

Number 120

22nd October 2012

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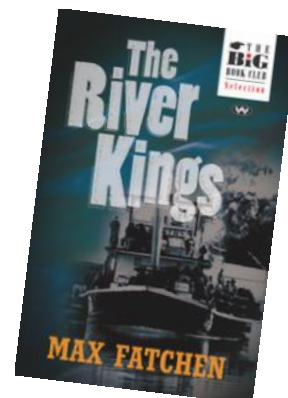
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## Power of the written word

Last week South Australia lost one of its great writers. From his regular columns in The Advertiser to his Poetry and Children's Fiction, the carefully crafted and witty writings of Max Fatchen will be sorely missed.

I've dropped my current reading this week to pick up The [River Kings](#) one of Max's books set on the River Murray. I can't put it down. From the start it looks to be a great adventure; I'll let you know how I go!

First published in 1966, The River Kings has been turned into a TV mini-series, and was shortlisted this year in the National Year of Reading 2012 Awards as representing SA in the list of books that describe what it means to live in Australia.



His connection to the Murray is evident in his column. Earlier this year he spoke about rivers being the "arteries of civilisation" ([click to read "Listen to the River's Tales"](#)), tying together his experience covering the Murray floods in 1956 and his travels on the Mississippi and the Thames.

Certainly a great writer right up to his [last column \(Oct 5th\)](#) which was a cracker. He will be missed.

Do you have a favourite book we should add to the Lakes Hub Library?

Kind regards,  
Stuart Jones.

## This Week in News...

[Murray flows expected to drop 'steeply'](#) (ABC News) 15 Oct 2012

Months of high flows on the River Murray are expected to end this fortnight. The Department of Environment and Water says the river flow will recede to about 20,000 megalitres a day by the end of the month. That is a drop of more than 25,000 megalitres a day from the current flow rate. Mr Brown says people should be aware that the flows will recede quite severely.

[Half the world's wetlands destroyed in 100 years](#) (Australian Geographic) 18 Oct 2012

AN ALARMING 50 PER CENT of the world's wetlands have been destroyed in the last 100 years, threatening human welfare at a time of increasing water scarcity, a new report says. Wetlands are a vitally important ecosystem, serving as a source of drinking water and provide protection against floods and storms, yet they have been decimated to make space for housing, factories and farms or damaged by unsustainable water use and pollution.

# Seeds to Reeds: Lower Lakes Community Nurseries Network



Edition 12 Contains:

- Propagation of 2013 species has started
- Hindmarsh Island Landcare Group Finalists in the National Landcare Awards.
- Propagation and Planting Update
- Visit to State Herbarium & Seed Conservation Centre
- Strath High Student Visits Clayton Bay & Milang Nurseries
- Trees for Towns Planting
- Presentation to Victor Harbor Garden Club
- Pest Identification
- Plant Profile: *Pimelia serpyllifolia* (Thyme Rice Flower)



[Click to download](#)

## Walks with Nature - Free Event

The Nature Conservation Society of SA invites you to a leisurely 3 hour stroll through the beautiful wildflowers of Cox Scrub.

**From 10am Sunday 28th October 2012, Cox Scrub Conservation Park**

Learn about the area's native plants and animals from your knowledgeable and friendly guides.

Pick up a copy of the "20 Walks with Nature" guidebook (available for purchase on the day and from the NCSSA website anytime).

For more information or to register online, click: [www.ncssa.asn.au](http://www.ncssa.asn.au)

## Talking Heads Report: Milang Historical Walking Tour

Last Thursday morning Alex Stone took us on a Historical Guided Walking Tour of Milang. Starting at the Milang Jetty we first looked at some historic photos of the Jetty and local buildings.



Alex told us about Milang's rich and thriving history as a significant port providing access to Western NSW, the Victorian Goldfields and the Overland route to Melbourne.

We then walked along the lake front past the shacks, through Anzac Park & The Soldiers Memorial then down Coxe and Rivers Streets finishing up at the Lakes Hub office. A true story-teller, Alex talked about not only the historic buildings of the town but some of the characters and families that helped develop the town.

## Bird Surveys Around The Lakes Happening This Week

DEWNR's Coorong Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth (CLLMM) Program team have just started undertaking their annual bird surveys around the region. Dr Jody O'Connor, Scientific Officer - Ecological Monitoring, is undertaking monthly 'aerial waterbird surveys' around the perimeter of Lakes Albert and Alexandrina and down to Salt Creek. The purpose is to locate nesting areas of colonial-nesting waterbirds. This is part of our waterbird project which is funded by the CLLMM program. Paul Wainwright (DEWNR) is also undertaking counts as part of a separate bird survey project.

In addition this week you may see low flying aircraft as part of the monthly cryptic bird surveys at 15 sites around the Lakes. These sites are shown on the map below (with the addition of one more site in the Goolwa/Hindmarsh Island area).



# TALKING HEADS

**FREE SEMINAR**

## **Local Native Orchids**

**Tuesday 30th October 10am**

**Meningie Hub 10am**

Come along and take a walk to see some local native orchids flowering right in Meningie.

Ken Strother from the Coorong-Tatiara Local Action Planning Association and Andrew Dawes will be talking about native orchids, how to help take care of them and talking you on a site visit.



