

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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Winter Rains are Here!

Good afternoon!
I hope you are enjoying the sunshine, especially after some fantastic rains! Last Thursday many of us would have seen the Finniss and Currency Creeks flood for the first time this season - don't forget to look out for the 'Road Flooded' signs at the beginning of Winery Road, to prevent any dangerous crossings.
Regina Durbridge from GWLAP highlighted just how welcome this rain is following a very dry period- rainfall figures from www.weatherzone.com.au show figures for Stathalbyn from Spring 2012 through to end of Autumn 2013 was 41% below average, with a deficit of 109.5mm in rainfall.
Welcome rain indeed! It is also watering in the many native plants that have already gone in to the ground as part of this years panting season.
Have a great week!
Best Wishes, Amelia

STRATHALBYN RAINFALL			
MONTH	AVERAGE	ACTUAL	ANOMALY
May-13	41.6	27.2	-14.4
Apr-13	27.8	23.8	-4
Mar-13	21.6	3.8	-17.8
Feb-13	21.9	9.8	-12.1
Jan-13	15	15.1	-0.1
Dec-12	22.7	12	-10.7
Nov-12	27.3	7	-20.3
Oct-12	37.5	26.8	-10.7
Sep-12	51.6	32.2	-19.4
Aug-12	55.4	56.8	1.4
Jul-12	49.1	73.6	24.5
Jun-12	50.6	114.6	64

The weekly links...

Australia Post Our Neighbourhood Community Grants

Our Community Grants Program provides funding to a range of community organisations, with the aim of building healthier, more vibrant and more inclusive communities across Australia.
www.ourneighbourhood.com.au/our-grants.html

8th National Stipa Native Grassland Conference

The Murray Mallee Local Action Planning Association are hosting this conference from 5th - 8th November 2013 in Murray Bridge. Check out the website for information & registrations:
www.sites.google.com/site/nationalgrasslandsconference

CLLMM Community Update May 2013

The latest Update includes:

- What is a Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder?
- Meet the Seasonal Fire Crew
- Hello Nikki
- Currency Creek Update
- What's being monitored?
- KNYA Yarlular-Ruwe (meeting of fresh and salt waters) workshop
- Lake Albert Scoping Study Update

www.environment.sa.gov.au/managing-natural-resources/Rivers_wetlands/Coorong_Lower_Lakes_Murray_Mouth/The_community/Updates

80 MCG's to be planted in CLLMM vegetation program

Media Release from Tony Burke and Ian Hunters Office's: An area almost 80 times the size of the Melbourne Cricket Ground will be planted with native seedlings, shrubs, and grasses in one of Australia's most important wetlands during the next three months (The collaborative approach between Government, local community and the region's Traditional Owners is mentioned as integral to success)

Read more: www.premier.sa.gov.au/images/news_releases/13_06Jun/cllmm_veg.pdf



Environmental Flows and Lamprey Migration

Over the next two weeks, scientists from SARDI Aquatic Sciences will monitor the River Murray barrage fishways for adult lampreys, targeting the start of their upstream migration season. With environmental water currently being provided by the Commonwealth Environmental Water Office to the Lower Lakes and Coorong to enhance barrage releases for diadromous* fish movement and recruitment, it is important to document the ecological response to these flows.

SARDI Fish Ecologist Brenton Zampatti commented; “We are targeting two species of lamprey; short-headed and pouched. While we know from previous monitoring that these two species move upstream from the sea/estuary to the river in winter, there is very little information about how far upstream they migrate.”

“We will be installing PIT (Passive Integrated Transponder) tags (microchips) in the fish so that we can also track migration patterns through the fishways on upstream locks and weirs. Along with providing ecological justification for winter environmental flows, this project may also provide information on the upstream migration extent for these species”.

Funding for the monitoring is provided by The Living Murray Initiative, with support from the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources. The Living Murray is a joint initiative funded by the South Australian, Victorian, New South Wales, Australian Capital Territory and Commonwealth governments, coordinated by the Murray–Darling Basin Authority.

