



WEEKLY BULLETIN

April 23rd 2012. No 94

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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.



REMEMBER 'SAVE THE FROGS DAY' THIS THURSDAY AT THE MILANG INSTITUTE FROM 1.00pm – 6.00pm

FREE ENTRY

- Special guest Mike Tyler – Australia's famous frog man
 - Associate Professor at the University of Adelaide – expertise frogs, cane toads and tadpoles
 - 50 years association with the SA Museum
 - And much more! Find out more about Mike via video at this link <http://vimeo.com/34421583>
- Come and see the giant inflatable frog which takes up half the Institute hall!
- Local experts with live frog exhibits
- SAMDBA and DENR activity and information stations
- Drumming in the frogs
- Frog call identification
- Photo, art and pottery competition display
- And oodles more

Note : School students will be present from 1.00 – 3.00pm

The maligned image of Mistletoe

Some facts about Mistletoe :

- There are 85 species of Australian Mistletoe – 17 species occur in South Australia
- There are about 1500 species found across the world
- Mistletoe's are native plants and are protected under the *Native Vegetation Act 1991*. Approval from the Native Vegetation Council is required before Mistletoe can be removed
- Most species of Mistletoe are specific to a particular host plant and many species have evolved to 'mimic' the foliage of their host plant.
- Are semi parasitic plants which derive minerals and water from a host plant.
- Has a higher food value (the flowers and fruit) than the host plant therefore more attractive to birds, animals and insects.
- 25 species of butterflies depend on mistletoe's during the larval and caterpillar stage.
- Is considered an 'indicator plant' for environmental health – their presence can be a good sign.
- Are sensitive to fire, drought and excessive grazing (possums etc)
- Can kill host trees – usually on farming land where the natural ecological balance is interrupted. Inside forests Mistletoe will rarely kill host trees.
- Factors that have contributed to an increase in Mistletoe populations are - :
 - Tree numbers have declined – clearing for agriculture and community developments
 - Natural control agents are absent – pastures, crops and weeds have replaced native plants that many animals relied on along with Mistletoe therefore the fauna and insects keeping Mistletoe in check have disappeared.
 - Seed vectors have increased – large populations of introduced birds such as Starlings and Blackbirds are spreading the seed – although not as effective as the Mistletoe birds they will increase Mistletoe establishment.
 - Tree health has declined – regions trees are now quite old and not being replaced (livestock grazing etc). Trees outside a scrub situation are more prone to Mistletoe infestations.
 - Fire regimes have changed – natural bushfires are now controlled.



Typical mistletoe clump on a Eucalypt

'Some 'experts' believe that mistletoes are responsible for tree decline and death and therefore should be eradicated. But given the value of mistletoes to such a wide variety of Australian fauna, it would be better to work towards restoring the natural balance, such as fencing the host trees from livestock to encourage regeneration and reduce soil compaction, and/ or planting local understorey plants to provide habitat for mistletoe predators. Bringing the mistletoe back into balance will keep the remaining vegetation healthy. This makes far more sense than eradicating the mistletoe, and along with it the valuable contribution that it makes to the country's ecology'. (Australian plants online <http://anpsa.org.au/APOL2006/jul06-1.html>)



Not all Mistletoe's are the typical, drooping mass of eucalypt leaves on a gum tree. Many of our native trees are hosts to different species of Mistletoe. For example :

Left :Buloke Mistletoe, *Amyema linophylla*

It exclusively parasitises Bull Oaks and She Oaks (*Allocasuarina*) found in the Lower Lakes region.

Picture courtesy of South Australian Butterflies data sheet

Right : Wire-leaf Mistletoe, *Amyema preissii*

It almost exclusively parasitises *Acacia* trees, but sometimes occurs on *Senna* bushes, and occurs throughout the state. Found in the Lower Lakes region.

