets on the Coorong during the 2006 drought

Farming around the Lower Lakes – 30 minute dvd of farming around Lake Albert and Alexandrina.

Fashion around the Lakes & Coorong – 10 minute dvd of fashions from 1866 – 1966

Motoring around the Lakes & Coorong – 10 minute dvd of motor vehicles around the Lakes and Coorong

Exposed – around the Lakes – seven short slide shows of the exposed lakebed from 2006-2010

Bert's story – Palestine 1915-1919 – photo's from the collection of William, Herbert Botten, 3rd Light Horse Regiment.

Of Billabongs and Broken Dreams – local author Alastair Wood \$20 each available from the Milang Hub

The Path through my garden of Life – memoirs of Ruth Murphy (includes a chapter on my life in the Coorong 1936, Clayton 1957) Reference from this book are on the pillars at the northern end of the Pelican Path in Meningie. Books are signed \$30 each. Available from Meningie Hub.

Community & Additional Monitoring Activities – SAMDB NRM

Over 150 community monitoring sites are registered within the South Australian Murray Darling Basin NRM Board region which collectively provides important data and information relating to the condition of the region's natural resources.

Community based monitoring is valued by the SA MDB NRM Board as this activity collects important information about the health of local sites and environments. The investment of effort in monitoring our natural resources by community-based groups is substantial, with activities covering wetland health, surface water quality, groundwater quantity and quality, trends in the condition of aquatic and terrestrial biodiversity and land condition. Much of the effort is concentrated along the Murray River and in the regions many national parks.

Following is an example of the types of monitoring completed. These Community Stream Sampling Feedback Summaries include an analysis of community monitoring sites.

<http://www.samdbnrm.sa.gov.au/Portals/9/PDF%27s/People/2011%20Winter%20Summary.pdf>

More information can be found on the following link -:

<http://www.samdbnrm.sa.gov.au/NRMPlan/ReportingonthePlanMERI/CommunityAdditionalMonitoringActivities.aspx>

Should you wish to be involved or require more information please contact -:

Greg Lundstrom, Community Monitoring Project Officer

P: (08) 8536 5622 F: (08) 8531 1843 www.samdbnrm.sa.gov.au

Propagation Workshop – learn how to grow seedlings from seed & cuttings

To celebrate Trees for Life's 30th birthday Milang will be one of 30 towns in South Australia growing 1000 plants for their town.

To assist the Milang nursery propagate these plants and to share propagation knowledge you are invited to a free propagation workshop.

WHEN: Monday 7th November 10.00am – 1.00pm

WHERE: The Milang Nursery, Jupiter street next to the MEC

CONTACT : John 85 370 687

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:

DAILY RECORDINGS – RIVER MURRAY DATA

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

DATE **OCT 10 -14 2011**

| DATE | SITE | WATER LEVEL AHD | SALT (EC) |
|------|--|--------------------|-------------|
| 10 | GOOLWA | 0.647 | 403 |
| 11 | | 0.687 | 458 |
| 12 | | 0.833 | 434 |
| 13 | | 0.786 | 445 |
| 14 | | 0.833 | 486 |
| | AVERAGE | 0.757 | 445 |
| DATE | SITE | WATER LEVEL AHD | SALT (EC) |
| 10 | MILANG JETTY | 0.710 | 450 |
| 11 | | 0.764 | 445 |
| 12 | | 0.758 | 453 |
| 13 | | 0.763 | 457 |
| 14 | | 0.738 | 486 |
| | AVERAGE | 0.747 | 458 |
| DATE | SITE | WATER LEVEL AHD | SALT (EC) |
| 10 | RAUKKAN OFFSHORE | 0.761 | 505 |
| 11 | | 0.748 | 454 |
| 12 | | 0.748 | 470 |
| 13 | | 0.743 | 455 |
| 14 | | 0.738 | 553 |
| | AVERAGE | 0.748 | 487 |
| DATE | SITE | WATER LEVEL AHD | SALT (EC) |
| 10 | MENINGIE JETTY | 0.793 | 4978 |
| 11 | | 0.783 | 4909 |
| 12 | | 0.752 | 5065 |
| 13 | | 0.731 | 5115 |
| 14 | | 0.762 | 5062 |
| | AVERAGE | 0.764 | 5026 |
| DATE | SITE | WATER LEVEL AHD | SALT (EC) |
| 10 | NORTH WARRENGIE POINT LAKE ALBERT | 0.801 | 5626 |
| 11 | | 0.793 | 5455 |
| 11 | | 0.785 | 5382 |
| 12 | | 0.765 | 5482 |
| 13 | | 0.798 | 5580 |
| | AVERAGE | 0.788 | 5505 |

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

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| 17 | School resumes |
| 18 | The Signal Point Riverine Environment Group AGM Goolwa Museum 7.30pm All welcome |
| 19 | |
| 20 | |
| 21 | |
| 22 | |
| 23 | |
| 24 | |
| 25 | Samphire workshop – Narrung Hall 10.00am RSVP by Monday 17 th October to Jo McPhee jomcphee@lakeshub.com Ph 0488 465 043 Lakes Hub office 85370808 |
| 26 | TALKING HEADS – Planning Priority Planting. Milang 10.00-11.00am. Meningie 1.00pm – 2.00pm |
| 27 | |
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| 31 | |

November 2011

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| 1 | |
| 2 | Samphire workshop – Hindmarsh Island 10.00am – 1.00pm. RSPV Monday 24 th October to to Jo McPhee jomcphee@lakeshub.com Ph 0488 465 043 Lakes Hub office 85370808 |
| 3 | |
| 4 | |
| 5 | |
| 6 | |
| 7 | Propagation Workshop 10am – 1.00pm Milang Nursery Contact : John 85370687 |
| 8 | |
| 9 | Native fish Awareness Day at Milang School - BBQ lunch - Contact : Amanda Vivian, Milang School 85370223 |
| 10 | |
| 11 | |
| 12 | |
| 13 | Meningie Carporama – Meningie yacht Club |
| 14 | |
| 15 | |
| 16 | NatureMaps workshop, Strathalbyn school internet centre. Contact Derek Fenton at derekf@activ8.net.au |
| 17 | |
| 18 | |
| 19 | Goolwa to Meningie yacht race |
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Disclaimer

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