

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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Meningie Lakefront Habitat Restoration Project Wins Awards

The Meningie Lakefront Habitat Restoration project picked up 2 awards in the 2013 South Australian Landscape Architecture Awards on Friday night. The Project has won the Design Award and People Choice Award; a great recognition for an fantastic project, well done to all those involved!

Check out the details at: www.architectureau.com/articles/2013-south-australian-landscape-architecture-awards



Environmental Helicopter Survey over Hindmarsh Island



On Friday 13th September, the Department for Environment, Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR) will be conducting an aerial helicopter survey over Hindmarsh Island, Goolwa. For more information see full article page 6.

The weekly links...

Boomerang topic comes back again - response by reader:
"Charlie Drake made a song about the boomerang as well"
www.youtube.com/watch?v=9AyotLiqJdg

Goolwa artists take Coorong Stories to Canberra

Goolwa-based artists, Margaret Worth, Bill 'Swampy' Marsh, Richard Hodges and Michelle Murray, have just returned after presenting collected stories from the Goolwa region to a Canberra audience as part of the Centenary of Canberra's *One River* project:

www.belconnenartscentre.com.au/whatson/oneriver.html

Full program information for *One River* at the National Museum of Australia:

www.nma.gov.au/whats-on/events/critical_undercurrents_-_a_one_river_symposium

Free baits for ground nesting bird habitat in MDB region

www.naturalresources.sa.gov.au/samurraydarlingbasin/news/130903-spring-fox-baiting

Vote for your favourite SA food company!

Vote in the new Buy SA Consumer Award: www.adelaidenow.com.au/business/vote-for-your-favourite-sa-food-company-in-the-new-buy-sa-consumer-award/story-fni6uma6-1226693638312

Information guide for Murray-Darling ecological community

An information guide is now available to assist the public with understanding the River Murray-Darling to sea ecological community. The information guide can be accessed online from the Department's website at: www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/threatened/publications/river-murray-guide.html

September is Biodiversity month - Animal Profile

Water-rat (*Hydromys chrysogaster*)

Identification

The Water-rat is one of Australia's largest rodents and is usually found near permanent bodies of water. Well adapted to aquatic life with its webbed hind feet and waterproof coat, the Water-rat can be identified by its large size and long tail with a white tip. The main characteristics that help distinguish the Water-rat from other rodents include:

- **Front teeth:** One pair of distinctive chisel shaped incisors with hard yellow enamel on front surfaces.
- **Head:** Flattened head, long blunt nose, with abundant whiskers, small eyes.
- **Ears:** Notably small ears.
- **Coloring:** Variable. Near-black, grey to brown, with white to orange belly. Thick soft waterproof fur.
- **Main feature:** Webbed hind-feet.
- **Tail:** Thick, white-tipped.

Size Range

Body 231 - 370mm, tail 242mm - 345 mm, weight 340 - 1275g.

Distribution

The Water-rat is found in Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania, South Australia, Western Australia (south-west and north), Northern Territory.

Habitat

The Water-rat is one of Australia's largest rodents and is usually found near permanent bodies of fresh or brackish water. The Water-rat is one of Australia's only two amphibious mammals (the platypus is the other). They live in burrows alongside river and lake banks.



Feeding and Diet

The Water-rat feeds on a wide range of prey including large insects, crustaceans, mussels and fishes, and even frogs, lizards, small mammals and water birds. It forages by swimming underwater. Once it catches its prey, it usually carries it back to a regular feeding site.

Other Behaviors and Adaptations

Although native rodents are usually nocturnal, the Water-rat is most active around sunset and may even forage during the day.

The burrow is usually hidden among vegetation and built along the banks of rivers and lakes. The round entrance has a diameter of about 15 cm. In dense populations, males are territorial and defend their areas aggressively. In these circumstances, it is common to see Water-rats with damaged tails as a result of these fights.

Conservation Status

During the depression in the 1930s, a ban was placed on the import of furred skins (mostly American Muskrat). The Water-rat was seen as a perfect substitute and the price of a Water-rat pelt increased from four shillings in 1931 to 10 shillings in 1941. The species was heavily hunted during this time until protective legislation was introduced. Populations seem to have made a recovery.

The main threats to the Water-rat today are habitat alteration as a result of flood mitigation and swamp drainage, and predation by introduced animals such as cats and foxes.

See more at: <http://australianmuseum.net.au/Water-rat#sthash.GacSCZvh.dpuf>

Community Advisory Panel (CAP) - Member Profile

Anne Hartnett

I live at Point Sturt and run beef cattle there on a mixture of owned land, and stock on agistment.

I arrived at the former Outward Bound School at Clayton 37 years ago as a penniless adventurer travelling around Australia with Mora McCallum. I worked there as a handywoman, picked and pruned grapes, and then went to work for Graham Yelland.

