



WEEKLY BULLETIN

November 14th 2011. No 72

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

Native fish awareness day at Milang

Native fish populations in the Basin's rivers have declined under threats with experts estimating that current levels are at about 10 per cent of pre-European settlement numbers. With this knowledge the Federal Government's Murray Darling Basin Authority implemented a Native Fish Strategy in 2004 which has a 50 year plan. The goal of the strategy is to rehabilitate native fish communities in the Basin back to 60% of their estimated pre-European-settlement levels over the next 50 years. This Strategy provides a response to the key threats to native fish populations in the Murray- Darling Basin. These range from flow regulation, habitat degradation, lowered water quality, manmade barriers to fish movement, the introduction of alien fish species, fisheries exploitation, the spread of diseases and translocation and stocking of fish. For more information on the strategy visit the following web site : <http://www.mdba.gov.au/programs/nativefishstrategy>

The Lakes Hub and co-hosts the Milang Campus of the Eastern Fleurieu School held a student information day on Wednesday the 9th November to celebrate Native Fish Awareness Week November 5th – 12th 2011. One hundred and forty students from Meningie, Raukkan, Langhorne Creek, Milang and Ashbourne plus staff participated in six different activities and workshops throughout the day in a 'round robin' format. On arrival students and staff were allocated a 'native fish' group tag and stayed in that group for the day's program. The activities and workshops included a hands on tour of the turtle and native fish centre, a native fish treasure hunt, 'Why is the water so yucky' activity, Don't forget the past DVD, salt and PH testing and " Is that really in there", activities.



All this was followed with a free BBQ lunch and a presentation from PIRSA and the Ngarrindjeri community to the Milang Campus Turtle Shed of a dot painted turtle picture that had been painted by children over the course of Native Fish Awareness Week at different venues.



Student and teacher feedback on the day has been fantastic. Many thanks must go to the following people for making this event such a success -:

The Milang Campus – Michael Simmons and staff
 PIRSA – Inland Fisheries Management Officer Jonathan McPhail and his team

DENR – CLLMM communications team Judith Bleechmore, Gemma Cunningham and Nikki Brookman.

SAMDBNRM Education coordinator – Harry Beauchamp

Milang Campus Turtle & Native Fish Info Centre – Coordinator, Christine Jackson

Staff and students from Meningie, Raukkan, Langhorne Creek, Milang and Ashbourne

Henry and Gloria Jones and the Lakes Hub staff.



New MDBA blog

The new MDBA's blog 'Free Flow' has recently been launched. This is a place for open online conversations with the MDBA, where anyone can ask questions and discuss the draft Basin Plan. This blog is a different approach to what has been done in the past with people's comments will go straight up without any monitoring. The MDBA will get involved in the conversation.

Thanks to feedback and consultation, including from the Windsor Inquiry, the MDBA are going to continue communicating openly with Basin communities, so visit FreeFlow and join the conversation.

The blog is available at <http://freeflow.mdba.gov.au>

Welcome GWLAP's Aaron Cheesman

Aaron Cheesman, Revegetation Planner / Coordinator for the Goolwa to Wellington Local Action Planning Association (GWLAP) has been appointed to take over from Leah Sullivan who has gone on maternity leave. Aaron's office will be at the Lakes Hub in Milang and he can be contacted by -:

Ph: 08 8537 0807

Fax: 08 8537 0807

Mob: 0488 026 789

Email: aaron.cheesman@gwlap.org.au

Web: www.gwlap.org.au



More from Aaron

The Lower Lakes and Coorong Community Revegetation Program is part of the South Australian Government's Murray Futures program, funded by the Australian Government's Water for the Future initiative. Our role at the Goolwa to Wellington LAP, in collaboration with the Coorong Tatiara LAP and the Milang and District Community Association is to facilitate community groups to be involved in all aspects of the revegetation. Planning plays a vital role in the process of revegetation, to ensure that all activities to be carried out are thought through. This involves speaking to people with local knowledge, choosing appropriate plants for each site and making allowances to continue site maintenance long after the planting day.

Promoting Your Work - The Volunteer Support Unit Needs Your Help

Why do you volunteer in our environment?

What makes it special?

How does it make you feel?

To celebrate the International Year of Volunteers + 10, and to acknowledge the fantastic work DENR/NRM volunteers undertake, the Volunteer Support Unit would like to develop a collage of images, words and phrases about your activities. It is expected the collage will be published in hard copy and electronically on International Volunteers Day in December 2011.

Contributions of photos, words or phrases (1 word to 1 sentence in length) that represent your volunteering experience over the last 12 months would be greatly appreciated. Your photographs and words can capture people, activities, places, flora and fauna – anything that is special to you or shows what you love about your volunteering.

Send your contributions clearly labelled and with a contact person's details by email Lyn Newman

lynn.newman@sa.gov.au by 21 November 2011 Ph 08 8124 4841 for further information

Samphire Workshops Report

By Jo McPhee, Lakes Hub Community Nurseries Coordinator

Samphire Workshops

On Tuesday the 25th October and Wed 2nd November, the Lakes Community Nurseries Network presented two workshops to raise awareness of the importance of Samphires in saltmarsh ecosystems.

