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New Community Nursery Network Coordinator starts in the Hub this Week

Jill Taylor started working in the Hub this week and will be taking over from Jo McPhee who finishes up with us on Thursday.

Jill brings with her a background in agricultural research; predominantly crop improvement and biofuels, while working at the Waite Institute for the last 8 years. This has included managing greenhouse, hothouse and poly-tunnel plant growth and nutrition trials.

Her Horticultural experience has included undertaking nursery & greenhouse training in Iowa and delivering training in Minnesota, USA. Jill has also been chair of the Rodwell Creek/Wistow Landcare Group since 2007. She has an interest in appropriate land management and revegetation practices and has a passion for promoting, knowing and growing bushtucker plant species especially as sustainable crops for small landowners.

Great to have you on board Jill, and we look forward to seeing Jo at Hindmarsh Island Nursery soon!

Best Wishes, Amelia



The weekly links...

Bringing Science to People and People to Science

The Royal Institute of Australia promote public awareness and understanding of science science. It creates real and virtual spaces in which people can listen, talk and think about science in all its shapes and forms: www.riaus.org.au

National Science Week

National Science Week involves a huge range of science-related activities spread across the nation and this year from 10-18 August. For info visit:

www.scienceweek.net.au & www.riaus.org.au/articles/national-science-week-2013

Urban Foxes on the Rise

Seen any foxes lately? Canberra residents report increasing numbers in suburbia:

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2013-08-09/fox-numbers-are-on-the-rise-in-canberra/4875354>

New Booklet: Working with Volunteers: Advice for land managers in the SA Arid Lands

Natural Resources SA Arid Lands are seeking expressions of interest for land management activities that can be undertaken by volunteers on private properties.

www.saalnrn.sa.gov.au/portals/8/Media/Media_Releases/2013/mr_volunteerbooklet_270513.pdf

Green Sea Turtles eating more plastic

Did you know Plastic never breaks down it just breaks up into smaller pieces. The impacts on marine organisms is frightening!

www.econews.com.au/news-to-sustain-our-world/report-green-sea-turtles-eating-more-plastic

Meningie Lakefront Project Nominated for Award

Meningie Lakefront Habitat Restoration Project has been put forward to win an Australian Institute of Landscape Architects award!

You can help them win by Voting online:

www.adelaidereview.com.au/aila-awards

Click on the Meningie article (third row) and click **Vote** at the bottom of the page.

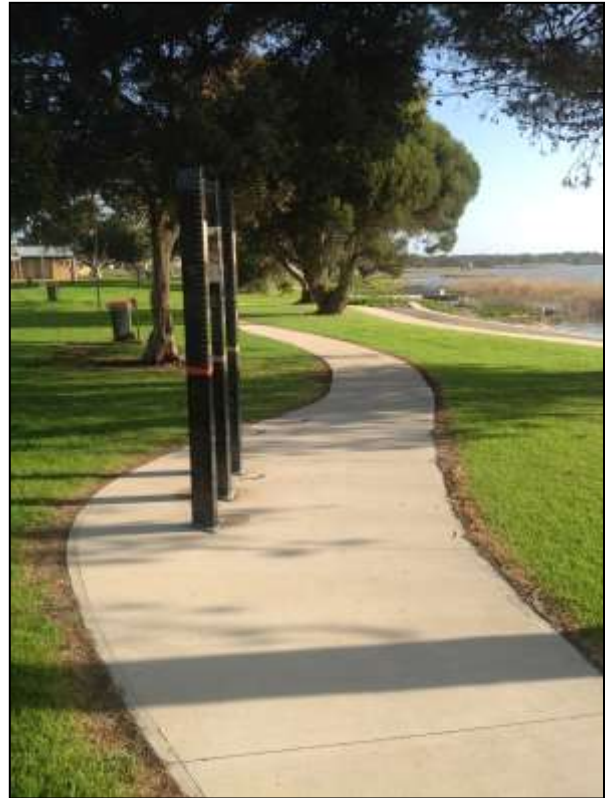
The Meningie Lakefront Habitat Restoration Project is one of a number of federally funded initiatives to improve habitat for local flora and fauna and to generate enhanced social capital and community spirit in the Coorong, Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth region of South Australia. The project was announced in 2009 at the height of the drought, during which time, water levels in the Lower Lakes and Lake Albert in particular, had reached record low levels with salinity presenting a high risk to the health of an already fragile environment.