My driver is passion about the beauty of the natural environment. I am an inaugural member of the Point Sturt and Districts Landcare Group, and its current Chair. I have been a member and Chair of the Goolwa to Wellington LAP. I spent 6 years as a member of the South Australian Murray Darling Basin NRM Board, was one of the founding members and first Chair of the River Lakes and Coorong Action Group, and a member of the group which prepared the long Term Plan for the Coorong, Lower lakes and Murray Mouth. I am also currently a member of the River Murray Advisory Committee. Indirectly I also have an interest in Tourism as I have canoed most of the SA River Murray and into the Coorong with groups of young people in my role as Expedition Co-ordinator with the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme.

I was interested in the CAP because I was involved in the committee writing the Long Term Plan, but even more so because I believe the Lakes are the jewel in South Australia's crown. They are precious, need to be treated as such, and revered.

My links to the local community are friendship and respect for the abilities of many other residents as well as many interests in common. Since becoming a member of the CAP I have learnt a great deal and really value the opportunity for the community and Government representatives to work together on common problems, to the enrichment and breaking down of barriers between both groups of people.

As part of my role as a CAP member to represent community and to communicate information about the CLLMM Recovery Project and TLM Icon Site Program to local community members. For example, Point Sturt and Districts Landcare Group recently had Jason Higham (DEWNR Manager Environmental Integration, CLLMM Program) speak at their AGM on 'Managing Lake Levels for Environmental Reasons.'

Members of the public can approach me about issues in the region. At the moment I am taking a couple of questions to the CAP - There is concern in the Lake Albert community about the current release of environmental water, and the EPBC Act listing. What will that mean for local people and businesses? What are the implications of zoning in the EPBC Act on primary producers, and future development around the lakes?

I think the CAP is progressing extremely well since first meeting in 2012, particularly in terms of the respectful relationships being developed between staff and community members, and in the development and implementation of joint projects, big or small. E.g the naming of the Lakes plantings, and the scoping study being developed for the future management of Lake Albert.

I can be contacted at annelhartnett@gmail.com



The amazing, talented and much loved Anne Hartnett

The History Spot

Erosion at Lake Alexandrina *The Advertiser - Thursday 8th November 1954*

Between 1,000 and 2,000 acres of land had been lost because of lake side erosion at Lake Alexandrina, Mr. White (LCP) said in the Assembly yesterday. The Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Christian) said erosion problems on the shores of the lake were the responsibility of the landowners. He added that land owners should not expect the Government to undertake preventive work on their behalf. Mr Christian said the land to the waterline was privately owned and landholders should experiment with plantings of reeds or rushes in an attempt to arrest the erosion. Many landholders had had success by planting willows along the shore line. Mr. Christian said that the soon conservation branch of the Department of Agriculture did not have the staff to devote time to research into this problem. Much lakeside country had been lost as a result of a rise in the level of the lake, caused by the lock system.

[www.trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/47595919?searchTerm=lake alexandrina&searchLimits=l-category=Article|||l-availability=y|||l-australian=y](http://www.trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/47595919?searchTerm=lake%20alexandrina&searchLimits=l-category=Article|||l-availability=y|||l-australian=y)

Coastal Funding Available

Are you a landholder wanting to improve or conserve biodiversity along the Limestone Coast, the Coorong and connecting areas? Funding is now available for a wide range of activities.

For info: www.senrm.sa.gov.au or contact Raelene Mibus on 08 87351177 or raelene.mibus@sa.gov.au

Here is your chance to be heard in Canberra

Canberra University is conducting a survey of regional populations on the issue of wellbeing. More and more government is understanding that there is a strong connection between personal wellbeing and the state of our environment and natural resources. We want to hear from you - whether you're a farmer, live in a rural town or a regional city. Prizes to be won! It will take 30 minutes and produce information your community can use. www.canberra.edu.au/murray-darling-crn/regional-wellbeing

Gazania control

From Riverland West Landcare quarterly newsletter - www.rwlandcare.com.au

GAZANIAS—GOING, GOING, GONE?

Year 6/7 students from Ramco Primary School are involved with a trial project to test different methods of controlling Gazanias, a native plant of southern Africa.

Although an attractive plant, they are a highly invasive weed which is a big threat to our floodplains as they can dramatically alter plant communities by outcompeting native plants with their high demand for nutrients and water.

The students, working in groups, have an assigned plot which they will monitor over the period of the project, recording observations on a weekly basis to test their control methods for success rates.

