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NRM Volunteer Day on the Coorong

On Sunday the Mallee & Coorong NRM Group along with the NRM Board held a Volunteers Day.

This year the Volunteers were invited on the "Spirit of the Coorong" which left from Long Point. The purpose of this trip was to give the Volunteers who had worked throughout the year the opportunity to understand more about the Coorong and Lakes, the barrages and Murray Mouth.

Matt the Captain of the Vessel explained the "Spirit of the Coorong" is currently unable to operate from Goolwa, as the channel past the Murray Mouth has been too hard to navigate because of the turbidity of the fresh water in the area. The Itinerary for the day was to view the Tauwitchere and Ewe Island Barrages before stopping at Godfrey's Landing and walking over to the 90 Mile Beach. This was followed by a stop near the Murray Mouth before disembarking at the Mundoo Channel and returning home.

See full report by Coorong NRM Volunteer Jenny Smith on page 5.

Andrew Dawes



The weekly links...

Public consultation on definition of Free Range

Confusion about different standards across the state, labelling and definition of Free Range has prompted the SA Government to seek public views in developing a voluntary industry code. Discussion Paper can be found at: www.agd.sa.gov.au closing date for submissions is July 12th.

Monarto Involved in 30 year Woodland Trial

The University of Adelaide and Zoos SA are planting 10 acres of overgrazed land as experiment to see how best to restore degraded areas. Survival and growth rates will be monitored as well as the presence of native fauna invertebrates, reptiles and eventually birds. See story: www.adelaide.edu.au/news/news62001html

NRM Boards Applications Sought for Community Membership

For information visit: www.environment.sa.gov.au/vacancies or contact mica Balela on 8463 6860 or email mica.balela@sa.gov.au applications close on 12th July

Adelaide & Mt Lofty Ranges NRM Board 'Learn how to create a native coastal garden'

Saturday 6th July 2-3.30pm Cape Jarvis register 8273 9100

SA 19 Marine Parks new Fishing Rules

No fishing in new Sanctuary Zones from 1st October 2014 for details see: www.marineparks.sa.gov.au

This week's SA River Murray Flow Report

The report is now available at the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources website: www.environment.sa.gov.au/Home and: www.waterconnect.sa.gov.au

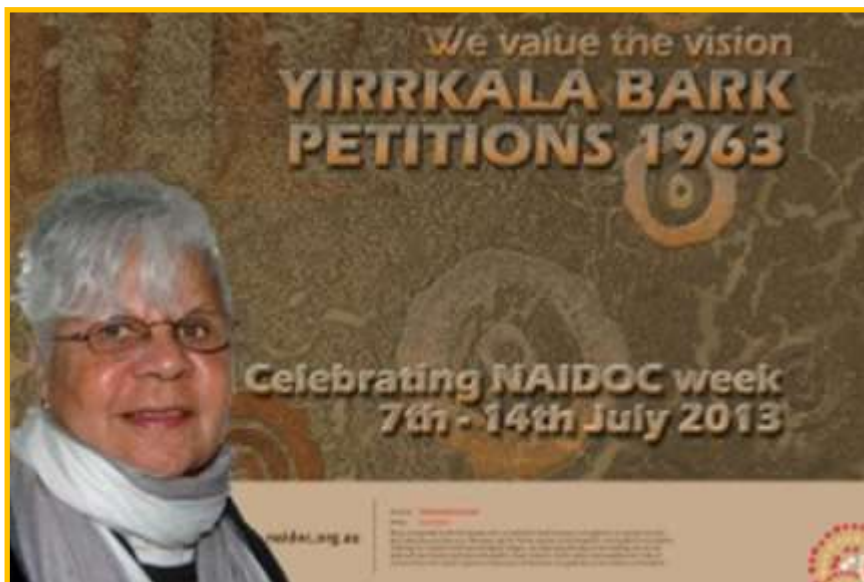
NAIDOC Week 2013: 7 - 14th July



NAIDOC celebrations are held around Australia in July each year to celebrate the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, not only in Indigenous communities, but by Australians from all walks of life.

The National NAIDOC theme for the 2013 NAIDOC Week celebrations is:

We value the vision: Yirrkala Bark Petitions 1963



NAIDOC 2013 winning poster artist Gail Naden from Gilgandra in NSW highlighting the story of the Yirrkala Bark Petitions 1963 (story next page)

NAIDOC stands for National Aboriginies and Islanders Day Observance Committee.

Its origins can be traced to the emergence of Aboriginal groups in the 1920's which sought to increase awareness in the wider community of the status and treatment of Indigenous Australians

NAIDOC is a celebration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and an opportunity to recognise the contributions of Indigenous Australians in various fields.

