

The Lakes Hub is an initiative of the Milang and District Community Association Inc. and is part of the South Australian Government's Murray Futures program, funded by the Australian Government's Water for the Future initiative.

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Catchy Title

We've got a bumper issue for you this week, plenty of news, workshops, info and volunteering opportunities, all blown in on an incredibly strong wind from last week!

Don't forget we are always looking for content and good news stories to share with readers. Even if you've been out and about and snapped a photo of something interesting send it in to info@lakeshub.com

It's Royal Adelaide Show week, my wife and I took the train from Noarlunga, alleviating any parking headaches in the city, and had a brilliant day. I enjoy the cattle, and I was particularly taken with the miniature Herefords this year... just gorgeous. I think I could justify some space out the back ...

Happy reading,
Stuart Jones.

Community Eye

What a week of wind we've had! Quite a bit of storm damage across the region, as this [7News report shows](#).

Some of the planting along the Meningie Foreshore was affected by the waves created by the storm, as you can see from the photo below. Melaleuca Nursery and the Coorong & Tatiara LAP are working to save and re-guard those plants.



The lake levels are very telling particularly across Lake Alexandrina, where the wind's push of the water across such large distance shows just how the Lakes got their nickname of the "lungs of the river", pushing vast amounts of water up into the river, to flush back out again. (graphs generated from [River Murray Water Data](#))



Data showing the displacement of water from Milang up river to Wellington

Frog Monitoring Volunteers Needed!

Have you heard frogs in your area and wondered what species they are? Would you like to contribute to a regional frog monitoring program?

Natural Resources SA Murray Darling Basin, CLLMM Program and the Goolwa to Wellington Local Action Planning Association need your help!



What is involved?

Each frog species has its own distinctive call. We need volunteers to record these calls after dark during the months of September, October, November and December, one recording for each month.

Frog monitoring equipment is available for loan and is simple and easy to use, anyone can do it!

There are also opportunities to come along with staff on a frog survey to see what it's about. To get involved contact:

Kate Mason

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Mobile: 0407 793 634

kate.mason@sa.gov.au

Regina Durbridge

Phone: (08) 85 370 808

Mobile: 0427 364 551

regina.durbridge@gwlap.org.au

Frog Workshop — Ibis Siding Garden Centre, Goolwa



Saturday 15th September 2012, 6:30pm to 8:00pm

Come and learn about our local frog species and how to monitor frog populations. Live specimens on display.

Places are limited please phone or email to book; Ph 08 8537 0808 / 0427 364 551, regina.durbridge@gwlap.org.au

This week in the News ...

[Meeting with Minister Burke in Canberra on Monday 3 September 2012](#) (Coorong District Council Media Release)

The SA River Murray Mayors from the Councils of Berri, Barmera, Loxton, Waikerie, Renmark, Paringa, Mid Murray, Coorong and Alexandrina with an apology from the Rural City of Murray Bridge met with Minister Burke in Canberra on Monday 3 September 2012 to reinforce South Australia's stance on the Murray Darling Basin Plan.

[Tony Burke warns he will override state to implement new Murray Darling Basin Plan](#) (AdelaideNow), 6 Sept 2012
FEDERAL Water Minister Tony Burke has warned he is prepared to take unilateral action to override the states and implement a new Murray Darling Basin Plan if they cannot agree on a plan to restore the river's health.

[SA Premier Jay Weatherill reveals non-negotiable six-point plan for River Murray](#) (Herald Sun), 6 Sept 2012
PREMIER Jay Weatherill has laid down a six-point list of non-negotiables, including a volume of water larger than 2750 billion litres, as the River Murray reform process enters its final stages.

[Adelaide withstands brunt of wind](#) (7News), 6 Sept 2012

Adelaide has withstood the longest streak of destructive winds it has received in more than two years. Winds reaching speeds of more than 55km/h have battered Adelaide for the past three days. The highest wind speed detected was 119km/h at Cape Borda, on Kangaroo Island, while a wind gust of 104km/h was recorded at Edithburgh as the cold front passed this afternoon.

Community Update

For your information via DEWNR, [Click here to download.](#)

- 2012 community revegetation program nearing completion
- Water cycling to reduce salinity
- Have you seen *Velesunio ambiguus*?
- Surveying “cryptic” and colonial-nesting birds
- KNYA delivers outcomes for Ngarrindjeri community
- 2011-12 key ecological and ASS monitoring findings



Community update August 2012

This email newsletter is published by the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR) to update the community about our programs to restore the health of the Coorong, Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth (CLLM) region to a healthy, productive and resilient setting of international importance.