The various control methods to be trialled include:

- Removal of flower heads
- Digging out the entire plant
- Squashing the plant
- Covering the entire area with black plastic
- Cutting and spraying with glyphosate*
- Spraying the whole plant with glyphosate
- Control site

* glyphosate to be applied by chemical Certified volunteer



Seth immersing himself in the project



Students working on one of 7 plots

TALKING HEADS

Natural Scrubland Walk

Local Native Orchids

Thursday 12th September

Meet at Meningie Hub 10am

Join us for our second walk to see some local native orchids flowering near Meningie.

Sam Blight from the Coorong-Tatiara Local Action Planning Association will be talking about native orchids and their threats.

Following the walk we will be returning to the Lakes Hub for further discussion over a light lunch provided by CTLAP.



RSVP
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Ph: (08) 8575 1830
meningie@lakeshub.com



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Up-Coming Events

Bush Management Workshops

Irongrass Environmental Rehabilitation Services free 2-day workshops for community volunteers:
15th & 16th October Murray Bridge
22nd & 23rd October Glossop
ph 8580 1930 danielle.packer@sa.gov.au

Climate Science Conference: Education & Action for Climate

Thursday 3rd October, 2013 9am-4.30pm

Register at www.aeusa.asn.au

Full conference program at www.cleansa.org

2 New Short Films presented by Clean Land Air & Water SA (CLAWSA): 'Fractured Country: An Unconventional Invasion' & 'Undermining Australia: Coal Vs Communities' followed by Q&A. Wednesday 25th September 6pm SA Writers Centre 187 Rundle St Adelaide RSVP clawsouthaustralia@gmail.com
See trailers at www.lockthegate.org.au/films

The Green Hubs Energy Efficiency Program

If your community organisation is struggling with rising energy costs book a presentation to help your organisation become a green hub. Contact Kathy Whitta (08) 8223 5155
Kathy.whitta@conservationsa.org.au

Open Gardens

'Bush Block' Day Sunday 22nd September 10am - 4pm plant sales, kids games & prizes, food, live music, guided bush walks with Sue Bradstreet. Entry \$10 adults \$2 kids, funds raised go to Partners in Disability & Development and Diversity. Walker St Macclesfield ph 0466 675 192

Wirrapunga Indigenous Garden 21st & 22nd September 10am-4.30pm Showcasing 45 species of locally indigenous orchids as well as over 400 species of other local native plants, organic vegetable garden, talks, food, plant sale, wildlife displays, art sale. Funds raised go to the Foundation for Australia's Most Endangered - FAME. 7 Williams Rd Aldgate.

Environmental Helicopter Survey over Hindmarsh Island

On Friday 13th September, the Department for Environment, Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR) will be conducting an aerial helicopter survey over Hindmarsh Island, Goolwa. The purpose of the survey is to determine feral deer distribution and vegetation patterns across the Island.

Deer are infrequently sighted at various locations around the north and north eastern parts of Hindmarsh Island. It is unknown to what extent the populations of deer travel further east into the Melaleuca swamps of Lucerne Island, northern Mundoo Island and Long Island. The survey will also look at whether deer swim over to more isolated islands such as Reedy and Snake Islands.

The populations of deer are impacting on revegetation efforts on Hindmarsh Island and also compete with stock for pastures.

The survey will be conducted using a helicopter and will be targeting known deer habitat on Hindmarsh Island as well as the swamps and islands further east where ground surveying is not practical.

The data collected will form an important part of planning for effective environmental management into the future.

The helicopter will be operating at low levels which may at times disturb stock in the area.

If you have any question please contact Ben Shepherd, Pest and Weed Project Officer on 8463 7682

Learn about & explore the innovative idea of 
Crowdfunding!



Come and join us as we research a small project idea & explore this innovative approach! Learn some exciting new skills. Some computing experience needed.

Thursdays 9.30am-12.30pm
17th, 24th, 31st October
& 7th November
Gold coin donation

