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Giant Leaps

Lots of eyes on the sky over the last few weeks, with the Curiosity landing on Mars and the sad passing of Neil Armstrong last week.

The link between space and the Lower Lakes may seem a little obtuse, but bear with me...

It occurs to me that Armstrong demonstrated something innately human: the desire to push boundaries. He made the small steps and giant leaps that continue to inspire generations of new scientists.

How we go about pushing those boundaries is critically important, especially when dealing with the natural environment and delicate ecosystems. Certainly, at this critical point for the basin, it's the way we respond when the environment pushes back that defines our legacy.

Yours (in thoughtful repose),

Stuart Jones.



Photo by Stuart Jones

Lakes Hub Advisory Committee - Members Wanted!

The Lakes Hub is seeking expressions of interest from the community for a representative on this Committee.

The purpose of the committee is:-

- To provide strategic direction for the Lakes Hubs
- To provide community drive and ownership of the project
- To provide guidance and support to the Lakes Hub Coordinator
- To enable an appropriate mechanism to effectively track progress of the project milestones and outcomes
- To manage risk accordingly

The meetings are held every 2 months.

If you are interested or have any questions, please contact the lakes hub, [Click here to email](#) or phone 08 8537 0808.

There's an App for that! - MyEnvironment

It's Biodiversity Month and this app is the perfect companion, it's an iOS app (meaning it can be used on an iPhone, iPod Touch and iPad).

Using your current location (or you can choose another location via the map) this app gives you a run-down of Invasive Species, Protected Areas, Protected Species, Weeds, Wetlands, Threatened Communities and even shipwrecks in the local area.

[Click here for more info](#) and to get it on the App Store

The app is made available by the Australian Government Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities.

For those without an iOS device, you can access [similar info from their databases](#).



National Landcare Week and Conference 2012

[Landcare](#) week celebrates the people, places and projects all over Australia who are making a difference.

The National Landcare conference is on this week; if you're not going you can still watch live! [Info on live sessions is available here](#).

Follow [Landcare on Facebook](#) to keep up to date with what's happening right around Australia.

Landcare Week 2012 3rd - 9th September



This week in the News ...

[Ministers respond to Murray Darling Basin Plan](#) (Bush Telegraph, ABC Rural), 28 Aug 2012

[Audio] The Federal water minister Tony Burke says it's only fair the states have all the information before they respond to the latest version of the Murray-Darling Basin Plan. The state water ministers were due to respond by midnight last night, but they can now wait to see the Basin Authority's modelling of the effect of returning 3,200 gigalitres to the environment before they have to make a decision.

[Native Fish Strategy](#) (Riverland Today, 891 ABC Adelaide), 29 Aug 2012

[Audio] The South Australian Murray Irrigators held their Annual General Meeting earlier in the week.

Adrian Wells from the Murray Darling Association gave a presentation on the Native Fish Strategy.

The Strategy provides a response to the key threats to the native fish populations in the Murray Darling Basin.

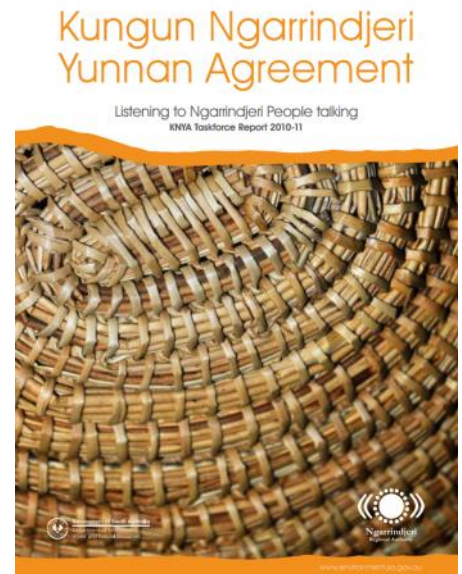
Kungun Ngarrindjeri Yunnan Agreement Taskforce Report 2010-11

The Kungun Ngarrindjeri Yunnan (Listening to Ngarrindjeri People Talking) Agreement is a consultation and negotiation agreement between the South Australian Government and the Ngarrindjeri Regional Authority.

“The Agreement seeks to enable Ngarrindjeri cultural values to become integral to all planning and future management arrangements for the land and water – assuring active Ngarrindjeri participation in caring for the region. It also seeks to support Ngarrindjeri gaining economic benefit and employment from the management of parks and reserves in their region. The agreement was signed in 2009”

This report reviews the year’s highlights and the priorities for future years. It also includes a summary of progress of the commitments from the agreement.

Download a copy from the Ngarrindjeri Regional Authority website:
www.ngarrindjeri.org.au



Threatened Species Day, September 7th



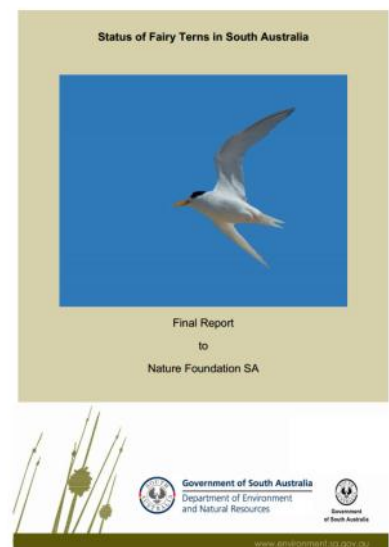
Photo by Paul Wainwright

September 7th is Threatened species day, so this week we are checking up on the plight of the [Fairy Tern](#). Over the last few years there have been studies on the Fairy Tern, the [“Ecology of breeding Fairy Terns *Sternula nereis* in the Coorong”](#) was a document we posted to the Lakes Hub website back in 2010, it was the Final report for the Wildlife Conservation Fund, prepared by David C. Paton & Daniel J. Rogers, School of Earth and Environmental Sciences, University of Adelaide.