Faith Cook from Ecoproteem Environmental Consultancy Services conducted the workshops and discussed the value of samphires as habitat, as a food source for parrots (especially the Orange Bellied Parrot), and the potential value of saltmarshes for carbon sequestration opportunities.

She also demonstrated propagation and seed collection techniques and the somewhat challenging methods of identifying different species.

There are eight species of samphire in the Coorong and Goolwa to Wellington regions, and Faith also discussed the other 20 or more species of plants that occur in saltmarsh areas.

The workshop on the 25th was attended by 15 people including the Ngarrindjeri group from Raukkan, and was held at the Narrung Learning Centre with field ID and discussion at the Narrung wetland.

The workshop on Hindmarsh Island was held at Richard and Chris Owen's property with 35 people attending including members from the Lakes Eco Skills Network (undertaking Conservation Land Management training at the Milang Old School Community Centre) and NRM and GWLAP project officers.



Narrung wetland

As the group was so large, Richard and Angela from the Hindmarsh Island Landcare Group kindly took half of the group on a field discussion and plant identification tour, while the other half of the group practiced identification procedures with Faith. There was an opportunity to chat with Faith over lunch on the deck and everyone who attended thoroughly enjoyed the workshop. Special thanks to Richard and Chris Owen for supplying the venue and Angela for assisting on the day. Also thanks to the Raukkan Community Centre for supplying a wonderful lunch at the Narrung workshop.

COORONG SOUTH LAGOON – Invitation - Residents information evening

WHEN : Wednesday 23 November 2011, 6.30pm for 7.00pm start

WHERE : Gemini Downs Coorong Holiday Centre

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the Department for Water (DfW) and the South Eastern Water Conservation & Drainage Board invite you to attend an informal discussion about salinity management in the Coorong South Lagoon, the Fairy Tern Recovery Project, the Coorong ecological recovery and the South East Drainage System.

Over the last year conditions in the Coorong have started to improve, with more than 14,000 gigalitres of fresh water flowing over the barrages, into the Coorong and out into the ocean. These are the largest flows since the mid 1970s.

We have been monitoring the effects of these flows on both the north and south lagoons, and assessing their likely impact on the Coorong's future salinity levels, flora, fauna and surrounding ecosystems.

At the information evening staff from DENR, DfW and the Drainage Board will discuss the impacts of these improved flows on the north and south lagoons, and provide updates on projects and existing drainage operations.

Informal discussions will ensure local opinions and views are considered in developing future management planning of the Coorong, Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth Region. Refreshments and nibbles will be provided.

We look forward to seeing you at the meeting. If you are unable to attend but would like more information, please contact me on the email or phone numbers listed below.

Kind regards,

Gemma Cunningham
Community Engagement Manager
Coorong, Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth Program
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Phone: (08) 8204 9453
Mobile: 0427 018 783
Email: gemma.cunningham@sa.gov.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 **NOV 7- 11 2011**

DATE	SITE	WATER LEVEL AHD	SALT (EC)
7	GOOLWA	0.738	559
8		0.784	554
9		0.798	543
10		0.674	544
11		0.804	696
	AVERAGE	0.760	579
DATE	SITE	WATER LEVEL AHD	SALT (EC)
7	MILANG JETTY	0.752	438
8		0.794	444
9		0.773	445
10		0.717	445
11		0.768	452
	AVERAGE	0.761	445
DATE	SITE	WATER LEVEL AHD	SALT (EC)
7	RAUKKAN OFFSHORE	0.744	380
8		0.760	452
9		0.763	465
10		0.746	535
11		0.758	479
	AVERAGE	0.754	462
DATE	SITE	WATER LEVEL AHD	SALT (EC)
7	MENINGIE JETTY		
8		0.709	4670
9		0.787	4574
10		0.799	4580
11		0.792	4627
	AVERAGE	0.772	4613
DATE	SITE	WATER LEVEL AHD	SALT (EC)
7	NORTH WARRENGIE POINT LAKE ALBERT	0.786	5339
8		0.826	5358
9		0.814	5413
10		0.773	5345
11		0.802	5180
	AVERAGE	0.800	5327

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.

November 2011

1	
2	Samphire workshop – Hindmarsh Island 10.00am – 1.00pm. RSVP Monday 24 th October to Jo McPhee jomcphee@lakeshub.com Ph 0488 465 043 Lakes Hub office 85370808
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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
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13	Meningie Carporama – Meningie yacht Club
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16	NatureMaps workshop , Strathalbyn school internet centre. Contact Derek Fenton at derekf@activ8.net.au
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19	Goolwa to Meningie yacht race
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23	Coorong south lagoon information evening – Gemini Downs 6.30pm More info : Gemma Cunningham 82049453 gemma.cunningham@sa.gov.au
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Disclaimer

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In addition, the existence of a link to another site or resource does not constitute a recommendation or endorsement of that site or resource. The Lakes Hub does not accept responsibility or liability for any information at any of the sites linked to from this Bulletin.

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.