Highlights

- 2012 community revegetation program nearing completion
- Water cycling to reduce salinity
- Have you seen *Velesunio ambiguus*?
- Surveying “cryptic” and colonial-nesting birds
- KNYA delivers outcomes for Ngarrindjeri community
- 2011-12 key ecological and ASS monitoring findings

2012 community revegetation program nearing completion

The Coorong, Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth (CLLMM) Program-funded community revegetation work has almost been completed for another year, with 30 community groups planting more than 100,000 native plants at 13 sites across the region.

The community planting projects, co-ordinated by the Geoscience and Planning Local Action Planning group, are expected to be completed by the end of this month.

Among the highlights of this year's programming has been the planting work undertaken by the Mlanga Historical Society at Pottersboro Reserve in Mlang. While planting the group discovered the boiler from the old Landseer Flour Mill - one of the first major industries in the region. The Society sought permission to excavate and remove the boiler from the reserve, which will result in some of the recently planted seedlings being relocated.

This year 10 community nurseries, including the nurseries operated by Ngarrindjeri River Contracting, propagated many of the plants necessary for the revegetation work.

Propagation is already underway for next year's revegetation projects, with a number of rare and uncommon species added to the planting list for 2013. The rare species will help to increase the biodiversity of the local landscape.

Revegetation is central to the Coorong, Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth region's recovery from drought, as it helps to stabilise the soil, and adds carbon to the soil to tackle the serious threat of acidification.



Penguin Census

This September and October sees the second island wide little penguin census on Kangaroo Island. Volunteers are needed to help make this event a success! [Click here](#) to check out the info on Conservation Volunteers Australia, you can register for the full census from 22-26th Sept, contact Tricia on 08 8212 0777, or join in for one or more days call Alicia on 8553 4439.

Dredging Info session

Gerard Hocking from the [EPA](#) will introduce the review of the EPA's dredging guidelines and also dredging activity approval processes. [Guidelines.](#)

This is an ideal opportunity to influence dredging practices across SA.

Wednesday 12 September 6.00 - 7.00 pm

Conservation Centre, 157 Franklin Street Adelaide

Please RSVP if you would like to attend. alex.gaut@conservationsa.org.au

Herbarium Visit

Jo McPhee, Community Nursery Coordinator, has organised a tour of the State Herbarium on Tuesday 18th September and there are a few places left, if you would like to come along please call the Lakes Hub on 8537 0808.

Wetland Art Comp

WetlandCare Australia are inviting artists and photographers to enter the 6th annual National Art and Photography Competition. Promote wetlands and exhibit your work at Hunter Wetlands Centre, Newcastle to celebrate World Wetlands Day on Saturday 2 February 2013.

The competition accepts artworks and photographs depicting all types of wetlands including lakes, rivers, ponds, swamps, marine shores, wetland plants, wildlife and people enjoying wetlands.

Details of the Competition categories, prize details (1st Prize for the Open Art and Photography categories is \$1000!) can be found by [clicking here](#).

Native Fish Strategy Phasing Out

Thanks to Jonathan McPhail at PIRSA, who sent in the following article regarding the funding of the Native Fish Strategy, and highlighting some of the achievements of this incredible ten-year program:

The Ministerial Council very recently approved the Murray-Darling Basin Authority Corporate Plan 2012–2013 to 2015–2016. The corporate plan takes account of the Basin Officials Committee decision on 11 July 2012 to phase out the Native Fish strategy program after this financial year. Therefore, there is no more joint funded Native Fish Strategy program within the Murray-Darling Basin Authority after this year.

For this financial year, the Native Fish Strategy program will be winding back.

Due to budget cuts, there will be no annual native fish awareness week and no native fish forum this year. The cuts mean our capacity to address emerging issues and commission strategic research to address threats to native fish in the Basin is significantly reduced. The SA, Vic and Qld native fish coordinators will continue for the full year and funding for demonstration reaches.

The Native Fish Advisory Panel is set to meet in September to discuss the implications of phasing out the Native Fish Strategy program, and to consider options beyond 30 June 2013.

Since 2003 the NFS has been instrumental in advancing a range of initiatives designed to reduce the threats to native fish, many of which are also threats to river health. The NFS plays a vital leadership role, providing a mechanism for greater collaboration between government agencies. It also provides a way to engage with a broad cross-section of community stakeholders and has been instrumental in addressing key knowledge gaps and then, most importantly, seeing these findings applied.

