



WEEKLY BULLETIN

March 19th 2012. No 89

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
Aaron Cheesman : Revegetation Planner / Coordinator 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@lakeshub.com

Meningie Office meningie@lakeshub.com

Web www.lakeshub.com

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 – get your creative juices flowing

Regional communities are encouraged to participate in this year's Save the Frogs Day to be held at the Milang Institute on Thursday 26th April from 1.00 – 6.00pm.

This event will be hosted by the Lakes Hub with invaluable support and assistance from the SA Museum, GWLAP, MDBNRM, regional frog enthusiasts and local community members.

Apart from the day offering interactive and educational activities and displays there will also be a variety of competitions for both school students and community members.

All entries are free with prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd

So, get out your camera, easel or clay at the ready to submit an entry of two for the day.

Contact the Lakes Hub for entry forms info@lakeshub.com ph 85370808



Just a bit of fun whilst creating an increased awareness of our local frogs.

Clayton Bay Boat Club – RAT RACE

The traditional 'RAT RACE' is back since the last original version of the regatta in 2006. The first Rat Race regatta started about 30 years ago when a few small boat sailors decided to test their skills around the tight and challenging course from Clayton Bay, through Dunn's Lagoon, around Rat Island and back to Clayton Bay.



This year's race will be held on Saturday and Sunday 24th & 25th of March – entries are due in by Tuesday 20th March.

For more information contact the race organizer Rob Jones on 85370 305 or visit the Clayton Bay Boat Club web site by clicking on the icon above.

Our River, Our Future – have your say

The Murray Darling Basin Authority has prepared a draft [Basin Plan](#) that aims to restore the river system. This plan is out for public comment.

Premier Jay Weatherill and Minister for the River Murray, Paul Caica, have been speaking with people from river communities as part of developing a strong South Australian submission to the Murray Darling Basin Authority.

So that all South Australians can share their stories of the drought the South Australian Government have established the *Our River, Our Future* website at <http://saplan.org.au/yoursay/our-river-our-future>.

You are invited to share your stories so that they can be included in the State Government's submission to the Murray Darling Basin Authority.

Risk of flooding ?

Issued by the Department for Water on 16 March 2012 at 10:00am

Due to the recent high rainfall event and subsequent high inflow to the River Murray system in New South Wales and Victoria, the Department for Water predicts that flow in the River Murray is increasing and is likely to reach and remain in the range of 40,000 ML/day to 60,000 ML/day at the South Australian border over the coming four weeks. Forecasting potential inflows is extremely difficult at the current time and is dependent on upstream catchment conditions. There is potential for the 60,000 ML/day to be exceeded and the estimated flow to South Australia will be revised as new or more reliable information becomes available.

There is no immediate risk of flooding to South Australia.

For more information see the regular feature 'flow advice' links at the end of this Bulletin.

Message from the MDBA

There is one month still to go until the close of the 20-week formal consultation period on the draft Basin Plan. There are a number of meetings planned for the weeks ahead, with meeting details being added to the [MDBA website – events page](#) as soon as they are confirmed.

MDBA and SEWPaC staff will be available to talk with you at these meetings so we encourage you to come along to have your say and find out more about the draft Basin Plan.

A public meeting will be held in Adelaide.

Adelaide – Tuesday 3 April 2012 10:00am – 1:00pm Adelaide Convention Centre, North Terrace

Engaging Aboriginal people on the draft Basin Plan

As part of the consultation on the draft plan, we are continuing to travel to towns throughout the Basin to talk with Aboriginal people on their country. For updates on Indigenous consultation meetings, visit the [Indigenous meetings webpage](#).

Submissions received to date

As of this morning, we have received 2311 submissions on the draft Basin Plan. While most of the submissions received have come from people living within the Basin and nearby metropolitan cities, we have also had submissions from as far afield as Russia, Korea, United States of America and Canada.

Please ensure you [make your submission](#) on the draft Basin Plan before the closing date on 16 April 2012.

The Living Murray Project

The Living Murray is Australia's most significant river restoration program. It aims to achieve a healthy working River Murray system for the benefit of all Australians.

The Living Murray program was established in 2002 in response to evidence showing the declining health of the River Murray system. It is a partnership of the Australian, NSW, Victorian, South Australian and ACT governments.

The Living Murray is implemented through the following programs:

- [communication and community consultation](#)
- [environmental delivery](#)
- [environmental monitoring](#)
- [environmental works and measures](#)
- [Indigenous partnerships](#)
- [water recovery](#).

The Living Murray has recovered almost 500 gigalitres (billion litres) of water to help improve the health of six icon sites. The icon sites, chosen for their high ecological, cultural, recreational, heritage and economic value, are:

- [Barmah–Millewa Forest](#)
- [Gunbower–Koondrook–Perricoota Forest](#)
- [Hattah Lakes](#)
- [Chowilla Floodplain and Lindsay–Wallpolla Islands \(including Mulcra\)](#)
- [Lower Lakes, Coorong and Murray Mouth](#)
- [River Murray Channel](#).