For more information on the project please contact Adrienne Frears, Lower Lakes Coorong and Murray Mouth Icon Site Coordinator (Department of Environment Water and Natural Resources) on (08) 8463 7486 or adrienne.frears@sa.gov.au.

For more information on lampreys see www.mdba.gov.au/sites/default/files/pubs/Fact-sheets/MDBA-A4-Fact-Sheet-26-Pouched-lamprey.pdf and www.mdba.gov.au/sites/default/files/pubs/Fact-sheets/MDBA-A4-Fact-Sheet-29-Short-headed-lamprey.pdf.

***Diadromous fish are those that need passage between freshwater and the estuary/ocean to complete their lifecycle**



Pouched lamprey (SARDI Aquatic Sciences)



Installing the fishway cage trap at Goolwa Barrage (Adrienne Frears)

Sustainable Alexandrina Community Workshop

Alexandrina Council want to hear what the community conservation sector has to say about Council's role in helping to deliver a cleaner, greener future for the Alexandrina Council area.

When: Wednesday 26 June at 4pm – 6pm

Where: Council Chambers, Alexandrina Library & Customer Service Centre, 11 Cadell Street, Goolwa.

Workshop Content: A summary of sustainability principles, an explanation of the strategy development process, plus interactive discussion exercises where you get to tell us what you want to see in Council's 5 year environmental strategy. The workshop will be hosted by Shen Dycer Environmental Strategy Officer and Anne Liddell Council Strategy Officer.

RSVPs: Places at the workshop are limited so please RSVP as soon as possible by emailing Shen.dycer@alexandrina.sa.gov.au or calling 8555 7221.

Coorong experience for educators

Limited places! Book today!

Open to educators and student teachers interested in increasing their awareness and understanding of Aboriginal culture and environmental issues affecting the Coorong and Lower Lakes. Presented by Ngarrindjeri Lands and Progress Association, MurrayCare, UniSA and SA MDB Natural Resources Management Board.

19 - 21 July and 11 - 13 October

Cost: \$390 (unsalariated or student teacher concession \$200).

Register with payment before Friday 28 June and be eligible for 2 for 1 offer (Teachers \$195 each and students/unsalariated \$100 each).

To register and for more information phone 8212 0777 or

email coorong@icarecommunities.org.au.



Youth Environment Council (YEC) Camp

On Monday 27 May the Youth Environment Council gathered at Woodhouse Activity Centre for a three day camp. Sixty students from years 5-10 from across the state got to know and be inspired by each other, participate in team work activities, reflect on humanity's impact on the environment, and have fun while learning.

The camp helped students develop a range of skills to enable them to take action and create change in their communities. Two students commented that *'we all rose as leaders in different ways and the benefits we got out of it were huge'* and *'we have lots of knowledge that we will share with our school, community, family and friends.'* Popular activities included a ropes course on Challenge Hill and the Web of Life Game, an elaborate game of chasey.

'Challenge Hill was definitely a great experience with everyone rising to the challenge, with support and encouragement from all', said Jai, year 10 student from Stuart High.

'We learnt how hard it is for animals in the natural world to survive with just predators and natural disasters. Then, on top of this, human destruction was added and we learnt this can just tip the weights', wrote a group of students.

The Youth Environment Council will meet again next term to further explore what it means to be a role model and to share what they have been doing at their schools.

Monarto Zoo Behind the Scenes Tour for Ranges to River NRM Volunteers

The 2013 Ranges to River NRM Volunteers Recognition Event at Monarto Zoo is this Saturday. We still have plenty of places available if you and your family would like to come along. This is going to be another exciting day where NRM Volunteers will be able to get together and have the rare opportunity to be behind the scenes at the Zoo for free!

Please let me know as soon as possible if you and your family would like to attend as numbers are limited.

