

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
(part time) Meningie
Stuart Jones
Lakes Hub Bulletin & ICT
Carole Richardson
Lakes Hub Assistant

GWLAP office 8537 0807
Web www.gwlap.org.au

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
Samantha Blight
CTLAP - Implementation Officer
Meningie 0447 900001

World Wetlands Day Events a Great Success

Last Friday and Saturday, Government and community groups came together to organise 2 fantastic events to celebrate World Wetlands Day. Saturday saw the Lakes Hub host free bus & paddle steamer tours on board the Oscar 'W' from Goolwa to Clayton Bay where a Family Fun Day was organised in the Clayton Bay Community Hall attended by more than 100 people.

FishWatch volunteers were on hand to educate the kids about native fish with a 'fishing game', and NRM Education staff put up a fantastic *wetland tunnel* and macro-invertebrate displays showing children the creatures that live in our wetlands, and what we can all do to help keep our wetlands clean and healthy. A tour to the Milang Turtle Shed and information on local wetlands was also enjoyed. The Clayton Nursery was open for tours, live frog and snake displays amused the kids, and everyone enjoyed a delicious lunch of Coorong Mullet provided by the Clayton Bay Nursery & Environment Group.



Left: Lunch provided by Clayton Bay Nursery & Environment Group. Photo by Leonie Henderson.
Right: Belle White fishing & learning with Fish Watch volunteer Karl Hansen. Photo by Regina Durbridge.



PS Oscar "W" docked at Clayton Bay.



The weekly links...

The Living Murray story

Some of you may be aware that copies of 'The Living Murray story' are available at the Lakes Hub. There is also a Teacher Supplement called The Living Murray Story lesson plans and worksheets "Basin Kids" check them out at:

<http://www.mdba.gov.au/services/education-resources/tlm-story-lesson-plans>

Applications for the 2013 NRM Volunteer Small Grants are open!

Grants up to \$1,000 per group are aimed at assisting volunteers with their NRM activities by covering or contributing to the cost of equipment, project materials or capacity building activities such as training. Applications must be submitted by the **29 March 2013**. For information & application forms visit: <http://www.samdbnrm.sa.gov.au/GetInvolved/Volunteering/VolunteerSupport.aspx> under 'NRM Volunteer Small Grants'.

People and Parks Visitor Strategy

DEWNR released 'People and Parks: A Visitor Strategy for South Australia's National Parks, Marine Parks and Reserves' check it out at:

www.environment.sa.gov.au/Conservation/Land/Park_management/people-and-parks

World Wetlands Day 2013 - Signal Point Goolwa Wharf

On Friday 1st February, more than 100 people gathered at Signal Point to hear speakers from the Department of Environment, Water & Natural Resources (DEWNR), Adelaide & Flinders Universities, Environmental Protection Authority, the CSIRO, Ngarrindjeri Regional Authority, South Australian Research & Development Institute (SARDI), and the Goolwa to Wellington Local Action Planning Association (GWLAP) report on their work in the Coorong & Lakes region.

The current population status of native fish, waterbirds, frogs, aquatic plants, zooplankton and macro-invertebrates, as well as water & soil quality since the drought and current management were discussed.



CAP member Anne Hartnett introducing speakers. Photo by Stuart Jones.

Question Time and panel discussions elicited thought-provoking and challenging questions, and highlighted concern in the community for action to continue to preserve and monitor our unique local wetlands.

Attendees discovered that even though the water has returned, science is showing us that we are still a long way from full recovery from the drought.

“It’s not just about the water, it’s about providing suitable habitat”

(Conclusion made by one of the organisers of the event during the Panel Discussion)

“The system has not yet returned to optimum health even with the return of the water”

(Community member attending the forum at Signal Point)

Powerpoint presentations from each of the speakers will be available on a link from the Lakes Hub Website at www.lakeshub.com.



Panel discussions during World Wetlands Day Presentations at Signal Point. Photo by Stuart Jones.

Below: Amelia Graham (Lakes Hub Milang), Will Miles (GWLAP) and Andrew Dawes (Lakes Hub Meningie) at the combined Lakes Hub/GWLAP booth on Friday. Photo by Kirsty Wedge.



Report Hazards to Murraywatch

MurrayWatch, a project of the volunteer community organisation “Friends of the River” provides a telephone hotline for the public to report non-emergency issues related to the River Murray and its environs. The phone is monitored 7 days a week and accepts reports which are then handed on to the relevant Government authorities for follow up and action, where appropriate.

MurrayWatch is supported by Alexandrina, Mid Murray, Coorong and Murray Bridge councils and helps to maintain a watchful eye over the River Murray and lakes.

