

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.

Number 122
5th November 2012

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Bits and Pieces

From Apps and links to Soursobs and ‘electric cable bacteria’ we’ve got something for everyone this week.

I was particularly fascinated with those little organic electric cables (see page 2), they remind me of the [bio-neural gel packs](#) portrayed on Star Trek: Voyager.

Nerd alert notwithstanding, technology has an amazing way of developing along paths similar to those dreamed up by science– fiction writers. Of course some of the best science fiction has at least some basis in fact, or in scientific theory.

A little bit of chicken and egg, but fiction as well as amazing fact can inspire people to pursue their dreams.

What inspires you? Care to share? info@lakeshub.com

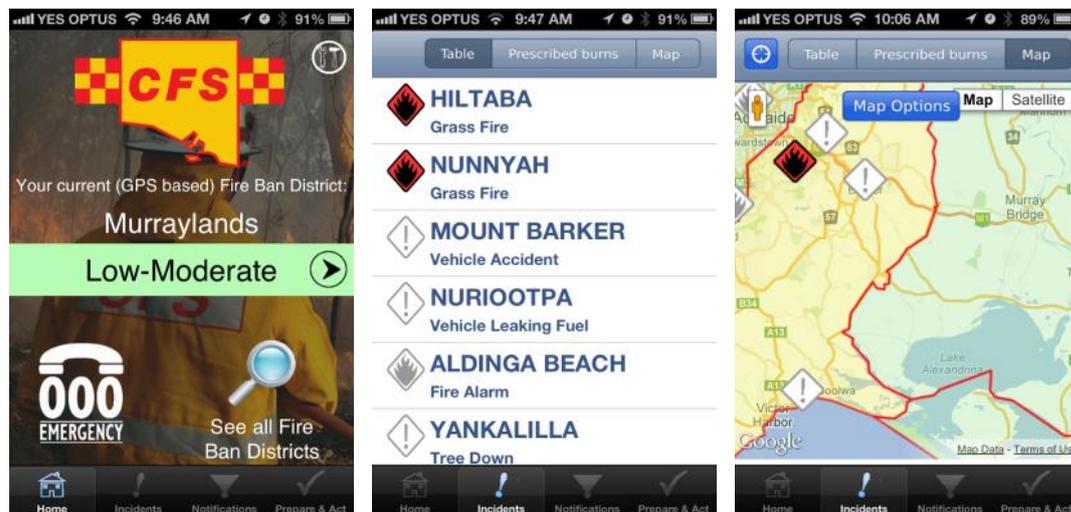
LLAP,
Stuart Jones.

There’s an App for that

Last week was Bushfire Action Week, which aims to encourage more South Australians to know their Bushfire risk and develop a survival plan. You can find more information on the [CFS Website](#).

The CFS also has an App available for iPhone, iPad and Android phones which gives you the current risk level in your Fire Ban District, Current incidents and their status both in a list and mapped. It also includes a preparedness checklist.

Get it on the [iOS App Store](#) or on the [Google Play Store \(Android Marketplace\)](#)

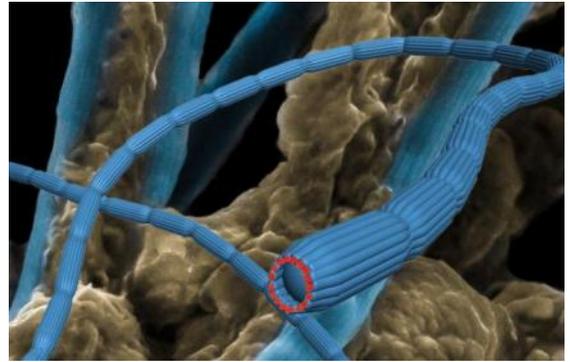


Living Power Cables

A strange electric current on the ocean floor of Aarhus Bay, Denmark discovered by a Danish scientist about 3 years ago has turned out to be the work of a living organism.

The *Desulfobulbus* bacterial cells, invisible to the naked eye, join together to create a multicellular filament, transmitting electrons up to 1cm in distance. The cable bacterium is a hundred times thinner than a human hair and functions like an electric cable with a series of insulated wires inside.

This function allows the bacteria to have feeder cells on one end, in a sediment zone rich in hydrogen sulphide but poor in oxygen, and breather cells in higher zone rich in oxygen but poor in hydrogen sulphide. One teaspoon of mud sampled could contain as much as a kilometre of the living power cables!