Kind Regards, Danielle Packer, Capacity Building Support Officer

Natural Resources, SA Murray-Darling Basin, Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources

T (08) 8580 1830 | F (08) 8582 4488 | E danielle.packer@sa.gov.au



Women fired up at Clayton Bay

A group of 18 women recently completed the CFS **Firey Women** workshops at Clayton Bay. The aim was to assist women to take important steps towards empowering and protecting themselves, their family and their community. This was the second group from the district to attend the workshops run over 4 evenings, with courses available over 2 days. Workshop topics included:

- Preparing yourself emotionally
- Understanding the new bushfire danger ratings and warnings
- Deciding when to "leave early" or "stay and defend"
- Preparing a Bushfire Survival Plan
- Identifying hazards around the home
- Operating pumps and fire fighting equipment
- Bushfire Behaviour
- Preventing injury



With enough interest another course may be offered.

If you are interested in a 2-day course at Clayton Bay (or surrounding town) to learn how to protect your family and livelihood from bushfire please contact: Leonie Henderson
Email: leonieh@activ8.net.au or phone: 0407 394 907 by July 1st.

Bushfire Preparation 1-Hour Workshop

Michelle Egel is our local CFS Community Engagement Officer and is happy to run short workshops for community groups wanting to learn key CFS messages, bushfire behavior and preparation please give her a call.
Michelle Egel phone: 0428 817 186 email: egel.michelle@cfs.sa.gov.au.

CFS website useful links:

Be bushfire ready self-assessment tool: www.cfs.sa.gov.au/site/prepare_act_survive_2012/be_bushfire_ready.jsp

Fire retardant plants available at Community Nurseries

When planning your garden and property for fire protection, it is important to consider plants as an integral part of the overall fire protection plan. No plant is completely fire-resistant– some are more flammable than others, but given the right conditions all plants will burn.

For further information see 'Landscaping to minimise the impact of bushfire' (brochure under *Preparing Your Property* has lists of flammability characteristics of different native species).

www.cfs.sa.gov.au/site/prepare_act_survive_2012/reference/fact_sheets.jsp

The Community Nurseries Network nurseries have several species of 'hard to burn' plants available in stock.

For further information contact:

Community Nurseries Network Coordinator Jo McPhee

jomcphee@lakeshub.com

8537 0808

0488 465 043

Some of the local native 'hard to burn' plants available at Community Nurseries.

Right: *Olearia axillaris* (coastal daily bush)

Left: *Rhagodia candolleana* (sea-berry saltbush)

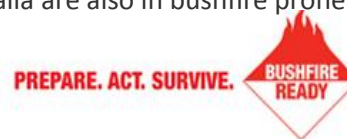
Middle: *Kennedia prostrata* (running postman)



Did you know?

More than 35 suburbs in Adelaide's fringes are in bushfire prone areas.

More than 75 towns in the Adelaide Hills, Fleurieu Peninsula and Kangaroo Island and 75 towns in other parts of rural South Australia are also in bushfire prone areas.



A **Bushfire Safer Precinct** is a place of relative safety and may be used as a place for people to stay in or as a place of *first* resort for those people who have decided that they will leave high risk locations *early* on a bad fire weather day.

Bushfire Safer Precincts for Clayton Bay residents and visitors are **Milang** and **Strathalbyn**

Bushfire Information Hotline
phone: 1300 362 361
(TTY 133 677)

The History Spot - Lakes Travel in 1869

The following account, published by Ebenezer Ward in 1869 after he journeyed to the South-East by the new steamer and coach service, will give the reader some idea of what travel along the Coorong was like in those days.