Members of the public can be members of the organisation and will then receive newsletters. Members are also able to hold positions on the committee which meets bi-monthly to discuss River Murray issues. The group regularly lobbies politicians and government agencies to pursue environmental and other problems which occur on the River Murray and lakes.

Rayleigh Burgess, president of MurrayWatch says that all types of reports are received on the hotline. “When the riverbanks were collapsing a few years ago, the Government used our hotline for people to report collapses, because it is a well known number and there are signs up everywhere. People can report anything from stray dogs on reserves, illegal camping or campfires and fireworks or trail bike riding, to boating offences and navigation hazards on our hotline. The information gets passed on to the right department or council for action”

She went on to say that few government departments have after hours contacts, so MurrayWatch is a great conduit for information to these departments such as Transport, EPA and Environment.”

The number for reports is **85310710** but for emergencies call police on 000 or 131444

The MurrayWatch website can be found at www.murraywatch.org.au



Employment Opportunities in Milang

There are three employment opportunities available across the association, in Shoreline Community and the Milang Old School House Community Centre. Please download the full notice here: [Positions Vacant 2013](#) and find the position descriptions below. Applications comprising a covering letter, current CV and statement addressing the selection criteria, should be forwarded to the Executive Officer, by email to karyn@moshcc.com.au or by post to:

Milang & District Community Association Inc.,
24 Daranda Tce
Milang SA 5256

to arrive no later than **Thursday 14th February at 5pm.**

Position Descriptions:

MILANG ENVIRONMENTAL CENTRE COMMUNITY NURSERY ASSISTANT

Download position description: [MEC Nursery 2IC 2013](#)

ASSISTANT TEAM LEADER ON GROUND WORKS

Download position description: [Team Leader 2IC 2013](#)

ADMINISTRATION ASSISTANT

Download position description: [Admin Support Officer 2013](#)

More details can be downloaded from the www.moshcc.com.au website

Upcoming events

Adelaide Mount Lofty NRM February Events Calendar includes:

- **Shorebirds of Gulf St Vincent workshop**

The wetlands and coastline north of Adelaide are amongst the most important in Australia for migratory and resident shorebirds. Join [Birdlife Australia](http://birdlife.org.au) to learn more about these astounding birds, how to identify the 30 odd species which regularly visit the area and the steps you can take to contribute to their conservation. Sunday 10th February workshop & field trip 3 - 6pm Mawson Lakes. For more information and RSVP contact: chris.purnell@birdlife.org.au

- **Best practice grazing management workshops for small properties**

This workshop aims to help small grazing properties improve their pasture management and grazing techniques.

For further information on these and other courses offered contact: james.skeer@sa.gov.au

Two-Day workshop with Steve Van Matre April 6th & 7th 2013.

Contemplative Experience ... in service of the earth

"This workshop is designed to help us consider our personal relationship with the natural world and our role in the movement to sustain it".

For information and bookings: ieeaust@optusnet.com.au

(03) 5940 8740

TALKING HEADS

FREE

Eco-wise Action Workshops

Tuesdays 26th February 6-8pm Lakes Hub Milang

Thursdays 28th February 10am-12noon Lakes Hub Meningie

The Lakes Hub will be presenting a series of 4 FREE Eco-Wise Action Workshops designed by the Victorian Government Department of Sustainability and Environment. The workshops are all about:

- ⇒ Saving Energy
- ⇒ Conserving Water
- ⇒ Smart Shopping and Reducing Waste in the Home
- ⇒ While improving the comfort of your home and cutting costs!



For more information & to register your interest contact the Lakes Hub
Phone: 8537 0808 or 8575 1830
Email info@lakeshub.com



Brought to you
by the Lakes
Hub



2/10 Daranda Tce Milang
Ph: (08) 8537 0808
info@lakeshub.com
www.lakeshub.com

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Upcoming events

The Conservation Council of SA is organising a grant 'bootcamp' for anyone wishing to improve their grant writing skills from any sector.

Grant writing skills can be applied across many different sectors, so everyone is welcome.

This full day workshop provides an opportunity for grant seekers to:

- Learn how to better articulate the needs of your community
- Learn how to make a succinct and targeted 'pitch' for a grant
- Get a clear understanding of what different types of projects and organisations grant makers can and can't fund
- Come face-to-face with some real live grant makers and assessors.

This jam-packed and interactive workshop will include presenters who are grant makers, experienced grant writers and grant assessors keen to share their experience and knowledge with you.

The program includes lunch and morning tea — plenty of opportunities to network with grant makers. Please see the program for more details.

Date: Sunday 3rd March, 9.30 am — 3.15 pm (Registration & networking from 9 am)

Cost: \$45 per person (\$30 concession)

Note: As places are limited, payment upon booking will confirm your place.