BROUGHT TO  
YOU BY THE  
LAKES HUB



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*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.*



## ***Defending Environmental Laws - protecting the places that you love***

Our environmental laws protect the things we love: the places we love, the wildlife we love. However, under the guise of cutting 'green tape', governments have announced an aggressive plan to wind back our environmental laws. The Places You Love campaign is a response to this proposal. The dismantling of Australia's environmental protection laws will result in significant backwards steps for our environment at a time when we need stronger, not weaker protections. This campaign has been established to motivate and inspire the community to let the Federal and State Governments know that people care about environmental laws. We invite you to hear more about what is proposed and how you can be involved in the campaign.

### **Public Seminar**

**When: Wednesday 31 October 12.30 – 2.00 pm**

**Where: Conservation Council of SA, Level 1, 157 Franklin Street, Adelaide**

**Cost: Free**



### **River Murray Advisory Committee - Expressions of Interest Sought for Members**



**Government of South Australia**

South Australian Murray-Darling Basin  
Natural Resources Management Board

If you are interested please contact Stephanie Weinert at the SA MDB NRM Board

Email: [stephanie.weinert@sa.gov.au](mailto:stephanie.weinert@sa.gov.au) or Post: PO Box 1374 Berri SA 5343

### **Focus on Lower Murray acidification**

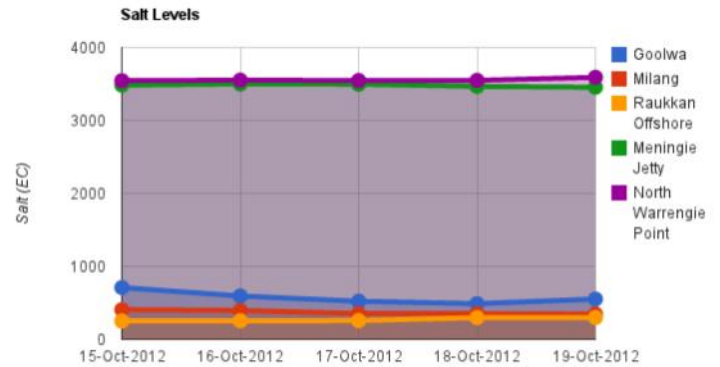
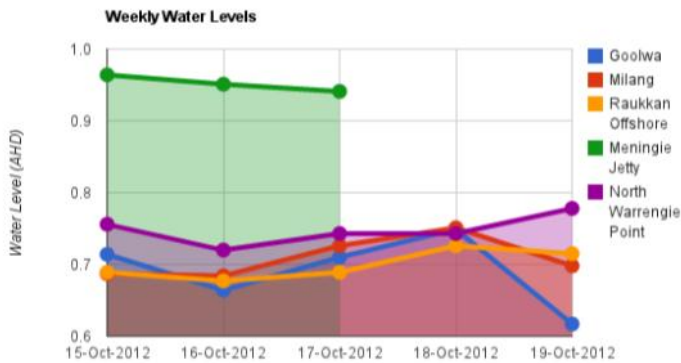
The SA Government Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources have just released a News Release about the National Acid Sulfate Soils Committee (NatCASS) meeting October 24-26.

The continuing threat of acidification in the Lower Murray region will be the focus of a national meeting of acid sulphate soil scientists this week.

“What is clear from (ongoing) research is that there's a need for improved environmental flows to the Lower Murray and the Lower Lakes so that widespread acid soil exposure is avoided,” says Dr Liz Barnett, Manager for Environmental Management for DEWNR's Coorong, Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth Program.

## On the Level

Salt levels peaked on Monday (Sept 10) in Goolwa. The levels from Goolwa are taken from Beacon 23, Hindmarsh Island Bridge.



## 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](http://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](http://www.waterforgood.sa.gov.au)

DATE 15th - 19th Oct

DATE	SITE	WATER LEVEL (AHD)	SALT (EC)
15-Oct	GOOLWA	0.714	710
16-Oct		0.664	594
17-Oct		0.710	522
18-Oct		0.749	489
19-Oct		0.617	552
	AVERAGE	0.691	573
DATE	SITE	WATER LEVEL ( AHD)	SALT (EC)
15-Oct	MILANG JETTY	0.687	407
16-Oct		0.684	396
17-Oct		0.726	354
18-Oct		0.751	353
19-Oct		0.698	347
	AVERAGE	0.709	371
DATE	SITE	WATER LEVEL (AHD)	SALT (EC)
15-Oct	RAUKKAN OFFSHORE	0.689	252
16-Oct		0.677	255
17-Oct		0.689	257
18-Oct		0.726	298
19-Oct		0.715	299
	AVERAGE	0.699	272
DATE	SITE	WATER LEVEL (AHD)	SALT (EC)
15-Oct	MENINGIE JETTY	0.964	3485
16-Oct		0.951	3501
17-Oct		0.941	3497
18-Oct			3468
19-Oct			3456
	AVERAGE	0.952	3481
DATE	SITE	WATER LEVEL (AHD)	SALT (EC)
15-Oct	NORTH WARRENGIE POINT LAKE ALBERT	0.756	3546
16-Oct		0.720	3553
17-Oct		0.743	3548
18-Oct		0.743	3550
19-Oct		0.778	3592
	AVERAGE	0.748	3558

## 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	
22	NATIONAL WATER WEEK
23	
24	
25	
26	
27	
28	Nature Conservation Society Walk With Nature Cox Scrub 10am
29	
30	Talking Heads Ken Strother Native Orchids Meningie Hub 10am 8575 0830
31	Defending Environmental Laws Public Seminar Conservation Council SA, Franklin St Adelaide 12.30pm

November 2012	
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6	Talking Heads Joby O'Connor CLLMM Bird Monitoring Milang Institute 11.30am 8537 0808
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12	NATIONAL RECYCLING WEEK
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### Disclaimer

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