



# WEEKLY BULLETIN

February 27<sup>th</sup> 2012. No 86

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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.*



## SAVE THE FROGS DAY

Milang Institute

April 26<sup>th</sup> 2012

**The Lakes Hub will be hosting a Save the Frogs Day' which will be celebrated for the first time at the Milang Institute on April 26<sup>th</sup> 2012.**

What to expect -:

- Photo competition (digital) –frogs found in the Lower Lakes and Coorong region - open
- Art competition ( drawing / painting) – frogs general - junior, intermediate, open
- Pottery / clay competition - open
- Save the Frogs Poster competition – for next year's event - open
- Experts on hand – some presentations
- Live frog displays – frog identification, frog calls identification
- Static frog displays
- Special sessions for students
- Drumming for the frogs – exhibition
- Info, handouts, resources

This notice is going out very early as most of April is either Easter and/ or school holidays.

Please start to consider entries for the competitions – prizes will be worth the effort although we are not talking sheep stations here!

It will be a casual, yet informative day for both school students and the general public to attend and will run from 1.00pm – 6.00pm.

Mike Tyler will be judging entries and will be also on hand to answer questions – Mike is a very highly respected' frog guru' (herpetologist) who works from the SA Museum. Mike has published several reference books on frogs. "Frogs of South Australia" which has just been released, and the other concerns the life history of frogs, "Australian Frogs. A Natural History". He will be joined by many other frog enthusiasts from the region.

More information will be circulated soon and will also be posted on the Lakes Hub website.

NOTE:

- Schools/ students will need to have artwork done by the end of March ( before school holidays) although works can be submitted independently by Friday 20<sup>th</sup> April
- Volunteers to assist with organization are always welcome ☺

## Fencing the Lakes

The Goolwa to Wellington LAP and the Coorong Tatiara LAP delivers the fencing component of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources Restoration Project for the Coorong, Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth Program.

This is funded through the State Government's *Murray Futures* program and this in turn is funded by the Australian Government's "Water for the Future" program.

The Fencing program was supported by both the State and Commonwealth governments because of the obvious and important benefits that include the protection of the lake edge. This will allow reeds, rushes and other plants to grow which will assist in the control of lakeshore erosion. The regeneration and revegetation of native plants in and around the lake edges provides valuable habitat for a wide range of wetland birds, fish and animals that are necessary for the Lakes ecosystem to function in a healthy and sustainable manner

As well, the fencing means that landowners will comply with the *Environment Protection Act 1993* and the *Water Quality Environment Protection Policy 2003* in not allowing pollutants to be deposited in water bodies.

There is almost 800 kilometres of lake edge land around Lakes Alexandrina, Albert and associated wetlands. Of this, about 200 kilometres has had fencing erected with the assistance of funding provided through the fencing program. In addition over 200 water points have been provided for stock watering using an incentive payment of \$800 per water point.

The third and final phase of the fencing program is underway at the moment. Anyone interested in fencing their lake shore land please contact:

Terry Sim : mobile – 0419 099 468 email – [terry.sim@gwlap.org.au](mailto:terry.sim@gwlap.org.au) Or at the Lakes Hub Milang (85370808)

## REGROWTH AROUND LAKE ALEXANDRINA

*"Two years ago I participated in the Lower Lakes and Coorong Project to fence lakeshore properties to keep cattle off the foreshore. Prior to this I had unsuccessfully tried and trialed a number of sites and methods to encourage the growth of reeds as a protective buffer to slow down lakeshore erosion. Last year I lightly crash grazed this same lakeshore.*

*I was incredibly surprised a week ago when I went to check the same area for another week of crash grazing for this year. The reeds in the water were much thicker and more extensive, and they were recolonising the areas of kikuyu on land. There was no evidence of the undercut banks of old, and in fact the kikuyu had, in places, grown over the banks and was spreading out over the sand below the banks. To me the banks look much more able to withstand the buffering they get from the northerly waves, and much more able to withstand the eroding power of those waves.*

*With the fence in place I expect the lakeshore erosion will be reduced so that in 10 years' time I shall still have a frontage for some limited grazing. Without the fence I expect that all that land would have been washed away into the lake."* Anne Hartnett, Point Sturt landholder 18.02.2012

*Pictured : Ann Hartnett on her Point Sturt property noting the difference that fencing off the lakeshore has made regarding erosion control.*



*"After the water returned to the lakes in 2010, reeds germinated in many places not seen in living memory. The fencing of most of the shore line around the lakes means the reeds will no longer be grazed, giving them a much greater chance of surviving into the future."* Ken Strother, Lake Albert.



➡ Before the return of the water – no fencing.