ASPECT Studios was commissioned by the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR) to design and superintend the construction of site infrastructure including two viewing platforms, a bird viewing platform of beach stabilisation seating. The works complement an existing interpretive pathway which included signage and seating, to guide visitors along the foreshore and provide insight into European, Indigenous and environmental history of the area.

Responding to a relatively open brief that focussed on integration with the recently constructed works and durability, ASPECT Studios design direction took reference from the inherent site qualities – water's edge, meandering walks and marginal habitat. In keeping with the intent to rehabilitate lakefront plantings along the edge of the reserve, the viewing platforms were kept low and discreet, blending in with the surrounding lake edge. A simplicity of material use including composite timber, steel plate and concrete, met the design brief requirements for durability and working closely with our Engineers FMG, managed to achieve a design life of 100 years for all elements. Interpretive signage plates were designed in-house to compliment the form and character of the interventions, and provide visitors with information on the local flora and fauna that can be found in the areas.

The completed project provides the people of Meningie and the many visitors *to the town, with a vastly improved foreshore reserve that allows opportunities for visitors to engage with the water's edge and to be immersed in the unique lakefront habitat.*

Text from website: www.adelaidereview.com.au/aila-awards



SA Native Food Association

On Saturday 27th July Amelia attended a SA Native Food Association meeting on a private property near Palmer where we got to have a look at a native plant food trial with Neville Bonney. Ben Lethbridge demonstrated grafting Solanum species and interested members got a chance to practice a couple of different grafting techniques. Check out their website for some great resources and details of up-coming events and meetings.

What is SANFA?

SANFA and its members aim to:

- **Promote** the cultivation of native plant food species in sustainable production
- **Promote** the use of native plant foods in Australia cuisine and products
- **Produce** high quality native food products
- **Promote** ethical business standards and practice
- **Maintain** an organizational culture of cooperation, friendship and support for all who wish to be involved
- **Support** cooperation and networking within the whole native food industry in Australia
- **Act** as a platform for government and industry members to communicate on relevant issues
- **Support** the maintenance of Australia's biological diversity

For more information visit their website at www.sanativefoods.org.au



Pop Up Foundation

On 31st July Amelia went to an Education for Sustainability Network meeting held at St Catherine's Primary School in Stirling. The theme for the meeting was "Transformations" which is about how little changes can make a big difference to our environment and creative solutions to environmental issues. The Guest Speaker at the meeting was Paul Clarke, internationally best-selling author of *Education for Sustainability: Becoming Naturally Smart*, and co-founder of Pop-Up Foundation who gave a very inspiring presentation.

Paul started by describing the biggest threats to our environment; soil erosion, biodiversity loss, water stress, oil, water equity, climate change and acidification of oceans and suggested looking to nature for solutions.

The Pop-Up Foundation has set up a number of innovative businesses and education solutions that begin to tackle some of these big environmental and social problems. One of these sustainable businesses enterprises is The Thoughtful Coffee Company which supports local coffee farmers in Uganda, giving them a good and reliable price for their crop (in a community in great need of support), profits are then split between the farmers and communities (including schools) that are selling the Coffee in the UK. This model brings about transparency in trade, bringing the farmer right to the end of the production chain both in terms of profit and in consumer minds (a concept that Paul is very passionate about) and provides educational opportunities for schools students involved.

Food for thought!

For more information visit: www.pop-up-foundation.org

School Pallet Garden Competition

An awesome competition for schools around Australia. Build a garden with six salvaged pallets to win some amazing prizes for your school. ABC Gardening Australia's own Costa Giorgiadis will be helping with the judging. Entries close 30 August 2013.

Click here for more details:

