**Lakes Hub Bulletin Survey July 2013**

The purpose of the Lakes Hub Bulletin survey is to:

* Confirm that the Lakes Hub Bulletin increases community resilience[[1]](#footnote-1)
* To collect data from users as to the effectiveness of the Bulletin
* Enable Lakes Hub staff to make changes/improvements to better meet the needs of Coorong, Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth (CLLMM) Community

In the period July 2012 to June 2013 there were 50 bulletins produced.

The Lakes Hub mailing list had 270 subscribers at the beginning of the reporting period and 300 at the end (but we know that the bulletin is forwarded on to many more people through other email networks).

64 people (21%) responded to the survey, an increase of 6% on 2012 survey.

As indicators of resilience the survey measures levels of community connectedness, knowledge and participation in relation to CLLMM and Lakes Hub programs.

1. Do people have more knowledge? **YES**

Survey respondents report that the Lakes Hub Bulletin has increased their understanding of:

* local flora & fauna (89%)
* history in the region (97%)
* cultural significance of the region to the Ngarrindjeri people (78%)
* environment & issues in the CLLMM region (94%).

1. Are people participating more? **YES**

56% of respondents reported that the bulletin encouraged them to participate in environmental projects, events, activities & training. Respondents also reported that the Lakes Hub Bulletin has assisted them to participate in the following ways:

* 64% forward the bulletin on to others
* 59% have been encouraged to share their skills, expertise & learning with the wider community
* 31% reported changing the way they manage their business, work or volunteering.

1. Are people experiencing community connectedness? **YES**

The bulletin has helped people connect with their local environment and community in the following ways:

* 64% reported that the Bulletin connected them to other groups or organisations working in the region
* 56% reported that the bulletin encouraged them to participate in environmental projects, events, activities & training
* 78% reported a better understanding of the cultural significance of the region to the Ngarrindjeri people.
* 59% have been encouraged to share their skills, expertise & learning with the wider community
* 97% feel more up-to-date about what’s happening in the region
* 38% have contacted other organisations

Comments from the survey also reflect a feeling of connection;

* “keeps me up to date with info locally… it’s a valuable link to the region”
* “I meet many people at the different events, and share knowledge and link people to different events I receive by email”
* “great source of local information”
* “Because of the distance that I live from any town, the Bulletin allows me to keep abreast of the issues that affect where I live (on the Coorong). Key information contained in the Bulletin leads me to sites where I can have my finger on the pulse at all times. I feel that I can contribute to any discussion. I look forward to the Bulletin every week and see the Meningie Lakes Hub and the Lakes Hub Bulletin as a vital cog in the community wheel. Community members will visit the Lakes Hub in Meningie, pick up information or can talk to a 'real' person who lives in the area and has the knowledge of current issues. They will then have a more informed view, can access paper copies, and are more willing to share their own view on issues on their doorstep, leading to more participation and involvement. The Meningie Lakes Hub is a vital part of our community.”

**Significant changes since 2012 Bulletin survey:**

27 more people responded to the survey

88% of survey respondents said that they open and read the bulletin each week (up 18%)

97% said that the Bulletin increased their knowledge of history in the region (up 8%)

78% reported that the bulletin gave them a better understanding of cultural significance (up 10%)

59% said that the bulletin encouraged them to share their skills (up 8%)

89% reported better understanding of local flora & fauna (down 6%)

94% reported improved understanding of environment & issues in the region (down 6%)

31% said the bulletin had assisted them to manage their business, work or volunteering (down 10%)

**Suggestions from survey respondents for Lakes Hub Bulletin inclusions and improvements:**

* More info on plants & animals & links to Aboriginal cultural aspects (in relation to World Wetlands Day Boat trip)
* articles from community members on how activities in the area have impacted/changed/ benefitted them
* I would like to see more activities coming out from the Meningie hub
* It would be good to see more links with opportunities in projects in other lap areas or maybe some feature articles/job opportunities
* More relevant Environmental Training Courses would be great
* Tips and tricks relating to environmental management are always valuable. i.e. plant in focus, i.e. where it lives, soil habitat, propagation, when to collect seed...is always interesting to me. Linking what's going on i.e. bird surveys ...with revegetation program, with better farming practices etc. all relate to creating a better environmental picture of the region. And how it fits socially past and present...thats what it good about the bulletin.
* Information on how the Ngarrindjeri used grasses, seeds, plants in general in their daily life
* Raptor identification and habitat workshop
* Map showing location of Hubs and opening hours
* Your newsletter is useful. However a glaring omission is the actual flow (in GL) of the R Murray into SA & the number of barrages open at the bottom end. Years ago, I asked the Hub to include these important data, year-round, but was deflected to a govt website.... this govt website didn't work, .... so no flow nor barrage info
* More links to Murray Valley Standard stories... but I'm biased in that respect
* Regional economic development and ideas for sustainability.

**What Actions Will We Take?**

* Follow up on suggestions for Bulletin articles and stories as above e.g. plant profiles, more fauna information, Ngarrindjeri information, River Murray water flows, barrage operations, links & stories from other LAP groups, etc.
* Lakes Hub staff to contact Ngarrindjeri Regional Authority & Camp Coorong about getting bush tucker information, stories, plant profiles in bulletin and explore possibility of a regular monthly article.
* Continue regular History Spot articles and introduce regular flora & fauna Spot
* Invite more community contribution e.g. Letters to the editor, what’s happening in the region, staff reports on projects?
* Discuss possible future activities at Meningie Hub (photography course?, Hub host First Aid course?, Native Orchid walk, bush tucker info).
* Explore potential of increasing information and activities that focus on economic development and sustainability.

1. We define community resilience as the ability of a community to adapt to both internal and external social, economic, and environmental pressures to emerge stronger and more resourceful. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)