Activities take place across the nation during NAIDOC Week in the first full week of July. All Australians are encouraged to participate

NAIDOC Celebrations in Mount Barker

Collett Barker - The untold story

Collet Barker, after whom the township, mountain and district is named, was speared to death at the mouth of the Murray in 1831; yet before his tragic death he was a great friend of Aboriginal people. He demonstrated this when he was the Commandant of settlements at Raffles Bay in the Northern Territory, and at Albany in Western Australia. This presentation tells of his close relationship with the Iwaidja of the Coburg Peninsula, and the Noongah of the Albany district, before the cruelty of Kangaroo Island sealers towards the Ngarrindjeri near the Murray Mouth resulted in his tragic death. This talk will be aided by photography and song. Presented by Bob Innes, Steve Stone, and Peramangk elder Ivan Copley.

7.30 pm 12th July - The Creative Hub, Upstairs of the Mount Barker Town Hall. 34-38 Gawler Street Mount Barker

NAIDOC Celebrations in SA: www.naidoc.org.au/naidoc-events/calendar

Yirrkala Bark Petitions 1963

These are the first documents bridging Commonwealth law as it then stood, and the Indigenous laws of the land. These petitions from the Yolngu people of Yirrkala were the first traditional documents recognised by the Commonwealth Parliament and are thus the documentary recognition of Indigenous people in Australian law.

Petitions to Parliament must conform to certain rules of procedure and the acceptance of these petitions marks a bridge between two traditions of law. There had been many earlier petitions from Aboriginal people to Australian parliaments, and attempts to present petitions to the Crown. These petitions are the first to use traditional forms and combine bark painting with text typed on paper. The painted designs proclaim Yolngu law, depicting the traditional relations to land and the typed text is in English and Gumatj languages.



LEFT: Yirrkala Bark Petitions

The petitioners unsuccessfully sought the Commonwealth Parliament's recognition of rights to their traditional lands on the Gove Peninsula in Arnhem Land, through this instrument proclaiming those rights in traditional form. Though these documents did not achieve the constitutional change sought, they were effective in making a way for the eventual recognition of Indigenous rights in Commonwealth law.

The Yirrkala petitions are significant as a key part of the persistent claim for constitutional change which achieved the amendment of the Australian Constitution (S.51, S.127) in 1967, the statutory acknowledgment of Aboriginal land rights by the Commonwealth in 1976, and the overturning of the obstacle of the concept of *terra nullius* by the High Court in the Mabo Case in 1992.



Information from Museum of Australian Democracy: www.foundingdocs.gov.au/item-did-104.html

Celebrating NAIDOC Week NAIDOC celebrations are held around Australia each July to celebrate the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. The week is celebrated not just in the Indigenous communities but also in increasing numbers of government agencies, schools, local councils and workplaces. Here are some ideas on how to celebrate NAIDOC week:

- Run an art competition
- Display Indigenous posters around your class room.
- Listen to Indigenous music
- Research your areas traditional Indigenous owners
- Read a Dreamtime story
- Create your own Aboriginal art
- Hold a flag raising ceremony.
- Invite local Indigenous elders to speak at your workplace.
- Study a famous Indigenous Australian
- Study Aboriginal arts and crafts
- Visit local Indigenous sites of significance or interest
- Visit Indigenous websites on the Internet

Official Opening of the Cross Border Community Nursery

The Nature Glenelg Trust (NGT) hosted the official opening of the Cross Border Nursery site in Mt Gambier last Monday afternoon.



Every half hour from 2:00 – 4:00pm, a different Nature Glenelg Trust staff member, normally based at a range of regional locations in SA and SW Vic, presented a short 10 minute talk on topics including the nursery project, wetland restoration project, the penguins of Middle Island (Warrnambool), threatened fish & crays and who Nature Glenelg Trust actually is.

Communities Nurseries Network Coordinator Jo McPhee and Milang Nursery Manager Jill Dennis attended the event, and found it very interesting, and enjoyed the cream puffs! Staff from Nature Glenelg Trust have visited several of our local Community Nurseries and gained advice from them and Jo about nursery set up. Jo & Jill also took the opportunity to visit the Australian Native Plant Wholesale Nursery in Mount Gambier who propagate 700,000 plants per year, and report that their set-up and quality was impressive.



Left - Opening of the Cross Border Nursery

Right - Australian Native Plant Wholesale Nursery in Mt Gambier



Orange Bellied Parrot Identification Workshop

There will be a session at the **Narrung Education Centre** on **Saturday July 13 at 10am**, we will hold an indoor session with information and an identification session then we will head out into the field to try and find some Neophemas (commonly known as grass parrots) to try out the skills learnt during the session.