For more information or to book ring Milang Community Centre

8537 0687
or email
reception@moshcc.com.au



MILANG OLD SCHOOL HOUSE COMMUNITY CENTRE

Initiative of
Skills for All
 Government of South Australia

On the Level

DATE 2nd September - 6th September 2013

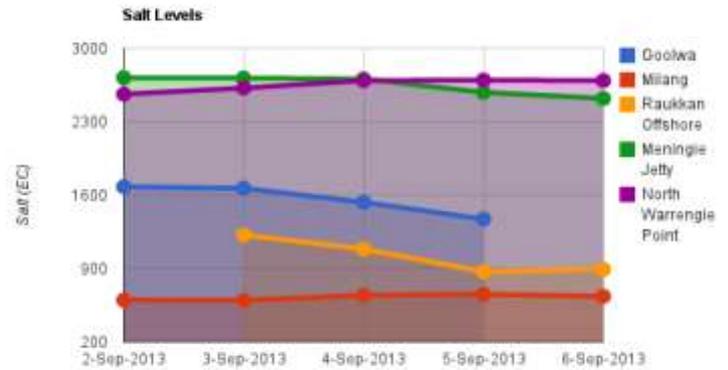
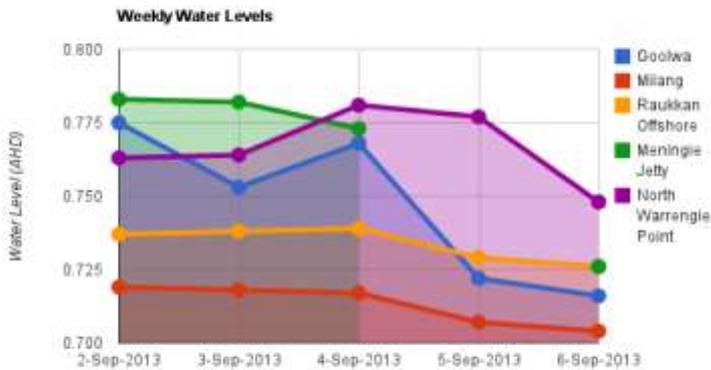
Lake Levels (AHD)

Date	Goolwa	Milang	Raukkan Offshore	Meningie Jetty	Nth Warrengie Point
2-Sep	0.775	0.719	0.737	0.783	0.763
3-Sep	0.753	0.718	0.738	0.782	0.764
4-Sep	0.768	0.717	0.739	0.773	0.781
5-Sep	0.722	0.707	0.729		0.777
6-Sep	0.716	0.704	0.726	0.726	0.748
	0.747	0.713	0.734	0.726	0.767

Salt Levels (EC)

Date	Goolwa	Milang	Raukkan Offshore	Meningie Jetty	Nth Warrengie Point
2-Sep	1680	598		2719	2563
3-Sep	1665	596	1220	2716	2621
4-Sep	1532	644	1085	2708	2693
5-Sep	1371	654	870	2580	2697
6-Sep		634	892	2522	2692
	1562	625	1017	2649	2653

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, 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.

September 2013	
9	September is National Biodiversity month! www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/month.html
10	Eco-wise Action course Tuesdays 1.30-4.30pm 'Smart Shopping & Waste' Ace Space MOSHCC ph 8537 0687 Yunggorrendi First Nations Centre Seminar 3pm Flinders Uni ph 8201 2951
11	
12	Local Native Orchid Scrubland Walk 10am Meningie Hub ph 8575 1830 meningie@lakeshub.com Angas River Catchment Group AGM 7.30pm Strath NRC RSVP Liz Schofield 0427 802 138 liz.schofield@gwlap.org.au Intro to Bird Watching and Monitoring 9-3 12th October! Murray Bridge book 8580 1830 danielle.packer@sa.gov.au
13	DEWNR Helicopter survey of deer on Hindmarsh Island
14	
15	
16	
17	Eco-wise Action course Final session ALL WELCOME 1.30-4.30pm Ace Space MOSHCC ph 8537 0687 Ranges to River NRM meeting & 'Keeping Your Soil Healthy' 10am ph 8532 9113 debbie.wilkinson@sa.gov.au
18	Weed & Vermin Forum Meningie Golf Club 2pm ph 8578 1493
19	DVD 'Iron Curtain-Ribbon of Life' Ace Space 4pm ph Lakes Hub 8537 0808
20	Yunggorrendi First Nations Centre Seminar 3pm Flinders Uni www.flinders.edu.au/events
21	Open Garden Wirrapunga Indigenous Garden Williams Rd Aldgate 10am-4.30pm
22	Open Garden Wirrapunga Indigenous Garden Williams Rd Aldgate 10am-4.30pm Open 'Bush Block' Day Walker St Macclesfield 10am-4.30pm
23	
24	Neville Bonney 'Knowing, Growing & Eating Edible Native Food Plants' 7.15pm ph 8390 1891
25	2 new short films presented by CLAWSA 6pm SA Writers Centre Rundle St Adelaide
26	
27	
28	
29	
30	
October 2013	
1	
2	
3	Climate Science Conference 9am-4.30pm Aust Education Union Greenhill Rd Parkside www.cleansa.org
4	
5	Milang Old School House 10th Birthday Celebrations!
6	
7	Strathalbyn Show

Disclaimer

All the links and articles in this Bulletin are provided as a courtesy to recipients. While I try and keep these links and articles as up-to-date as possible, I can't guarantee their accuracy, adequacy, timeliness, or completeness.

In addition, the existence of a link to another site or resource does not constitute a recommendation or endorsement of that site or resource. The Lakes Hub does not accept responsibility or liability for any information at any of the sites linked to from this Bulletin.

If you feel a link description, site, piece of advice or anything else mentioned here is inappropriate, do [let me know](#) and I will endeavour to correct it where necessary.