Venue: Union House, Adelaide University, North Terrace

Bookings are essential:

8223 5155

virginia.swan@conservationsa.org.au

Please include any dietary requirements with your booking details.

Volunteers Urgently Needed for Coorong Wader Count

We still **desperately need help** with the Coorong Wader Count (8, 9 and 10 Feb).

Aim to meet Friday evening 8th February, count Southern Lagoon on the 9th, and the Northern Lagoon on the 10th.

If you are nervous about your counting abilities, remember, there is a need for scribes as well! Others can have some fun and practise beforehand with counting standing and flying birds at: <http://birdlife.org.au/projects/shorebirds-2020/educational-material>



Paul has advised that he is able to help with travel expenses – nothing extravagant, but aiming for people to be 'cost neutral' on the count. And, of course, accommodation is provided.

As the country side is drying out the local wetlands are crammed with waterfowl.

Staying at the Coorong Wilderness Lodge <http://www.coorongwildernesslodge.com>

A Bunkhouse and a 5 person unit are reserved. Kitchen facilities are available. Fridge, stove, microwave, crockery, outdoor BBQ. Those who would like to camp or bring a caravan are welcome (there are powered and unpowered sites available) this would make the accommodation for others a bit more spacious

Please Contact Paul Wainwright

T: 8124 4739 | M: 0429 678 475

|E: paul.wainwright@sa.gov.au

Fairy tern feeding chick.

Photo by Michelle Sawyer.



On the Level

Some electrical conductivity ranges	
Water type	Electrical conductivity (µS/cm)
Deionised water	0.5-3
Pure rainwater	<15
Freshwater rivers	0 - 800
Marginal river water	800 - 1600
Brackish water	1600 - 4800
Saline water	> 4800
Seawater	51 500
Industrial waters	100 - 10000

Source: Suttar S., *Ribbons of Blue Handbook*. Scitech, Victoria, 1990.

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

For the latest River Murray Flow Report and Water Resources Update - 16th November 2012 visit: <http://www.waterconnect.sa.gov.au>

DATE	28th Jan - 1st Feb		
DATE	SITE	WATER LEVEL (AHD)	SALT (EC)
28-Jan		0.615	797
29-Jan		0.557	846
30-Jan	GOOLWA	0.594	878
31-Jan		0.586	0
1-Feb		0.562	964
	AVERAGE	0.583	697
DATE	SITE	WATER LEVEL (AHD)	SALT (EC)
28-Jan		0.605	445
29-Jan		0.615	450
30-Jan	MILANG JETTY	0.602	459
31-Jan		0.587	459
1-Feb		0.606	462
	AVERAGE	0.603	455
DATE	SITE	WATER LEVEL (AHD)	SALT (EC)
28-Jan		0.590	406
29-Jan		0.571	416
30-Jan	RAUKKAN OFFSHORE	0.587	415
31-Jan		0.587	418
1-Feb		0.580	416
	AVERAGE	0.603	414.2
DATE	SITE	WATER LEVEL (AHD)	SALT (EC)
28-Jan		0.576	3338
29-Jan		0.530	3372
30-Jan	MENINGIE JETTY	0.551	3396
31-Jan		0.613	3390
1-Feb		0.585	3395
	AVERAGE	0.571	3378.2
DATE	SITE	WATER LEVEL (AHD)	SALT (EC)
28-Jan		0.552	3435
29-Jan	NORTH	0.552	3452
30-Jan	WARRENGIE	0.627	3447
31-Jan	POINT	0.602	3468
1-Feb	LAKE ALBERT	0.570	3531
	AVERAGE	0.581	3466.6

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.

February 2013	
1	World Wetland Day Science & Monitoring Forum Signal Point, Goolwa ph 8537 0808
2	World Wetland Day Family Fun Day Clayton Bay Community Hall ph 8537 0808
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	Sustainable Living Festival 9th - 24th www.festival.slf.org.au
10	
11	Talking Heads Currency Creek Eucalypt Arboretum Tour 9am ph Lakes Hub 8537 0808
12	
13	
14	
15	SAMDBNRM Board <i>Draft Business Plan</i> Submissions due www.samdbnrm.sa.gov.au/NRMPlan
16	
17	
18	
19	
20	
21	
22	
23	SA Wooden Boat Festival, Goolwa www.woodenboatfestival.com.au
24	SA Wooden Boat Festival
25	
26	Eco-wise Action Workshops 4 weeks Tuesdays 6pm Milang Lakes Hub phone 8537 0808
27	
28	Eco-wise Action Workshops 4 weeks Thursdays 10am Meningie Lakes Hub phone 8575 1830

Disclaimer

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