[Living power cables discovered, \(Phys.org\)](#)

[Scientists have found bacteria that function as live electric cables at the bottom of the sea. \(ScienceNordic\)](#)

Naturelinks Website

The new NatureLinks website was launched last month. You can visit the new site now by visiting www.naturelinks.sa.gov.au

NatureLinks is aimed at people who are running or interested in running conservation projects, and people who want to get involved for example land managers that are interested in restoring habitat on their land, community groups, schools or conservation organisations.



This week in the News ...

[More water for Murray but Albert cause for worry \(Stock Journal\) 1 Nov 2012](#)

THE Federal Government announcement last week of an extra 450 gigalitres a year for the Murray Darling Basin by 2024 was welcome news for South Australia ... But it will do little for Lake Albert which, despite high inflows into the system during the past two years, remains unpotable with highly saline water at 3500 electro conductivity ... Meningie Narrung Lakes Irrigators Association member and Lake Albert farmer Sam Dodd says it is largely a result of the Narrung Causeway, which was built in the 1960s to shorten the travelling distance of the Narrung ferry. Removing the causeway is part of a 5-point plan proposed by the association to return the lake to health. It includes the full removal of the Narrung Bund (which has now been completed), dredging the narrows, diverting more water from the South East drains back to the Coorong and installing a pipeline or gravity-fed channel to connect the southern end of Lake Albert into the Coorong and allow a flow-through of water.

[IKEA commits to energy independence by 2020 \(Phys.org\) 24 Oct 2012](#)

Furniture giant IKEA has announced plans to produce as much energy as it consumes by the year 2020. To achieve that goal, the company will install solar panels on all its stores and warehouses, and invest in wind farms. The announcement comes as part of a three-pronged initiative the company is calling its "People and Planet Positive" campaign. The initiative will also focus on reducing the company's overall energy use, and growing enough trees to replace the wood used in its products.

What About The Weeds? Soursobs In Revegetation

Will Miles, Project Officer Coordinator, Goolwa to Wellington Local Action Planning Association Inc.

What is the best recipe for plant growth?

Good soil moisture from the winter season and the warm spring sunshine is the perfect combination for healthy plant growth across our revegetation sites. Unfortunately, and as expected, several weed species also find this time of year optimal for germination and fast growth.

When an area is revegetated weed species often invade, or are stimulated to grow due to the disturbance caused to the soil. Professional weed technicians and trained community groups have been contracted across the Lower Lakes region to ensure a range of priority weed species are targeted throughout all Community Revegetation Project planting sites.

Soursob (*Oxalis pes-caprae*) is a very common weed species around the Lower Lakes and is seen across nearly all revegetation sites. Soursobs have annual top growth and perennial bulbs. The bulbs sprout over a 6 week period from autumn to winter. Leaves form soon after the bulbs sprout and flower stalks appear from June to September. It is not uncommon to see the flowers lasting until early November if spring rain events persist. Late spring to early summer the top growth dies and the plants energy is stored in the underground bulb ready for the following year.



Photo: Soursobs dying off in late spring forming a healthy weed mat, and out-competing other weeds species at Pobbybonk Reserve, Milang.

Although a weed, Soursobs can be beneficial on a revegetation site by out-competing other weeds in winter and forming a natural weed mat in spring and summer. For a weed species, the lifecycle of the Soursob fits well with our native plants as it uses water in winter when it is abundant and dies off in summer as the water requirements of our native plants increases. The dead above ground vegetation adds to the soil's organic matter, helps retain soil moisture and reduces soil temperature in summer.

In time, native plants will outcompete these weed species but until then it is up to the community to make sure we do our best to target the weeds and look after our local environment.

For more information drop in or call the Lakes Hub at Milang and talk to one of the Goolwa to Wellington Local Action Planning Association staff members. Phone number 8537 0808.

TALKING HEADS

FREE SEMINAR

CLLMM Bird Monitoring Project

Tuesday 13th November 1.00pm

Milang Institute (supper room)

Come along to hear Jody O'Connor and Dan Rogers talk about the Coorong, Lower Lakes & Murray Mouth Bird Monitoring Project.

The study will determine the distribution and abundance of "cryptic" and breeding waterbirds in the region, and to gain a better understanding of their habitats.

