



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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Lakes Hub contacts

Milang Office
phone 08 8537 0808

Email
info@lakeshub.com

Meningie Office

phone 08 8575 1830

Email
meningie@lakeshub.com

Web www.lakeshub.com

Amelia Graham

Lakes Hub Coordinator

Andrew Dawes

Lakes Hub - Info. & Admin. Officer

Meningie

Jo McPhee

Lakes Hub—Community Nursery

Network Coordinator

Robbyne Barrett

Lakes Hub Office Admin assistant

Meningie

Stuart Jones

Lakes Hub Bulletin & ICT

Will Miles

GWLAP—Project Officer Coordinator

Regina Durbridge

GWLAP—Monitoring & Evaluation

Project Officer

Aaron Cheesman

GWLAP—Revegetation Planner/
Coordinator -shared position

Leah Sullivan

GWLAP—Revegetation Planner/
Coordinator -shared position

Kerri Bartley

GWLAP—Lower Lakes and Coorong
Community Revegetation Program

Project Officer

Ken Strother

GWLAP—Revegetation Project Officer

Meningie

Murray-Darling Basin Breath

As we collectively hold our breath waiting for Federal Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities Tony Burke to finalise the Basin Plan and submit it to Parliament, there is plenty of news (good and bad) relating to the river system.

I'm sure each news story has merit, the truth is out there... in small chunks, but perception of the issue overall can become murky.

The River Murray is seeing some of the best flows in a long time, and things look peachy to the average eye - mine included. But amongst the good news of the River Red Gums saplings sprouting and great Murray Cod spawning conditions, there are still the issues we face... Carp in increasing quantities and possible El Nino on the way again.

We hold our breath. Read the news, take a breath, ***keep engaging in the discussion...*** and be sure to continue reading on to page 4 to see the beautiful photos of the Sacred Kingfisher rescued from the roadside last week. :-)

With bated basin breath,

Stuart Jones.

Community Eye - Official Dredging Updates

DEWNR has reported that dredging works were completed on 3 October in Clayton Bay. A Bathymetric Survey was undertaken by SA Water on Thursday 4 October. Practical completion was awarded to the contractors.

Dredging work on the Lake Albert side of the Narrung Ferry began on Sunday 7 October 2012 and will occur for a period of around 10 days, weather permitting.



During this period a boating exclusion zone will be in place effectively closing the Narrows. A formal Notice to Mariners has been issued. This was placed in The Advertiser on 3 October 2012. The Dredge is levelling the former Bund site by removing the high spots and depositing the material into the low spots. This will ensure a safer passage for boating traffic traversing the Narrung Narrows.

Podcast - Murray Showing Signs of Recovery

"Scientists say there's been a drop in salinity levels in the lower reaches of the River Murray - and many bird and fish populations are increasing. For one native species thought to be extinct, a captive breeding program is proving successful. But there's concerns some plant species have failed to return."



[Click here to listen](#)

Attention Nurseries: Tender to propagate up to 450,000 plants

A tender to propagate up to 450,000 for the Commercial Revegetation Program, part of the Coorong and Lower Lakes Vegetation Program has been released.

It is requested that at a minimum nurseries must be able to propagate 100,000 plants or more. You can find more information in the link below.

[Click here to view tender details](#)

This week in the News ...

[Murray River plan has major flaws, including not enough water for river health, report says \(news.com.au\) 4 Oct 2012](#)
A PARLIAMENTARY committee has released a scathing report of the Murray-Darling Basin Authority's controversial plan to save the river, just weeks before the Federal Government intends to table its version in Canberra.

[Explosion of feral carp after flooding \(smh.com.au\) 7 Oct 2012](#)

THE number of feral carp in some NSW rivers has exploded by up to 4000 per cent in the past two years, say fisheries experts, who are expecting a further incursion of the pest as juveniles reach sexual maturity in the next year. Drought-breaking rains in 2010 filled the state's parched rivers, and the subsequent floods led to an outbreak of the invasive fish species, known as the rabbit of the waterways.

[Plan would mean too much damage to Murray-Darling's heritage sites \(The Australian\) 7 Oct 2012](#)

ENVIRONMENTAL lawyers will today publish advice which determines the Murray-Darling Basin Authority's controversial plan is illegal. The move is part of their bid to force the Federal Government into returning more water to the embattled river system. The advice will be published in the Australian Environment Review, a respected law journal distributed to Government officials and policy makers. As Water Minister Tony Burke makes his final adjustments to the plan before tabling it to Parliament before the end of next month, the legal advice says the majority of the system's Ramsar-listed heritage sites will decline beyond the "limits of acceptable change".