Picture courtesy of South Australian Butterflies data sheet





The Mistletoe bird
Picture courtesy of *Birdlife Australia*

The mistletoe bird plays an important role in the mistletoe plant's life cycle. The life of most mistletoe begins when a viscous, gluey seed drops onto a branch from the rear end of the brilliantly coloured black, red and white Mistletoe bird. Found throughout Australia, these birds are highly mobile and go wherever mistletoe is in fruit. Once eaten, the seed of the fruit quickly passes through the bird, emerging just 10-15 minutes later. The sticky seed fastens onto the branch, although many seeds fail to adhere, and are lost.

Within days, a tiny tendril emerges from the seed, growing quickly and secreting a cocktail of enzymes directly onto the corky outer protection of the branch. Unable to resist the onslaught, the bark yields a small ulcer-like hole into which the tendril probes, seeking its way down into the sappy tree tissue until it hits the water and mineral-rich plumbing of the tree.

Once established, the mistletoe plant grows rapidly as long as there is plenty of light. A single tree may carry up to 20 plants which can steal a substantial portion of the host's water and minerals. Some researchers argue that even a large infestation will only usually kill a tree if it is already sick and dying.



Photo by Lorraine Phelan <http://boobook48.blogspot.com.au/>

Information sources : ABC Science, DENR- Lower North NRM Group, Australian plants online, South Australian Butterflies data sheet, Birdlife Australia, ABC Rural, Flickr

Prescribed burn at Mt Boothby Conservation Park

Subject to suitable weather conditions, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) will undertake a prescribed burn at **Mt Boothby Conservation Park** (the Park), 30 kilometres south-east of Meningie, between **Thursday, April 26** and **Sunday, April 29**.

The burn will affect about 270 hectares in the north-west of the Park adjacent to Richardson Road. Some edging has already been completed to contain this burn.

Visibility in the immediate area may be impacted by smoke. Motorists will need to follow directions, slow down and take extreme care.

The purpose of the prescribed burn is to reduce the bushfire risk within the Park and to create a mosaic of ecological vegetation classes. DENR fire crews will monitor the fire-ground until the area is declared safe. SA Country Fire Service (CFS) crews will be on standby if required.

For further information please contact the Department of Environment and Natural Resources on 8575 1200

3rd Annual SA Weed Conference – Adelaide

The Weed Management Society of SA is delighted to announce the program for the 3rd SA Weed Conference

WHEN : to be held on the 8th & 9th May, 2012

WHERE : at the Waite Campus in Adelaide.

INFO : Registration is \$100 for WMSSA members and \$130 for non-members, which is excellent value for a 2 day conference. The Society is also holding a dinner on the 8th May, enabling further networking, fun and great food at 'The Ed' in Mitcham (coast \$55).

CONTACT : Shauna Potter ph 8303 9748 or Email : Shauna.Potter@sa.gov.au for the registration form and program.



Control + Click on the icon to view the website of the Weed Management Society of SA Inc.

Paddle Wheeler covers some old ground.

Courtesy of Andrew Dawes

Recently the Paddle Wheeler called Akuna Amphibious retraced the steps of many a steamer and visited the town of Meningie. This was Meningie's first encounter with a historic vessel of this nature for many years.



The Akuna Amphibious was built in 1878 and measures about 78 feet in length with a draft of 2 foot 6 inches and a displacement of 72 tonnes. This vessel was the talk of the town as her majestic appearance slowly arrived at Meningie where she meandered along the foreshore taking in views of the lovely Lions Park, Lake Albert Caravan Park and Warrengie Drive Executive homes.



Ringbalin 2012



Ringbalin is an annual River Country Spirit Ceremony which is carried out in April. The Ringbalin River country Spirit Ceremony travels 2,300 kms over 14 days following the path of the great ancestral being Ngaurunderi, a creator from the Dreamtime, who perused a gigantic Murray Cod named Ponde. The ceremony follows this journey from Murra Murra on the Nebine Creek headwaters of the River Darling to the Murray Mouth and stops at significant ceremonial sites along the way to dance and sing the spirit into the river and country.