Jody, Dan and Kerri Bartley will also talk about Volunteering opportunities in the breeding waterbirds project to commence in November at the Murray Mouth and Northern Coorong.

Interested volunteers can also participate in a monitoring workshop in the afternoon at Sugars Beach, Hindmarsh Island at 2:30pm.

For more details: Lakes Hub 08 8537 0808 or Kerri Bartley, 0407 325 130



Fairy Tern feeding chicks (photo: Kerri Bartley)



Australian Painted Snipe (photo: Birdlife Australia)

Brought to you
by the Lakes
Hub



2/10 Daranda Tce Milang

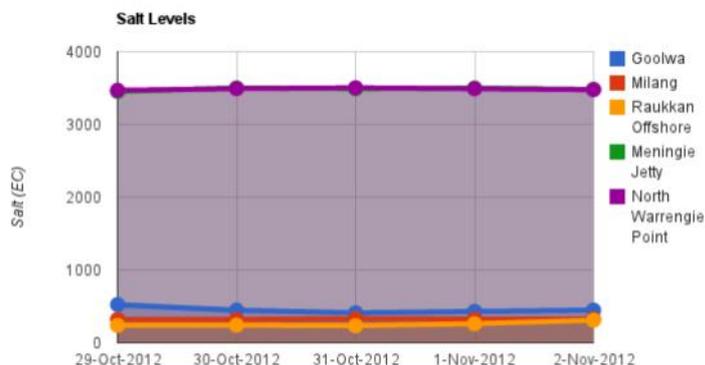
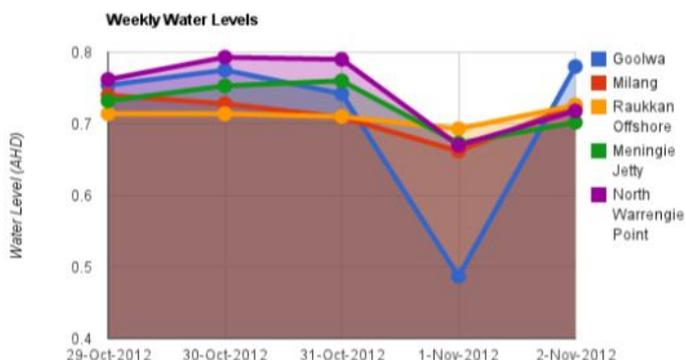
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On the Level



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 29th Oct - 2nd Nov

DATE	SITE	WATER LEVEL (AHD)	SALT (EC)
29/10	GOOLWA	0.754	524
30/10		0.775	448
31/10		0.742	412
1/11		0.487	431
2/11		0.780	449
		AVERAGE	0.708
DATE	SITE	WATER LEVEL (AHD)	SALT (EC)
29/10	MILANG JETTY	0.740	322
30/10		0.728	320
31/10		0.709	332
1/11		0.662	324
2/11		0.726	327
		AVERAGE	0.713
DATE	SITE	WATER LEVEL (AHD)	SALT (EC)
29/10	RAUKKAN OFFSHORE	0.714	239
30/10		0.714	242
31/10		0.710	234
1/11		0.693	261
2/11		0.726	310
		AVERAGE	0.711
DATE	SITE	WATER LEVEL (AHD)	SALT (EC)
29/10	MENINGIE JETTY	0.732	3454
30/10		0.753	3501
31/10		0.760	3492
1/11		0.673	3499
2/11		0.702	3482
		AVERAGE	0.724
DATE	SITE	WATER LEVEL (AHD)	SALT (EC)
29/10	NORTH WARRENGIE POINT LAKE ALBERT	0.762	3470
30/10		0.793	3493
31/10		0.790	3504
1/11		0.670	3492
2/11		0.718	3478
		AVERAGE	0.747

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.

November 2012	
1	Bushfire Action Week
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8	Tolderol Frog Monitoring 8am ph 0427 364 551 or 8535 1432
9	Tolderol Fish Monitoring 9am ph 0427 364 551 or 8535 1432 Deadline for art & photography entries into Wetland Care Australia competition visit www.wetlandcare.com.au
10	
11	
12	National Recycling Week
13	Talking Heads Jody O'Connor CLLMM Bird Monitoring Milang Institute 1.00pm 8537 0808
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20	Sustainable Housing Workshop 7pm Willunga Environment Centre Ph 8556 4188 info@willungaenviro.org.au
21	World Fisheries Day
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Disclaimer

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