[Murray plan at a tipping point: Weatherill \(AdelaideNow\) 8 Oct 2012](#)

DELIBERATIONS to deliver the plan to save the Murray River have reached a "tipping point", South Australian Premier Jay Weatherill says. Mr Weatherill said it was his understanding that the plan to go before Federal Parliament was yet to be finalised. But he said he believed the decision-making process had reached a critical stage. "It's at a fine tipping point at the moment," the premier told reporters on Monday.

[Murray still enjoying top flows \(ABC News\) 8 Oct 2012](#)

The Department of Environment and Water says it has been more than 10 years since South Australia has received such good spring rains and flows into the River Murray. Flows at the South Australia-Victoria border reached 49,000 megalitres a day last week. The flow rate is expected to remain fairly steady this week, with a high flow advice still in place. However, the department's Richard Brown says data from waterways in the eastern states shows the flow rate will drop in the next few weeks.

Coorong District Council Social Plan - Discussion Paper

At Council's meeting held on 18th September 2012 it resolved to release a Social Plan Discussion Paper to commence community engagement on the development of a Social Plan for the district.

The Social Plan is an opportunity for Council to commit to some longer term goals and initiatives to improve its' support of the community. The Social Plan will detail what Council will do to improve the well being and quality of life of the community.

[Click here to continue, and download the discussion papers](#)

Victorian Austin 7 Club Visit Raukkan & Camp Coorong



Recently members of the Victorian Austin 7 Club visited Raukkan where Derek Gollan welcomed the visitors and invited the Club members to look around Raukkan. The visitors enjoyed a cup of coffee in the Raukkan Coffee Shop before talking a look across Lake Alexandrina to point Sturt and then looking at the Raukkan Church .



Club members also called in to see the Museum at Camp Coorong where Tom Trevorrow gave an overview of the museum and the role of Camp Coorong as a Cultural Learning Centre for School groups etc. Camp Coorong has been operating since the 1980's and is well worth a visit if you have a group of people looking to learn about Ngarrindjeri Culture.

Sacred Kingfisher Rescue

Regina Durbridge, GWLAP.

Here's some photo's and a little video clip of this mornings (oct 4) release of the Sacred Kingfisher we found on the road yesterday at Point Sturt that was possibly concussed.

Rena Robinson from Wildlife Welfare took care of the bird for 24 hours, giving the bird some electrolytes to rehydrate it and also fed the bird.

The Sacred Kingfisher was able to be released the next morning at the same location :)



Photo: Regina Durbridge



Photo: Regina Durbridge

*The Sacred Kingfisher (*Todiramphus sanctus*) is a medium sized kingfisher 19-23cm. They are mostly turquoise, with white underparts and collar feathers. Both sexes are similar, but females are usually more dull coloured. Juveniles have rusty-brown edges on the collar and underparts.*

Sacred Kingfishers are found in Australia, New Zealand, Lord Howe Island, Norfolk Island, New Guinea, eastern Indonesia, much of northern and western Melanesia, and the Kermadec Islands. This species breeds throughout much of Australia (except the dry interior), New Zealand, New Caledonia and locally, New Guinea.

Populations in the southern two-thirds of Australia migrate northwards at the end of breeding season to New Guinea, east to the eastern Solomon Islands and west to Indonesia becoming uncommon to very sparse as west as Sumatra. Birds move south again to Australia in August to September. It has also occurred as a vagrant on Christmas Island (in the Indian Ocean), Malaysia, the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, and Nauru.

*In Australia, it occurs in eucalypt forests, melaleuca forests, woodland and paperbark forests. In New Zealand, *T. sanctus vagans* shows altitudinal migration, with post-breeding movement from higher altitudes to the coast and also from forest to coast and open lands.*

They feed on insects, small crustaceans, fish, small rodents and reptiles, and there are a few reports of them eating small finches. Usually, a bird will sit on a low branch and wait for prey to pass by. It swoops down to grab the prey and returns to its perch to eat, much like a hawk.