About the ride from Adelaide to Milang little need be said, except that the distance is about fifty miles, and that the ground is got over in five and a half hours. Formerly the route was by Wellington, and through the "fourteen-mile Desert;" but now a welcome change has been effected for the smooth waters and cheerful aspect of Lakes Alexandrina and Albert. You leave the coach upon the shore of Lake Alexandrina, and to the traveller who for a whole night has been vainly endeavouring to sleep in spite of fate-as represented by the perpetual jolting incidental to any conveyances as yet extant, and the corkscrew position in which the pressure of mailbags, and other "unavoidable circumstances," necessitate the adjustment of one's limbs-the opportunity to stretch himself out and yawn without restriction becomes the very luxury of life. You may do this to your heart's content while the mails are being made up at the Milang Post-Office; and then you must tramp along the narrow jetty, where you will find L.A.S.N.Co's steamer "Telegraph" with steam up ready to receive you, and an attentive steward overrunning with welcome suggestions about hot coffee and grilled kidneys. I pity the man who cannot appreciate even the remembrance of such things at such a time. Indeed, this Lake trip is one of the greatest improvements of all that have been introduced in the overland mail service. Of course mails must be considered first, but in this case there is some gain of time in the transmission of Her Majesty's letter-bags, and an unspeakable degree of comfort ensured to passengers as compared with the dreary and unbroken ride through the desert that is now escaped. The run across to Meningie occupies about five hours, and during this time passengers may enjoy a comfortable sleep, a good breakfast, and a most refreshing wash, besides gladdening all their sense of beauty and veneration with the sight of sunrise on the lakes. The business of disembarking mails and passengers at Meningie is accomplished-in the absence of a jetty-in a somewhat primitive fashion, and a story, which is likely to grow into a legend, is current here about the appearance presented recently by a late "Hon. Chief Secretary" as he was borne by a diminutive but sturdy A.B. (seaman) "pig-a-back" from the steamer to the shore.

Although Meningie is still only in the first year of its existence as a "township," it affords already significant evidences of its future importance. Two "houses of accommodation"-I can scarcely say hotels-are established there, and, as settlement progresses in the neighbourhood, there will be quite sufficient enterprise to supply other legitimate requirements. With the usual fatality of official action, a bungle seems to have been made in fixing the sight of the town, and the settlers there, or some of them, complain very bitterly of the error. Where the town has been placed the water is shallow at the landing-place, but at some little distance away much deeper water can be obtained close to the shore, and here it is supposed the jetty will be erected. There would thus be a gap between the landing-place and the town, which ought to even now be avoided, if that be possible. There is some very fair land on the flats bordering the lake about Meningie, but directly you leave the township on the Coorong side a dreary belt of mallee scrub commences. This is, indeed, the western extremity of the Desert. On the rises sand prevails, but on the hollows or flats there is kind of white pipeclay, and this is quite frequently destitute of even scrub vegetation. A more cheerless expanse can scarcely be conceived, and from when you emerge from it upon the open flats of the Coorong, and trace the rippling waters of the stream winding their way in a broad channel parallel with the track you are following, it is impossible to avoid condemning the obstinacy which has so long prevented that fine sheet of water being utilised for the purpose of navigation. It has been shown over and over again by practical men who have a personal knowledge of the stream, and all its impediments, that the expenditure of a very few thousand pounds would render it permanently navigable to Salt Creek for such a steamer as that which now works so efficiently and usefully on the Lakes. It is by the present land route approximately 40 miles from Meningie to Salt Creek, and the whole of this distance may just as well be done by steamer as the run across the Lakes, when the few obstructions that exist have been removed.

What the gain in comfort and rest would be to the mail passengers may be fairly estimated from the experiences of the present shorter smooth water steaming to Meningie, and besides this the value of all the country on the Coorong would be largely increased by affording the settler there the cheapest of all roads for their goods traffic. At present the cargo boats are uncertain in their passages and sometimes have to be discarded altogether, but a mail steamer running as I suggest could easily tow goods barges even when "on service." I am glad to know that the project will be fairly tested soon, and its success, about which I have no doubts at all, will be one more link in the chain which is destined I hope to unite inseparably the interests of Adelaide and the South-East.