➡ After fencing in place



## The Great Egret

'Whilst the drought was a curse for everyone it had a few tiny positives and that is that we saw all sorts of birdlife we do not normally see here.' **C Boerma, Clayton**

Picture taken by C Boerma, Clayton

A Great Egret in 'breeding flush' at the Clayton public jetty in January 2009



### General – The Great Egret - *Ardea modesta*

info from [www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/sprat/public/publicspecies.pl?taxon\\_id=1004](http://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/sprat/public/publicspecies.pl?taxon_id=1004)

In Australia, Eastern Great Egrets appear similar to, and could potentially be confused with, Intermediate Egrets (*Ardea intermedia*), Cattle Egrets (*A. ibis*), Little Egrets (*Egretta garzetta*) and white plumage-morph Eastern Reef Egrets (*E. sacra*). However, Eastern Great Egrets can be distinguished from each of these species under inspection by a range of contrasting morphological features. Notably, the Eastern Great Egret has the longest neck of these species (1.5 times the length of the body), and usually moves more slowly in flight with a pronounced 'keel' formed by the folded neck. During the early stages of breeding, adults have bright blue-green facial skin, a feature unique among Australian herons (Marchant & Higgins 1990). The Eastern Great Egret is widespread in Australia and may potentially occur in a large number of conservation reserves. Large numbers frequent Kakadu National Park, but many colonies at the Top End are not located on protected land. Only one of the twelve confirmed breeding colonies in the Channel Country is located on protected land. Some breeding colonies in southern Australia occur within conservation reserves including Macquarie Marshes Nature Reserve and Bool Lagoon Game Reserve (R.P. Jaensch 2008, pers. comm.)

In Australia, multi-directional post-breeding movements of up to 280 km have been recorded in south-western Western Australia, and similar patterns of movement have been recorded in eastern Australia (McKilligan 2005). The species undertakes some regular seasonal movements, mostly to and from breeding colonies, and towards the coast in the dry season (Marchant & Higgins 1990). There is circumstantial evidence of long-distance migration, with regional differences in reporting rates suggesting that individuals migrate north to winter in tropical northern Australia (Geering et al. 1998; McKilligan 2005), consistent with changes in the availability of suitable wetland habitat.

In Australia, the Eastern Great Egret is threatened by loss and/or degradation of foraging and especially breeding habitat through alteration of water flows (for example harvesting of water for irrigation purposes that prevents or limits inundation of wetlands), drainage and/or clearing of wetlands for development, frequent burning of wetland vegetation used as nest sites, salinisation and invasion by exotic plants (Kushlan & Hancock 2005; R.P. Jaensch 2008, pers. comm.) or fishes.

## Greening Australia and Canopy - dates for the *Black Clouds – Silver Linings* workshops in March 2012.

**Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2012 & Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2012**

**Black Clouds – Silver Linings** is a one-day course for NRM staff, environmental professionals, agricultural advisers, land managers and anyone who needs to understand the impacts and opportunities created by the Carbon Farming Initiative (CFI) legislation and the Carbon Tax.

### Venue:

Pasadena Natural Resource Centre,  
5 Fitzgerald Road, Pasadena SA

**Workshop Cost: \$399 + GST**

Workshop can be offered at your workplace -  
minimum numbers and travel costs apply

For more information or to register your interest contact Matt Adams:  
Email [adams@greeningsa.org.au](mailto:adams@greeningsa.org.au) or Phone 08 8372 0100

### OUTCOMES & BENEFITS

- \* Understand the CFI and associated legislation
- \* Review the existing \$1.7bn of funding opportunities
- \* Learn the assumptions and language of the carbon market
- \* Identify risks and find out how to avoid them
- \* Explore low/no-cost options to create Government-certified carbon credits
- \* Access measurement tools, carbon regulations and legislation
- \* Understand the voluntary and mandatory carbon credit market

## 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](http://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.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](http://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 FEB 20 - 24 2012

DATE	SITE	WATER LEVEL (AHD)	SALT (EC)
20	GOOLWA	0.660	765
21		0.655	775
22		0.696	769
23		0.690	744
24		0.744	717
	AVERAGE	0.689	754
DATE	SITE	WATER LEVEL ( AHD)	SALT (EC)
20	MILANG JETTY	0.684	674
21		0.700	674
22		0.703	683
23		0.683	693
24		0.690	700
	AVERAGE	0.692	685
DATE	SITE	WATER LEVEL (AHD)	SALT (EC)
20	RAUKKAN OFFSHORE	0.666	525
21		0.657	540
22		0.674	487
23		0.674	496
24		0.677	475
	AVERAGE	0.670	505
DATE	SITE	WATER LEVEL (AHD)	SALT (EC)
20	MENINGIE JETTY	0.612	4752
21		0.569	4764
22		0.555	4894
23		0.604	4857
24		0.675	4627
	AVERAGE	0.603	4779
DATE	SITE	WATER LEVEL (AHD)	SALT (EC)
20	NORTH WARRENGIE POINT LAKE ALBERT	0.641	4896
21		0.587	4866
22		0.579	4757
23		0.621	4762
24		0.695	4794
	AVERAGE	0.625	4815

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS for more info contact the Lakes Hub

Feb 29	Water Security Forum, Tintinara. To register contact Graham Gates 0427 572 330. More info <a href="http://www.coorong.sa.gov.au/page.aspx?u=221&amp;c=3599">http://www.coorong.sa.gov.au/page.aspx?u=221&amp;c=3599</a>
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MARCH 2012	
1	First day of Autumn
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12	Adelaide Cup – Public Holiday
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20	Gollan’s Waterhole visit for the Vision Milang Group
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22	World Water Day
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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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