Lower Lakes Threatened Fish Monitoring

By Adrienne Frears, Lower Lakes, Coorong and Murray Mouth Icon Site Coordinator, Department for Water

The Department for Water and The University of Adelaide will be conducting threatened fish monitoring activities around the Lower Lakes over the next few weeks as part of The Living Murray program.

Areas around Clayton, Mundoo Island, Boggy Creek, Hindmarsh Island, Holmes Creek, Lake Albert (Waltowa, Nindethana and Campbell House), Point Sturt, Poltalloch, Nalpa Station, Loveday Bay, Dog Lake and the lower Finnis River will be monitored for populations of the target species Murray Hardyhead, Southern Pygmy Perch and Yarra Pygmy Perch. Sites are sampled twice yearly, with monitoring undertaken since 2006.

During the drought, this monitoring program informed the need to pump environmental water into local 'refuge sites' in the Lower Lakes, such as Boggy Creek and Turveys Drain. This enabled populations of Murray Hardyhead and Southern Pygmy Perch to be maintained in their natural environments, and prevented their last remaining habitats from drying. Monitoring over the last two years has detected very few of these threatened species, and it is highly likely that wild populations of the Yarra Pygmy Perch are now locally extinct.



Photo – Yarra Pygmy Perch courtesy of Michael Hammer

Dr Scottie Wedderburn from the University of Adelaide is the lead researcher on the project, and is hoping to find some of the elusive fish during this autumn monitoring period.

"Over the last two years we have found very few of these fish through our sampling program" commented Dr. Wedderburn. "Last spring, the only threatened fish we found were captive-bred fish released in the Hindmarsh Island channel systems through the Department of Environment and Natural Resources 'Critical Fish Habitat' project, which had been marked with a special fluorescent calcein marker. We are hoping to find more remnant fish populations in addition to the captive-bred fish during this monitoring trip".

The Living Murray (DFW) and Murray Futures (DENR) programs have collaborated over the last few years to monitor and manage threatened fish communities in the Lower Lakes.

The Living Murray is a joint initiative funded by the New South Wales, Victorian, South Australian, Australian Capital Territory and the Commonwealth Governments and is coordinated by the Murray–Darling Basin Authority.

New interactive vegetation identification tool



The Murray Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board (MDBNRM) has recently launched a website providing information about what native plant species grow best in a particular area.

A user can click on a map location to identify the different plant species indigenous to a specific site with a description.

To visit this site click on the icon above.

Conservation Council E-Bulletin: Environmental Notices and Events

Click on the following link to access the 15 March 2012 Conservation Council Newsletter. Contents include notices, grants, awards, events etc.



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

MAR 12 - 16 2012

DATE	SITE	WATER LEVEL (AHD)	SALT (EC)
12	GOOLWA	0.551	626
13		0.517	626
14		0.496	611
15		0.461	590
16		0.491	8568
	AVERAGE	0.503	2204
DATE	SITE	WATER LEVEL (AHD)	SALT (EC)
12	MILANG JETTY	0.598	821
13		0.567	798
14		0.541	795
15		0.534	789
16		0.502	787
	AVERAGE	0.548	798
DATE	SITE	WATER LEVEL (AHD)	SALT (EC)
12	RAUKKAN OFFSHORE	0.582	496
13		0.562	538
14		0.532	541
15		0.522	698
16		0.531	580
	AVERAGE	0.546	571
DATE	SITE	WATER LEVEL (AHD)	SALT (EC)
12	MENINGIE JETTY	0.555	4779
13		0.571	4849
14		0.577	4821
15		0.607	4768
16		0.618	4769
	AVERAGE	0.586	4797
DATE	SITE	WATER LEVEL (AHD)	SALT (EC)
12	NORTH WARRENGIE POINT LAKE ALBERT	0.598	4971
13		0.571	4849
14		0.620	4977
15		0.622	4979
16		0.635	4982
	AVERAGE	0.609	4952

CALENDAR OF EVENTS for more info contact the Lakes Hub

19	MARCH
20	
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22	World Water Day
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24	Clayton Bay Boat Club – RAT RACE For more info Rob Jones 85370 305 www.claytonbayboatclub.org.au
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APRIL 2012

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5	School holidays start – to 23rd
6	Easter
7	Easter
8	Easter
9	Easter
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14	Clayton Bay Fair Contact Leonie on 0407 394 907 for further information or to book a site.
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23	School resumes
24	
25	ANZAC DAY
26	SAVE THE FROGS DAY Milang Institute 1.00 – 6.00pm Interactive day with live, static and digital exhibits, Frog enthusiasts, Competitions - art, photography, clay etc. Contact Lakes Hub 85370808 info@lakeshub.com for entry comp entry forms etc. ALL FREE
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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

All the links and articles in this Bulletin are provided as a courtesy to recipients. While I try and keep these links and articles as up-to-date as possible, I can't guarantee their accuracy, adequacy, timeliness, or completeness.

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.