The History Spot - Lakes Travel in 1869 ...continued

Very little requires to be said about the country from the Coorong to near Lacedepe Bay. Of the steam itself I need only add to what I have written that its depth of water is chiefly affected by the winds and that when it rises to its greatest height it spreads over a much wider surface than its channel proper occupies. But in the channel there is always water enough for the purpose I have indicated, except at two or three places where "bars" will have to be cut through. On the seaward side of the stream there is a narrow strip of country, chiefly sandhills, and on the inland side a still narrower strip of open flats and dry sheoak ridges alternately, beyond which lies the fatal scrub. This last named strip, which runs parallel with the Coorong and the coast-line, and rarely exceeds a half a mile in width, is very properly reserved for travelling stock. There are public-houses at Magrath's Flat, Wood's Well (where the grave of Malachi Martin's victim is buried), Chinaman's Well, and Salt Creek. Along most of the distance, when the Coorong is at its lowest, and the outer edges of its bed are dry, you have a splendid road upon its hard pipeclay bottom, and passengers are then often warmed out of their resignation to "mail miseries," by the excitement of a slashing gallop over the too tempting course. When the stream is higher this luxury is impracticable, and you must, instead, plod drearily along the sandy track on the ridges, and the slushy surface of the flats. At Salt Creek the Coorong loses itself in a wide extent of swamp, which penetrates the scrub almost uninterruptedly to the Reedy Creek waters eastward of Lacedepe Bay.

Coolatoo is the first stage after leaving Salt Creek, and at the changing place beyond it, some cultivation for horse-feed has been carried on successfully. The road beyond that lies for the most part along a dry ridge of light soil, sparsely timbered, and at about eight miles north of Lacedepe Bay, the traveller once more finds himself amongst cultivated paddocks and farm homesteads. The settlements, although neither numerous nor extensive, are sufficient to prove the suitability of the soil for agricultural settlement, and to illustrate the injustice of the prejudice which somehow or another has become the fashion against the capabilities of the land about Lacedepe Bay. I know, widely entertained, I shall state plainly the truth as I found it.

This ridge on which cultivation is now progressing runs parallel with the coast line, due north and south, from about 15 miles to the southward of the township. It is bounded by the west of the sandhills of the coast, except that in places the ridge itself dips almost to the beach. Its width varies from seven or eight miles near Mount Benson, to about a mile or even less at places, being skirted on its eastward for its entire length, firstly, by the swamps running into the Coorong at Salt Creek; then by the Maria Creek Swamp at Lacedepe Bay; and, finally, by the Biscuit Flat at the Mount Benson end. Now I am far from classing all this soil as of first-class quality, and no doubt by comparison with the strong clays of Penola, the fine black loams of Kalangadoo, and the exceptionally rich volcanic soil of Mount Gambier, it sinks into inferiority. But, on the other hand, compared with the bulk of the lands farmed in less-favoured parts of the colony, it is of quite an average quality, and may be pronounced for the most part fair arable land, not very expensive to clear, easily worked, and with a far better climate for the growth of root crops and cereals than the more northern districts of the colony possess. The soil is a light warm sandy loam, resting on a limestone formation. It is undulating, well grassed, and lightly timbered with sheoak and honeysuckle.

**As written in "The Coorong and Lakes of The Lower Murray", published by Ebenezer Ward in 1869
By Tom McCourt and Hans Mincham**



On the Level

Lake Levels (AHD)