www.ecoxpo.com.au/palette-garden-competition



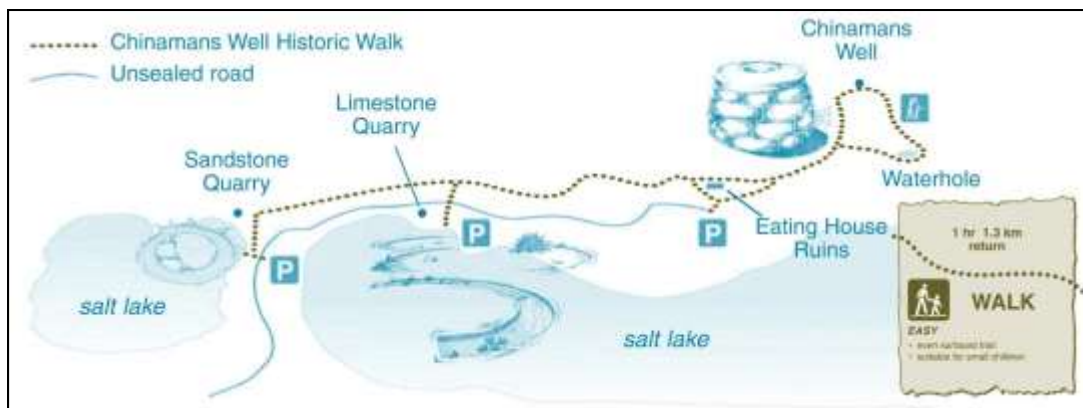
The History Spot - Chinaman's Well

A stone well between the main road and the Coorong 14 kms south of Salt Creek, was situated on the eastern side of the old mail track. The origins of the well are a little unclear but the most popular theory is that it was constructed by itinerant Chinese heading towards the Victorian goldfields in the 1850's. another theory is that the well was constructed by a Chinese family who settled at the location and sold vegetables and water to travellers. It is likely that the well was actually constructed towards the end of 1855 and early 1856 when the influx of Chinese was commencing. Three of these exist in the Coorong area: originally ten feet deep, carefully walled with trimmed stone and overlaid with a circular slab-with an access hole in the centre. Where travellers normally scratched out a temporary soak and moved on, the identity of the men who constructed these Wishing wells with such painstaking craftsmanship niggles our minds. Chinese they must have been, we say, and following a trail to the Victorian Goldfields, but exactly when and specifically by whom and for what purpose is now never likely to be known. There is still need for mystery, wonder and imagination in the world.

Extracted from *Coorong* by Colin Thiele and the *Coorong Gazetteer* by Peter Doolette



16km south of Salt Creek along the Princes Highway, Chinaman's Well is reached by a 1.3km smooth unsealed access road.



A step back in time, this area has a unique place in the local history of the gold rush days and the establishment of the stock, mail and communications routes. The curved limestone blocks and the sandstone cap on the top of the well were obtained from nearby quarries. Allow yourself plenty of time to explore the area.

www.coorongcountry.com.au/html/coorong-walking-trails.html#chinamans

Community update – Special Edition August 2013

Currency Creek regulator removal—dredging work complete

Work to finalise the removal of the Currency Creek Regulator is nearing completion with the dredge to be removed from the site by Friday 9 August. The barge is currently making its way back across the Goolwa Channel to Hindmarsh Island where it will be lifted onto a truck and escorted by Police to its next job.



An amphibious excavator will be carrying out any extra work needing to be undertaken on-water. All on-water works will be finalised within the next week.

The boating exclusion zone will continue to be enforced around the site until full completion of the project.

DEWNR will continue to keep the community informed about the project through regular *Community Updates* and through the Lakes Hub at Milang.

Developing and implementing the Long-Term Plan is part of the South Australian Government's Murray Futures program, which is funded by the Australian Government's Water for the Future initiative.

Community Planting Coming to an End

Another highly successful Goolwa to Wellington LAP Community Planting Season is coming to an end with the last couple of planting days happening this week. The Victor Harbor Football Club are pictured here after planting their final 2,500 plants on Sunday to make a total of 23,856 planted at this site in 2013 by six different community groups including schools and sporting clubs! This particular site, on the Tookayerta Creek, overlooks Black Swamp and is adjacent an important site for the endangered Mt Lofty Southern Emu-wren. The GWLAP are re-establishing buffering vegetation adjacent Black Swamp in order to build habitat resilience for the Southern Emu-Wren, whilst restoring and connecting isolated scattered trees and vegetation patches across the property.

Congratulations to all the staff and volunteers from various community groups on all their hard work!

Southern Emu-wren photo:
www.birdsinbackyards.net



NRM Education

Free PD Session: Bush tucker and Indigenous plant use

Come along and hear about Indigenous plant use, including bush tucker gardens. Find out how to create your own garden and how to link Indigenous plant use with the Australian Curriculum.

Thurs Aug 22, Mt Barker South Primary School, 4:15 – 6:30pm -

OPAL and NRM Education Free PD Session: Sustainable School Gardens – Plot to Plate

Workshop will include – Introduction to Bush Tucker Gardens, How to improve your soil and the opportunity to network and ask questions with other teachers interested in school gardens.