Everyone is welcome, bring your lunch or you can buy lunch at the Narrung shop on the way out to look for parrots. Bring binoculars, warm clothes and footwear suitable for walking around paddocks and saltmarsh.

Register your interest to Bob Green (Orange-bellied Parrot Regional Coordinator) shriketit@bigpond.com or phone 08 8725 0549 mob 0407 649 909



ANNUAL WATERING PRIORITIES RELEASED

Connecting rivers to floodplains, boosting river and wetland health and improving habitat will be some of the key areas Murray–Darling Basin environmental water managers will focus on over the next 12 months.



MDBA executive director Jody Swirepik said the annual watering priorities released today were the first set to be developed under the Basin Plan, and identified a list of sites and natural processes to guide environmental watering activities across the basin.

Ms Swirepik said this year's priorities included water holders coordinating flows across borders, getting good flows to wetlands at the right time of year to support bird breeding, and overall, getting the rivers to flow better from the top of the system to the end of the system.

An adaptive approach is applied to environmental watering which means the priorities will continue to be updated each year and will depend on the environment's needs and seasonal outlook.

Details of this year's annual watering priorities can be found on the MDBA's website at: www.mdba.gov.au/what-we-do/environmental-water/environmental-watering-priorities

Agreement Reached on Implementation of the Murray –Darling Basin Plan



South Australia entered into a milestone agreement with the Australian Government and other Basin States, outlining how they will work together in delivering the Murray-Darling Basin Plan.

This is an important step in ensuring the Basin Plan is implemented successfully and a healthy river system is secured for the future.

The South Australian Government has also released an implementation strategy for South Australia, which will guide the State's implementation of the Basin Plan and related programs between 2013 and 2019.

Murray-Darling Basin Plan: South Australian Implementation Strategy 2013-2019 outlines the key actions that will be pursued to ensure the Basin Plan is fully integrated into South Australia's ongoing water management arrangements.

Thanks to the strong support of South Australians, we have achieved a better Basin Plan that can return 3200 gigalitres of water to the river system, with long-lasting benefits for the River Murray and the communities who rely on it.

There will be many opportunities for community and industry to get involved in implementing the Basin Plan in South Australia, specifically through the development of water resource plans, strategic water recovery projects, and planning and management of environmental water.

For more information, or to download *Murray-Darling Basin Plan: South Australian Implementation Strategy 2013-2019*, visit www.environment.sa.gov.au/murray-darling-basin

NRM Volunteer Day on the Coorong

On Sunday 30 June the Mallee and Coorong volunteers held their celebration trip. This year it was a cruise on the 'Spirit of the Coorong' boarding at Long Point and finishing 4 hours later at the Mundoo Channel. Environmental groups from as far afield as Pinaroo, Younghusband near Mannum, Clayton, Tintinara and Meningie were among those present.

Captain Matt gave a running commentary on various aspects Of environmental interest as well as pointing out various bird Species and landmarks. He paid particular attention to the "Bommies" the Bomboras – concretions of a coral-like substance built up to seven feet high by Bristle Worms in the saline environment of the Coorong. We scraped a few and Matt told of being stranded on one for five hours whilst awaiting a tow and a tidal change.

Apparently during the drought when the River Murray was more saline these concretions became a hazard to boats in some areas of the river. Even turtles had to be rescued as concretions were built on their backs and they could not swim.

Colin Grundy spoke of his family's 4 generations who have farmed the islands at the barrages. Originally they ran sheep and almost gave up when they became infected with liver fluke. They changed to cattle and ran them on the low areas in summer and moved them to higher ground in winter. The family is changing to running sheep again now. Apparently Colin's grandfather was paid to plant boxthorn and later was paid to remove it! Matt spoke about the seal population in the Coorong. The New Zealand fur seal started entering the Coorong in 2002 during the drought. When the Murray Mouth was dredged they could be seen in the day lying on the pipes enjoying a massage and at night they fed on the fish attracted to the lights of the dredge. It is estimated there are now approximately 2,000 seals in the Coorong and they are considered a pest to fishermen as they break the nets and eat the catch. Matt's helper Brendan led a walk across the Younghusband Peninsula pointing out various plant species including Muntries and he demonstrated 'cockling' on the ocean beach. He also doubled as waiter serving the morning tea and lunch. The weather was wonderful; sunny with little wind. Perfect for seeing the Coorong at its best. The trip Ended with a scenic coach ride back to Tailern Bend arriving at 4.00pm.