The following highlights illustrate just some the successes of the NFS to date:

- The World-renowned 'Sea to Hume' program which is restoring fish passage to over 2,000 km of the Murray river by retrofitting fishways to 15 weirs and barrages 5,6.
- Implanting more than 30,000 fish with transponder tags to record their movements through the fishways along the Murray River to gauge the success of the 'Sea to Hume' program and guide future spending.
- Establishing seven Demonstration Reaches across the Basin—community-based, river rehabilitation showcase sites, covering almost 800 river-kilometres.
- Supporting seven emergency interventions that have successfully prevented regional extinctions of some of the Basin's more highly threatened fish species.
- Supporting the development of the award-winning Williams' Carp trap which separates adult Carp moving through fishways into a holding area while automatically releasing close to 100 per cent of native fish, untouched and unharmed.
- Documenting the incidence of native fish mortality and injury from water and irrigation infrastructure (such as weirs, pump intakes etc) and working with the irrigation industry to find practical ways to mitigate these significant impacts.
- Investigating ways to improve the management of environmental flows to ensure the ecological values are maximised.
- Leveraging co-investment from other funding sources—since the inception of the NFS in 2003, the MDBA has invested Basin-wide in over 60 projects.

Bonus Links:

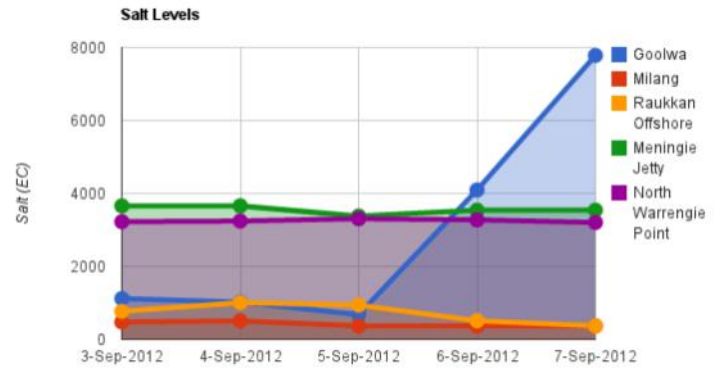
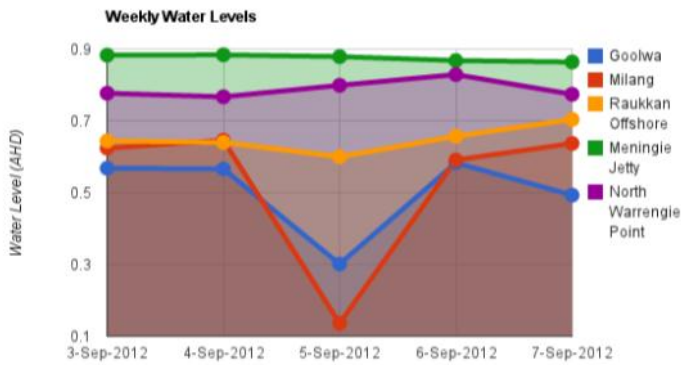
Take a look at the [original strategy document online here](#)

More [information about the strategy here](#)

[Native Fish Fact Sheets](#)

On the Level

The effects of the high winds can be seen in this weeks readings.



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](#), [Daily Flow Report](#), [River Murray Storage 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

DATE Sept 3 - 7 2012

DATE	SITE	WATER LEVEL (AHD)	SALT (EC)
3	GOOLWA	0.568	1118
4		0.566	1019
5		0.301	679
6		0.583	4094
7		0.493	7783
	AVERAGE	0.502	2938.6
DATE	SITE	WATER LEVEL (AHD)	SALT (EC)
3	MILANG JETTY	0.624	475
4		0.646	506
5		0.136	368
6		0.591	365
7		0.637	369
	AVERAGE	0.527	416.6
DATE	SITE	WATER LEVEL (AHD)	SALT (EC)
3	RAUKKAN OFFSHORE	0.644	766
4		0.640	1006
5		0.600	939
6		0.657	509
7		0.704	369
	AVERAGE	0.649	717.8
DATE	SITE	WATER LEVEL (AHD)	SALT (EC)
3	MENINGIE JETTY	0.883	3659
4		0.884	3662
5		0.879	3380
6		0.868	3541
7		0.864	3542
	AVERAGE	0.876	3556.8
DATE	SITE	WATER LEVEL (AHD)	SALT (EC)
3	NORTH WARRENGIE POINT LAKE ALBERT	0.777	3226
4		0.767	3244
5		0.799	3307
6		0.829	3276
7		0.774	3205
	AVERAGE	0.789	3251.6

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
4	
5	
6	
7	Ngarrindjeri Weaving Workshop—Milang More info : Email : reception@moshcc.com.au Ph : 8537 0687 National Threatened Species Day
8	
9	
10	
11	
12	
13	
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	
18	
19	
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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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.