Register your attendance before Friday 31 August to receive a free fruit tree of your choice for your school (one fruit tree per school)

Thursday Sept 5, Mypolonga Primary School, 4:15 – 6:30pm -

Nominate your school for the NRM Education for Sustainability Awards.

These awards are an extension of the AuSSI-SA recognition process to highlight the achievements of stand-out sites. They recognise and celebrate the efforts of preschools and schools across the state at embedding sustainability in their site culture. The awards are also a great opportunity to share your story of sustainability and receive recognition for your achievements. Once submissions are confirmed by NRM Education staff, sites will receive a certificate of recognition and will be entered into the awards held in term four. The application form,

On the Level

DATE 5th August - 9th August 2013

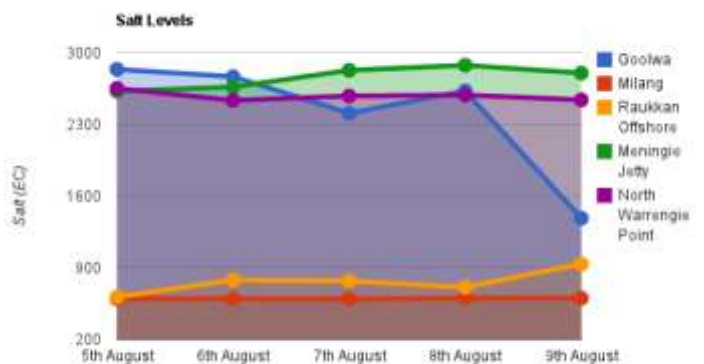
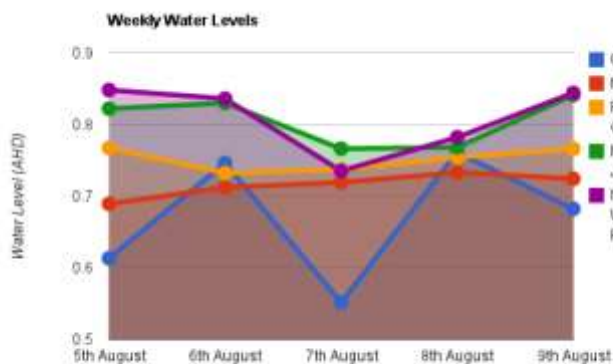
Lake Levels (AHD)

Date	Goolwa	Milang	Raukkan Offshore	Meningie Jetty	Nth Warrengie
5th August	0.613	0.689	0.767	0.822	0.848
6th August	0.746	0.712	0.732	0.83	0.836
7th August	0.551	0.719	0.737	0.766	0.735
8th August	0.761	0.733	0.754	0.768	0.782
9th August	0.682	0.724	0.766	0.841	0.844
Average	0.671	0.715	0.751	0.805	0.809

Salt Levels (EC)

Date	Goolwa	Milang	Raukkan Offshore	Meningie Jetty	Nth Warrengie
5th August	2838	595	612	2625	2652
6th August	2767	595	778	2665	2535
7th August	2409	592	769	2829	2578
8th August	2628	601	708	2878	2587
9th August	1383	601	936	2802	2540
Average	2405	597	761	2760	2578

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

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.

August 2013	
10	
11	
12	
13	
14	MDCA AGM 7.30pm Guest Speaker: 'Community Solar Power Projects' MOSHCC ph 8537 0687
15	
16	
17	
18	
19	August 19-25 Keep Australia Beautiful Week www.kab.org.au
20	Eco-wise Action course Tuesdays 1.30-4.30pm Ace Space MOSHCC ph 8537 0687
21	CLLMM Quarterly Project Officer meeting 10.30am ph Lakes Hub 8537 0808 info@lakeshub.com
22	
23	
24	
25	25-31 August Cool Australia's EnviroWeek "young Australians creating a sustainable future" www.enviroweek.org
26	
27	
28	
29	
30	Nursery & Garden Industry SA Pest & Disease Workshop Urrbrae 9am-2pm for info: gdalwood@ngisa.com.au
31	

September 2013	
1	September is National Biodiversity month! www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/month.html 1st September is National Wattle Day www.wattleday.asn.au
2	2-8 September National Landcare Week www.landcareonline.com.au
3	
4	National Walk to Work Day www.walk.com.au
5	Friends of Meningie Meeting 4pm Lakes Hub Meningie 8575 1830
6	
7	Threatened Species Day (commemorating the death of the last Tasmanian tiger at Hobart Zoo in 1936)
8	National Bilby Day www.savethebilbyfund.com
9	
10	
11	
12	

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