Thanks to Jenny Smith for this report!



'TALKING HEADS'

Lake Albert Scoping Study

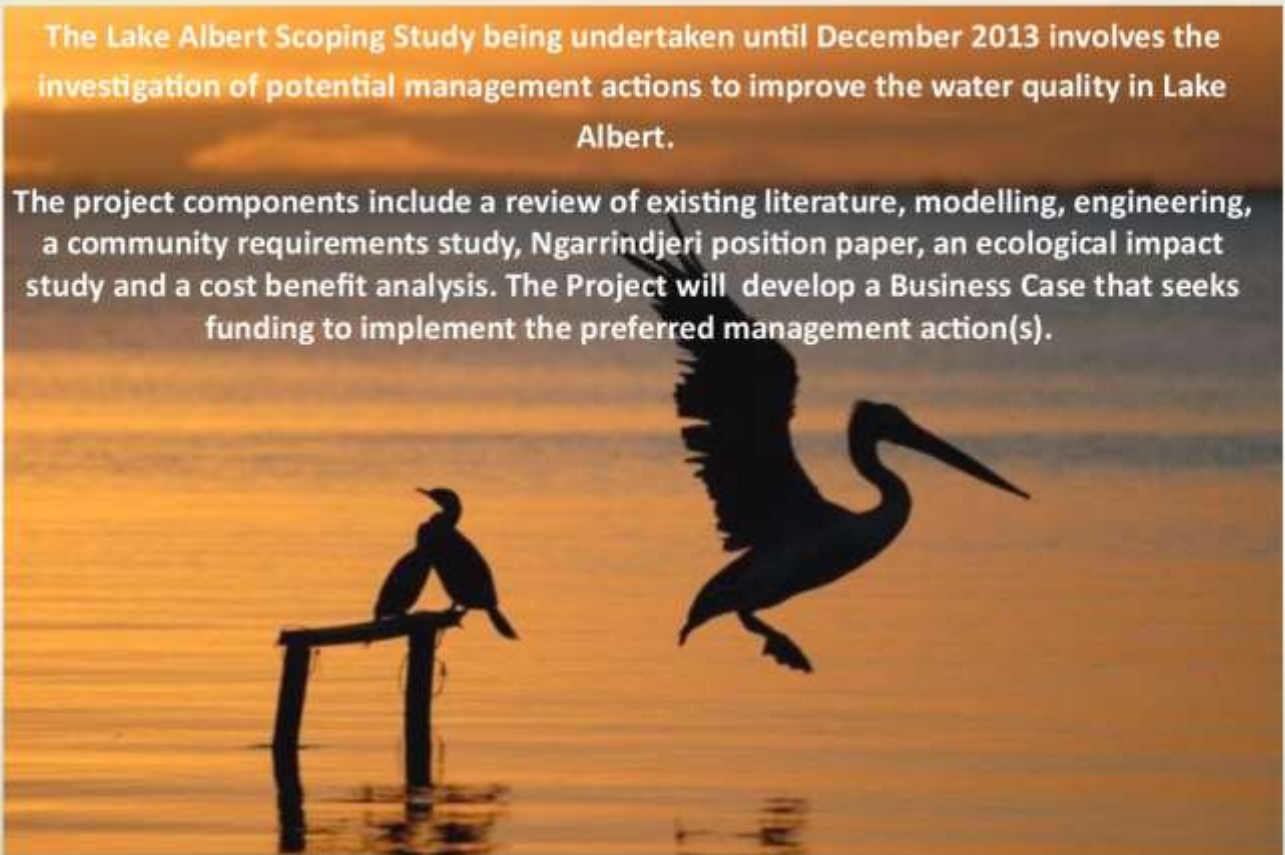
Lakes Hub Meningie Tuesday 23 July

Drop in between 3:30 and 5:30pm

to hear an update on progress and next steps

The Lake Albert Scoping Study being undertaken until December 2013 involves the investigation of potential management actions to improve the water quality in Lake Albert.

The project components include a review of existing literature, modelling, engineering, a community requirements study, Ngarrindjeri position paper, an ecological impact study and a cost benefit analysis. The Project will develop a Business Case that seeks funding to implement the preferred management action(s).