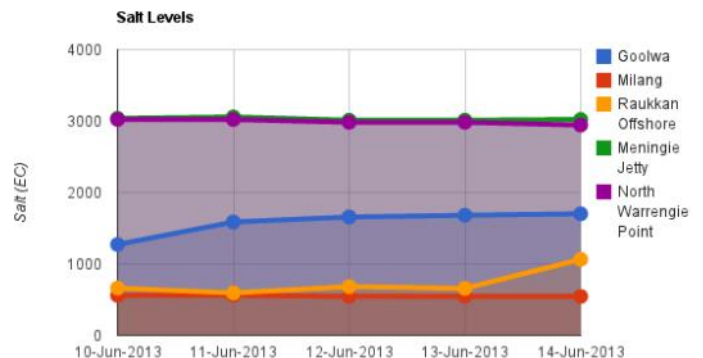
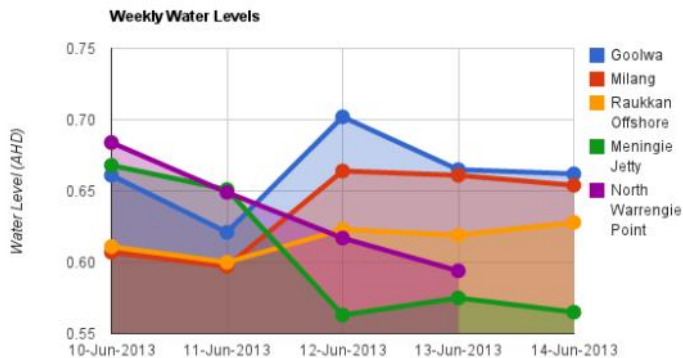
Date	Goolwa	Milang	Raukkan Offshore	Meningie Jetty	Nth Warrenge Point
10-Jun	0.661	0.607	0.611	0.668	0.684
11-Jun	0.621	0.597	0.6	0.651	0.649
12-Jun	0.702	0.664	0.623	0.563	0.617
13-Jun	0.665	0.661	0.619	0.575	0.594
14-Jun	0.662	0.654	0.628	0.565	
Average	0.662	0.637	0.616	0.604	0.636

Salt Levels (EC)

Date	Goolwa	Milang	Raukkan Offshore	Meningie Jetty	Nth Warrenge Point
10-Jun	1272	559	662	3038	3023
11-Jun	1587	561	594	3058	3022
12-Jun	1657	546	683	3012	2983
13-Jun	1681	549	658	3012	2983
14-Jun	1702	546	1064	3023	2944
Average	1580	552	732	3029	2991

Data received from: www.waterconnect.sa.gov.au/RMWD/Pages/default.aspx

Please note: salinity levels in the Goolwa Channel can be influenced by tidal ingress.



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](http://www.waterconnect.sa.gov.au), [Daily Flow Report](http://www.waterforgood.sa.gov.au), [River Murray Storage Data](http://www.waterforgood.sa.gov.au)

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>

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.

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.

June 2013	
17	Update on Water Allocation Plan for Eastern Mt Lofty Region 6.30pm Finniss Catchment Group 0428 441978 World Day to Combat Desertification & Drought
18	
19	
20	Milang Snipe Sanctuary Environmental Watering Proposal Kate Mason, DEWNR Royal Coach Inn ph 8537 0808
21	Winter solstice - Shortest day of the year (and longest night)
22	Community Planting at Point Sturt Council Triangle 9am-3.30pm phone 5836 0114 or 0419 800 574 Milang Historical Society Planting at Rice property Milang phone 8537 0687
23	Community Planting at Point Sturt Council Triangle 9am-3.30pm phone 5836 0114 or 0419 800 574
24	
25	Hub Advisory Committee meeting Meningie Trees For Life Introductory Bush Regeneration Workshop Willunga ph 8406 0500
26	Sustainable Alexandrina Council Community Workshop 4-6pm ph 8555 7221 shen.dycer@alexandrina.sa.gov.au
27	
28	
29	Rodwell Creek/Wistow Landcare Field Day Native Foods Trial Sites Wistow Hall 9am ianblight@hotmail.com.au
30	

July 2013	
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4	July 7th - 14th NAIDOC Week www.naidoc.org.au
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11	World Population Day www.unfpa.org (7billion in 2011)
12	

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