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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.

Peron's Tree Frog found at Clayton

Thanks to Jane Hylton, Marian Thompson & Fred Bullock.



Photograph courtesy of Fred Bullock

Marian from Clayton and others saw a Peron's Tree Frog at Clayton recently. It was sighted at the Boat Hire Beach in the Caravan Park between mid to late afternoon. Calls from other frogs that were thought to also be Peron's Tree Frogs were heard in the vicinity of the caravan park at the same time. The frog is about 4.5 cm long, head to tail, and although they are not visible in this picture has bright yellow with black markings under its legs and down its sides. It has bright aqua spots and is a greyish-beige colour. The colouring in the photo is fairly accurate.

More information on the Peron's Tree Frog "Litoria peronii" .

The Peron's Tree Frog is considered a frog of the Lower Murray and its distribution had previously only been noted as far south as Langhorne Creek, the last sighting in the Langhorne Creek area being in 1996. The species was recorded in Goolwa for the first time during the annual September Frog Census in 2010 by the Signal Point Riverine Environment Group and has now been identified at Clayton.

The Peron's Tree Frog is usually around 50mm in length but can vary from between 30mm and 70mm. The colour of this frog varies from cream to dark brown or grey, with irregular dark flecks and small emerald green spots, it also has a unique cross-shaped pupil. Peron's is also known as; Emerald-spotted Tree Frog, Laughing Tree Frog and the Maniacal Cackle Frog due to its distinctive call. Peron's is a large and agile climber with distinct large toe pads.

If you have found an unusual frog in your area and you would like identified take a photo and email it through to the Lakes Hub. Also the Goolwa to Wellington Local Action Planning Association has a frog monitoring kit for loan at the Lakes Hub, Milang.

Draft plan now available and 20 weeks of consultation begins

The Draft Basin Plan is now available and 20 weeks of consultation begins.

The Murray Darling Basin Authority (MDBA) has released its draft Basin Plan on 28 November 2011, triggering a 20-week public consultation period.

Documents made available:

- Draft Basin Plan (a piece of draft legislation)
- Plain English Summary (a chapter-by-chapter explanation document of the draft)
- Delivering a Healthy, Working Basin (gives a broader context to the draft)

Copies of all documents are available on www.mdba.gov.au and can be ordered by phoning 1800230067 or emailing engagement@mdba.gov.au. Information on how to provide submissions on the draft Basin Plan can be found at <http://freeflow.mdba.gov.au>

The MDBA has advised it will hold its first South Australian meeting in Murray Bridge on 9 December 2011. At time of print, the MDBA was still confirming the time and venue. If you are interested in attending, watch for information updates to confirm this detail on the Authority's website at www.mdba.gov.au

Running in parallel to the MDBA consultation, the South Australian Government will also hold stakeholder meetings to inform South Australia's formal response to the MDBA on the draft Basin Plan. These will be held prior to Christmas and also early in 2012.

Information about South Australian Government meetings will be available on www.waterforgood.sa.gov.au where interested groups and individuals can also subscribe to receive email updates from the Department for Water. You can subscribe to receive these email updates by signing up via the 'stay informed' box at this page: <http://www.waterforgood.sa.gov.au/rivers-reservoirs-aquifers/murray-darling-basin-plan/murray-darling-basin-plan-overview/>

Recently a high level science review of the MDBA's *Guide to the proposed Basin Plan* was released by the Goyder Institute for Water Research. This scientific review considered the water recovery scenarios and the implications for South Australia outlined in the MDBA's *Guide*. This report can be viewed or downloaded at www.goyderinstitute.org

BASIN PLAN INFORMATION SESSIONS

29th Nov – Jamie Briggs(Liberal MP) – Murray Bridge Hotel (upstairs) 3.30pm


8th Dec – Jamie Briggs(Liberal MP) – Milang Institute – 5.00pm

9th Dec – MDBA – Murray Bridge (time / venue TBA)

Recent interviews by the SA Country Hour regarding the MDBA Plan

On Monday 28th November the SA Country Hour journeyed down the River assessing the reaction to the Murray Darling Basin Plan.

To listen to the transcript visit :

<http://www.abc.net.au/rural/sa/content/2011/11/s3378291.htm> (click on the  in the audio section)

Black Tailed Native Hen

Scientific name: *Gallinula ventralis*

Heading over to Meningie last week I had to dodge flocks of Black Tailed Native Hens playing 'Russian Roulette' by running across the Princes Highway. Many of them had lost the game prior to my trip with more destined for the same gruesome end.



The Black-tailed Native-hen usually breeds near water in swamps. They prefer rank grasses or lignum near permanent or ephemeral terrestrial wetlands in low rainfall areas, in both fresh and brackish water. It is adapted to breeding rapidly when conditions are favourable and eats seeds, plant material and insects. It feeds on open ground near wetlands or at the edge of water and often feeds by running, then stopping, to stir up insects.

This bird is nomadic, taking advantage of temporary wetlands. When breeding conditions are good, large numbers of birds may suddenly arrive in an area, breed and then disappear again.

The Black Tailed Native Hen is found in plentiful numbers throughout Australia.

Reference : <http://birdsinyard.net/species/Gallinula-ventralis>

Photograph courtesy of the Kersbrook Landcare Group.

Clayton Temporary Flow regulator progress

Picture taken 28th November 2011, 2.30pm



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 21- 25 2011**

DATE	SITE	WATER LEVEL AHD	SALT (EC)
21	GOOLWA	0.730	608
22		0.650	621
23		0.659	631
24		0.739	622
25		0.763	685
	AVERAGE	0.708	633
DATE	SITE	WATER LEVEL AHD	SALT (EC)
21	MILANG JETTY	0.707	451
22		0.671	454
23		0.707	456
24		0.767	461
25		0.770	454
	AVERAGE	0.724	455
DATE	SITE	WATER LEVEL AHD	SALT (EC)
21	RAUKKAN OFFSHORE	0.702	456
22		0.687	434
23		0.691	455
24		0.689	448
25		0.759	423
	AVERAGE	0.706	443
DATE	SITE	WATER LEVEL AHD	SALT (EC)
21	MENINGIE JETTY	0.710	4782
22		0.704	4829
23		0.688	4847
24		0.579	4889
25		0.758	4678
	AVERAGE	0.688	4805
DATE	SITE	WATER LEVEL AHD	SALT (EC)
21	NORTH WARRENGIE POINT LAKE ALBERT	0.734	5082
22		0.741	5263
23		0.692	5338
24		0.613	5480
25		0.776	5475
	AVERAGE	0.711	5328

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

28	Murray Darling Basin Authority – Basin Plan DRAFT release
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30	Propagation workshop – Clayton Nursery 10.00am – 3.00pm Contact Jo McPhee jomcphee@lakeshub.com Ph : 85370808 or 0488465043
31	

December 2011

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5	International Volunteer Day Community 'On ground works' celebration 12.00-3.00pm. More information contact the Lakes Hub
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9	MDBA meeting Murray Bridge – more info to follow
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25	Christmas Day
26	Public Holiday
27	Public Holiday
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