Breeding

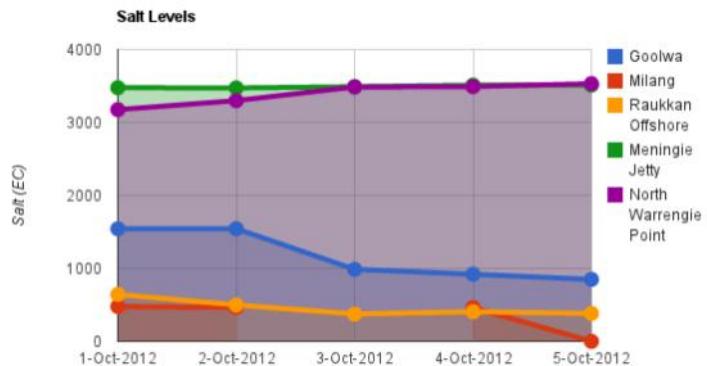
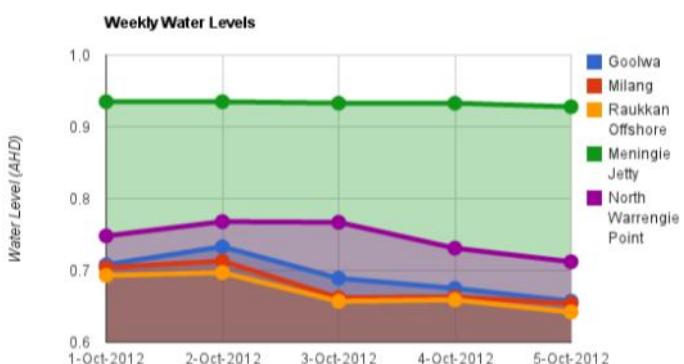
Once a pair of birds has mated, both members of the pair dig the nest, usually a burrow in a river bank or a large, empty branch. The female lays about five eggs, and both birds incubate the eggs and take care of the young.

Sources: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sacred_Kingfisher

<http://www.birdsinbackyards.net/species/Todiramphus-sanctus>

On the Level

Salt level readings for Milang have been intermittent over the last few weeks, but the few readings we have got over the last week seem to indicate it is still holding around the average of the last few months.



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 1st -5th Oct 2012

DATE	SITE	WATER LEVEL (AHD)	SALT (EC)
1-Oct	GOOLWA	0.708	1543
2-Oct		0.733	1544
3-Oct		0.689	987
4-Oct		0.675	920
5-Oct		0.657	849
	AVERAGE	0.692	1168.6
DATE	SITE	WATER LEVEL (AHD)	SALT (EC)
1-Oct	MILANG JETTY	0.704	478
2-Oct		0.713	464
3-Oct		0.662	
4-Oct		0.663	463
5-Oct		0.654	
	AVERAGE	0.679	463
DATE	SITE	WATER LEVEL (AHD)	SALT (EC)
1-Oct	RAUKKAN OFFSHORE	0.693	643
2-Oct		0.697	499
3-Oct		0.657	375
4-Oct		0.659	406
5-Oct		0.642	383
	AVERAGE	0.670	461.2
DATE	SITE	WATER LEVEL (AHD)	SALT (EC)
1-Oct	MENINGIE JETTY	0.935	3477
2-Oct		0.935	3474
3-Oct		0.933	3491
4-Oct		0.933	3512
5-Oct		0.928	3513
	AVERAGE	0.933	3493.4
DATE	SITE	WATER LEVEL (AHD)	SALT (EC)
1-Oct	NORTH WARRENGIE POINT	0.748	3176
2-Oct		0.768	3300
3-Oct		0.767	3487
4-Oct		0.731	3492
5-Oct		0.712	3533
	AVERAGE	0.745	3397.6

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.

October 2012	
1	Strathalbyn Show
2	
3	Milang Old School House Community Centre's Birthday Party/Open Day. Scone Bake-off, Adult Education Demonstrations, Turtle Shed Tours. Call 8537 0687 for more details or visit www.moshcc.com.au
4	
5	
6	Port Elliot Show
7	Turtle Shed Open 10am—1pm Port Elliot Show
8	
9	
10	GWLAP AGM Strathalbyn RSVP 8536 5612
11	
12	
13	
14	
15	
16	
17	
18	Native Orchid Seminar Willunga Environment Centre
19	
20	Coonalpyn Show
21	Nature Foundation SA "Walk For Nature "
22	National Water Week
23	
24	
25	
26	
27	
28	
29	
30	River Murray Urban Users LAP AGM Victoria Square

Disclaimer

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