This year the [Final Report to Nature Foundation SA](#), from the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources,

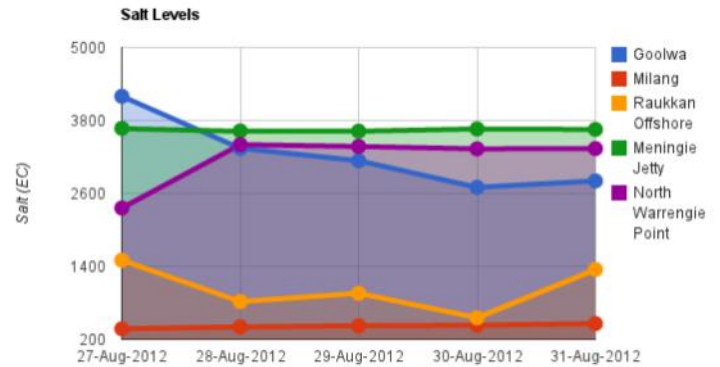
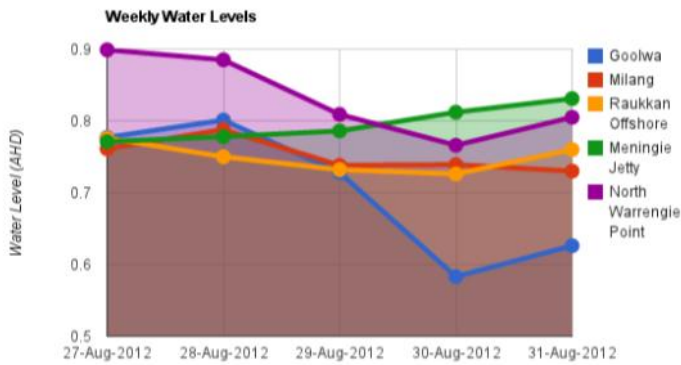
details the [extensive census](#) of the Fairy Tern in South Australia. As the report states: “To determine the current status of fairy terns in South Australia, three surveys occurred during the 2011-12 breeding season with over 1,500km of coastline covered by over 200 volunteers.” 1,148 Adult Fairy Terns were observed across the State in February 2012.

For more info on the Fairy Tern, check out the [Birdlife Australia](#) site



On the Level

Our weekly graphs are posted here: <http://lakeshub.com/lake-levels>



Daily Recordings – River Murray Data

Data received from:

<https://www.waterconnect.sa.gov.au/RMWD/Pages/default.aspx>

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: [Water Connect](http://www.waterconnect.sa.gov.au), [Daily Flow Report](http://www.waterforgood.sa.gov.au), [River Murray Storage Data](http://www.waterforgood.sa.gov.au)

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

DATE Aug 27 - 31 2012

DATE	SITE	WATER LEVEL (AHD)	SALT (EC)
27	GOOLWA	0.777	4198
28		0.801	3343
29		0.728	3138
30		0.583	2700
31		0.626	2806
	AVERAGE	0.703	3237
DATE	SITE	WATER LEVEL (AHD)	SALT (EC)
27	MILANG JETTY	0.761	374
28		0.788	405
29		0.738	424
30		0.739	432
31		0.730	459
	AVERAGE	0.751	418.8
DATE	SITE	WATER LEVEL (AHD)	SALT (EC)
27	RAUKKAN OFFSHORE	0.776	1501
28		0.750	821
29		0.732	958
30		0.726	556
31		0.760	1349
	AVERAGE	0.749	1037
DATE	SITE	WATER LEVEL (AHD)	SALT (EC)
27	MENINGIE JETTY	0.771	3671
28		0.778	3628
29		0.786	3624
30		0.812	3661
31		0.831	3653
	AVERAGE	0.796	3647.4
DATE	SITE	WATER LEVEL (AHD)	SALT (EC)
27	NORTH WARRENGIE POINT LAKE ALBERT	0.899	2360
28		0.885	3403
29		0.809	3373
30		0.766	3333
31		0.805	3338
	AVERAGE	0.833	3161.4

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.

September 2012 (Biodiversity Month)	
1	National Wattle Day
2	
3	Landcare Week
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7	Ngarrindjeri Weaving Workshop—Milang More info : Email : reception@moshcc.com.au Ph : 8537 0687 National Threatened Species Day
8	
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12	
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14	
15	Frogs and Frog Monitoring workshop—Ibis Siding Garden Centre, Goolwa. 6:30pm—8pm Places are limited—please phone or email to book. Regina Durbridge 8537 0808 / 0427 364 551 regina.durbridge@gwlap.org.au
16	
17	
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20	Frogs and Frog Monitoring workshop, Lakes Hub Meningie 2:30-4:30pm Enquiries: Regina Durbridge 8537 0808 / 0427 364 551 regina.durbridge@gwlap.org.au
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30	World Rivers Day

Disclaimer

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