Locations are Mura Murra QLD, Brewarrina NSW, Mt Gundabooka NSW, Menindee Lakes NSW, Wentworth NSW, Glossop SA, Murray Bridge SA, Raukkan SA and the Murray Mouth SA.

On Wednesday 18th April indigenous and non-indigenous people joined the ceremony at Raukkan on a perfect autumn evening and were immersed in

aboriginal culture by ceremony leader, Major Sumner (often referred to as Uncle Moogie) and his team of dancers.

Pictured above are ceremony goers surrounding a campfire and listening to stories from Major Sumner at the Raukkan ceremony. The last ceremony was held at the Murray Mouth on Thursday 19th April. This is an annual event which will again follow the ancestral path from QLD down to the Murray Mouth in SA in April 2013.

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

DATE

APR 16 -20 2012

DATE	SITE	WATER LEVEL (AHD)	SALT (EC)
16	GOOLWA	0.586	516
17		0.582	489
18		0.559	481
19		0.557	489
20		0.561	439
	AVERAGE	0.569	583
DATE	SITE	WATER LEVEL (AHD)	SALT (EC)
16	MILANG JETTY	0.635	737
17		0.640	733
18		0.633	724
19		0.596	726
20		0.592	716
	AVERAGE	0.619	727
DATE	SITE	WATER LEVEL (AHD)	SALT (EC)
16	RAUKKAN OFFSHORE	0.630	377
17		0.635	353
18		0.602	328
19		0.595	372
20		0.600	339
	AVERAGE	0.612	354
DATE	SITE	WATER LEVEL (AHD)	SALT (EC)
16	MENINGIE JETTY	0.669	4881
17		0.637	4904
18		0.638	4872
19		0.644	4427
20		0.631	4621
	AVERAGE	0.644	4741
DATE	SITE	WATER LEVEL (AHD)	SALT (EC)
16	NORTH WARRENGIE POINT LAKE ALBERT	0.681	4720
17		0.681	4723
18		0.689	4513
19		0.696	1717
20		0.663	4772
	AVERAGE	0.682	4089

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.

APRIL 2012

1	
2	
3	
4	
5	School holidays begin – to 23rd
6	EASTER
7	EASTER
8	EASTER
9	EASTER
10	
11	
12	Reed harvesting for weaving –Middleton 9.30 am Contact : : Ollie Black, Project Officer, Alexandrina Council Ph: (08) 8555 7239 Mobile: 0447877447 Email: Ollie.Black@alexandrina.sa.gov.au
13	
14	Clayton Bay Fair Contact Leonie on 0407 394 907 for further information or to book a site.
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20	Photo competition entries due in for Save the Frogs Day event Poster competition entries due in for Save the Frogs Day event Art competition entries due in for Save the Frogs Day event Pottery entries to be hand delivered to the Milang Institute on the 26 th prior to 10.00am
21	
22	
23	School resumes Planting the Meningie storm water lagoon. 9.00am Volunteers welcome Contact : Andrew Dawes at the Meningie Lakes Hub on 8575 1830 Email meningie@lakeshub.com or visit the Lakes Hub at 79 Princess Highway, Meningie.
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 DENR - Prescribed burn at Mt Boothby Conservation Park (the Park), 30 kilometres south-east of Meningie, between Thursday, April 26 and Sunday, April 29.
27	
28	
29	
30	Understanding Carbon farming & launch of the Coorong Action Plan – Coomandook Hall 4.pm – 7pm contact Graham Gates 0427 572330 or book online www.coorong.sa.gov.au/lapregistration
31	

May 8th & 9th - 3rd SA Weed Conference contact : Shauna Potter ph 8303 9748 or Email : Shauna.Potter@sa.gov.au

Disclaimer

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