**For information & bookings
contact Lakes Hub Meningie
Ph: (08) 8575 1830
meningie@lakeshub.com
www.lakeshub.com**

The study includes an investigation of:

- ◇ Dredging the Narrows
- ◇ Removal or modification of Narrung Causeway
- ◇ A permanent water regulating structure
- ◇ Coorong connector
- ◇ Lake level cycling

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

On the Level

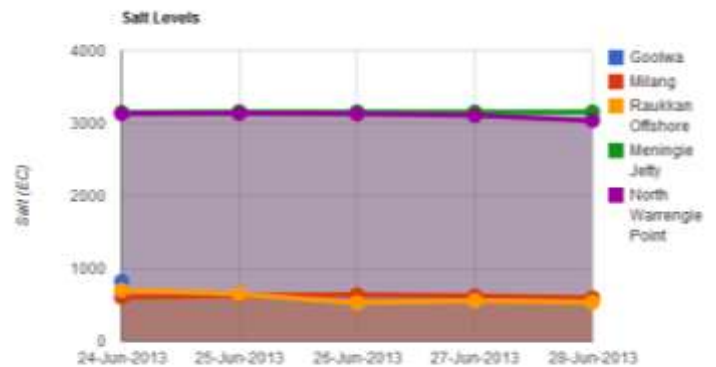
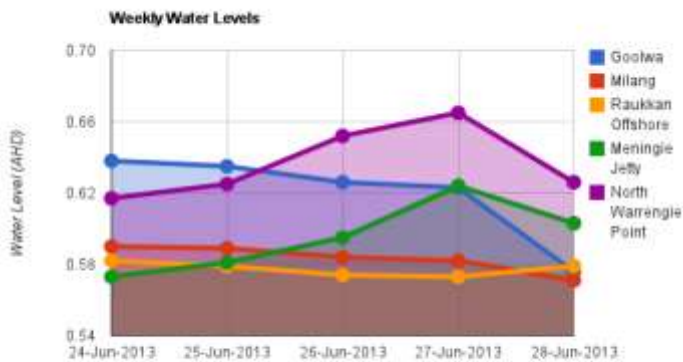
Lake Levels (AHD)

| Date | Goolwa | Milang | Raukkan Offshore | Meningie Jetty | Nth Warrengie Point |
|----------------|--------------|--------------|------------------|----------------|---------------------|
| 24-Jun | 0.638 | 0.59 | 0.582 | 0.573 | 0.617 |
| 25-Jun | 0.635 | 0.589 | 0.579 | 0.581 | 0.625 |
| 26-Jun | 0.626 | 0.584 | 0.574 | 0.595 | 0.652 |
| 27-Jun | 0.623 | 0.582 | 0.573 | 0.624 | 0.665 |
| 28-Jun | 0.576 | 0.571 | 0.579 | 0.603 | 0.626 |
| Average | 0.620 | 0.583 | 0.577 | 0.595 | 0.637 |

Salt Levels (EC)

| Date | Goolwa | Milang | Raukkan Offshore | Meningie Jetty | Nth Warrengie Point |
|----------------|------------|------------|------------------|----------------|---------------------|
| 24-Jun | 820 | 602 | 700 | 3147 | 3131 |
| 25-Jun | | 629 | 647 | 3157 | 3134 |
| 26-Jun | | 638 | 525 | 3155 | 3129 |
| 27-Jun | | 620 | 554 | 3153 | 3106 |
| 28-Jun | | 595 | 534 | 3153 | 3036 |
| Average | 820 | 617 | 592 | 3153 | 3107 |

Data received from: 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>

| 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.

| July 2013 | |
|-----------|--|
| 1 | |
| 2 | Pruning Workshop Milang Community Garden 10.30am ph 8537 0687 |
| 3 | |
| 4 | |
| 5 | |
| 6 | |
| 7 | July 7th - 14th NAIDOC Week www.naidoc.org.au |
| 8 | |
| 9 | |
| 10 | |
| 11 | World Population Day www.unfpa.org (7 billion in 2011) |
| 12 | |
| 13 | Clayton Bay Community Event 9.30am - 2.30pm phone 8537 0506 Orange Bellied Parrot ID workshop Narrung Education Centre 10am ph 0407 649 909 |
| 14 | |
| 15 | |
| 16 | |
| 17 | |
| 18 | |
| 19 | |
| 20 | |
| 21 | |
| 22 | |
| 23 | Lake Albert Scoping Study Talking Heads Meningie Hub 3.30-5.30pm ph 8575 1830 |
| 24 | |
| 25 | Boat Licence Course Meningie Sailing Club 6.30pm ph 8575 1830 or 8575 1106 |
| 26 | Schools Tree Day www.treeday.planetark.org/schools |
| 27 | |
| 28 | National Tree Day www.treeday.planetark.org |
| 29 | |
| 30 | |
| 31 | NRM Education Workshop 'Natural Playgrounds' Adam Bienenstock Murray Bridge 1-4.30pm ph 8555 7086 |

Disclaimer

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