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Desalination

Goodmorning,

I wanted to tell you all a little about the Adelaide Desalination Plant, after our visit there last week. The sheer scale of the project is mind blowing! State of the art technology, best practice in energy efficiency, energy recovery, flexibility and longevity are all very impressive. It was also a huge reality check for me in terms of the fact that this is not for sometime in the future, but right now! The plant is currently operating at 30% capacity producing approx 15% of Adelaide's current water supply (at 100% capacity it can produce about 50% of Adelaide's current water needs). There is a really important message here for everyone about water conservation, and embodied energy in our fresh water (the true environmental and economic cost), we must not be afraid of water restrictions if they teach us to be more efficient. And what about recycled water? In 2011/12 SA recycled about 25% of its wastewater (sewerage & industrial effluent) for irrigation (& some toilet flushing at Adelaide Airport & Mawson Lakes) with the rest going out to sea. This process produces by products of biosolids (used as fertiliser) and electricity (used to run the plant). I think a trip to 1 of SA Water's 3 Adelaide wastewater treatment plants would be great- please let us know here at the Hub if you are interested?

For more info on desalination: www.sawater.com.au/desalination

Have a Great Week!

The Lakes Hub Team (Amelia, Megan, Jill, Andrew, Robynne, Stuart & Carole)

The weekly links...

Origin Campaign Strangling Renewable Energy

Greenpeace report: www.d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/solarcitizens/pages/214/attachments/original/1382402447/STRANGLING_Renewables.pdf?1382402447

CLLMM October Community Update including:

- * Minister Visits Coorong
- * A CLLMM Stalwart moves on
- * Creative lake design wins landscape architect awards
- * Sedging our bets! Sedge Restoration in the Lower Lakes
- * 2012-13 Key Ecological and Acid Sulfate Soils Monitoring Findings
- * National Parks Office targeted by Vegetation team
- * Celebrating our winter planting program
- * Help define the community value of the Coorong, Lake Alexandrina and Albert Ramsar wetland
- * Coorong waterbirds part of nationwide air count

Find the full report at: www.lakeshub.com

Bushfires & Climate Change in Australia - Climate Council Report

www.climatecouncil.org.au/bushfire-information

Bid for Worlds Largest Marine Park

A fresh bid to have areas of the ocean off East Antarctica and a revised protection plan for the Ross Sea are being discussed by the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR). High on the agenda is a proposal to create a series of marine protected areas off East Antarctica, covering 1.6 million square kilometres. It would effectively ban fishing in the last pristine marine environment on earth. www.econews.com.au/news-to-sustain-our-world/new-bid-for-worlds-largest-marine-park/

Sedging your Bets!

Sedge Restoration in the Lower Lakes

The River Club Rush (*Schoenoplectus validus*) is a native aquatic species of sedge that occurs naturally around the Lower Lakes, along the River Murray and the various tributaries that feed into the Lakes system. Community feedback is currently being sought to guide planned restoration of this sedge species in the region.

In the past the River Club Rush was common in the region. As a result of water level regulation, recent drought, and inappropriate livestock grazing, this species has diminished, and more invasive species such as the Common reed (*Phragmites australis*) have become more widespread. The Common reed is a flat-leafed reed that can dominate an area and prevent the establishment of native aquatic species.

River Club Rush provides multiple benefits – it acts as a natural buffer against lakeshore erosion, reduces risks associated with acid sulfate soils by contributing carbon to soil, and provides habitat for a large proportion of local flora and fauna.

To combat the loss of River Club Rush in the region, the Vegetation Program under the Coorong, Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth Recovery Project will be aiming to replant the species at sites that are susceptible to erosion around the Lower Lakes.

The planned planting will build upon sedge replanting that has occurred around the Lower Lakes for at least 15 years, largely undertaken by the community and individual landowners. Ken Strother, along with other community members, has been instrumental in developing successful methods to propagate and plant River Club Rush. The propagation procedure includes collecting existing rootstock of the species, growing the rootstock out in tanks and then dividing them into small (6 - 8 stems) clumps contained by a hessian 'pot'. Once these 'pots' are old enough they can be planted around the lakes.

This method was utilised during a small trial of River Club Rush planting along Lake Albert Road earlier this year. Due to the success of this trial, further plantings are being planned for this summer at the site.

The Vegetation Program has identified some sites that would benefit from planting of River Club Rush, however we would like to find out where you would like the River Club Rush planted to reduce bank erosion and increase habitat for native plants and animals to plan for the next two years of the Program. The Program is also interested to know of sites that may not be appropriate for planting such as sensitive areas, swimming areas, pumping sites and boat launches.

Feedback can be provided at the Meningie and Milang Lakes Hubs, where maps have been provided of potential planting sites for marking and comments. These maps will be in the Lakes Hubs until the end of November. For further information please contact Sacha Jellinek (08 8204 9468) or Emma Eichler (08 8463 3919).



Ken Strother & team planting *Schoenoplectus* at Narrung, January 2013

Article by Sacha Jellinek
Project Officer, Vegetation Team, CLLMM

Aerial Surveys of Waterbirds in Eastern Australia

The University of NSW will be undertaking aerial waterbird surveys over the CLLMM site on the afternoon of the 29th, all day on the 30th and on the morning of the 31st October. The plane flies low (around 40m above the ground) and can be a little noisy, but the surveying occurs quickly and should present only a minor inconvenience. Here is some background to the survey provided by University of New South Wales:

Project Manager: Professor Richard Kingsford **Project Coordinator:** Dr John Porter

Aim: To monitor changes in the abundance and distribution of waterbird species in eastern Australia

Project summary

Aerial surveys of waterbirds in eastern Australia is one of the largest wildlife surveys in Australia. In 2013, the survey will be in its 31st year and the information it has provided on waterbirds, wetlands and rivers has been invaluable. Changes in the distribution and abundance of 50 waterbird species, including threatened species, and the health of rivers and wetlands have been monitored during the surveys.

This has proved particularly relevant in understanding the dynamics of environmental water needs for biodiversity purposes especially as they relate to waterbirds and wetlands. Changes in waterbird numbers provides a tangible way of indicating and measuring changes in the ecological health of river and wetland systems.

The surveys began in 1983, when the eastern states (Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia), the Commonwealth government and the CSIRO began an ambitious program to monitor waterbirds across one third of the continent, from the east coast to the Northern Territory border and from Prosperpine to south of Melbourne. From 1987- 2004 the survey project was run by the New South Wales National Parks and Wildlife Service. Since 2005 the project has been run by The University of New South Wales, based on its recognised long term expertise in this field.

Results are published in a series of occasional papers and annual summary reports:

Detailed data and expert analysis produced from the aerial survey project have provided the impetus for major improvements to onground management of waterbirds, rivers and wetlands. The ongoing and up to date information provided as a result of the surveys has been vital in identification of the national importance of inland wetlands, protection of the Paroo River and Cooper Creek and major changes or contributions to water management policies for the Macquarie Marshes, Menindee Lakes, Lowbidgee floodplain wetlands.

Many of the Commonwealth's responsibilities in relation to migratory waterbirds and management of wetlands under the EPBC Act are informed by the information collected during the aerial survey. The survey information has provided a substantive base for discussions held under Australia's bilateral agreements on migratory waterbirds with Japan, China and the Republic of Korea.

Survey Methods

In October of each year, waterbirds in eastern Australia are counted from the air on up to 2000 wetlands (100 hours flying). Abundance indices for all waterbird species are collected during aerial surveys of eastern Australia each year on every wetland surveyed. An area of 2,697,000 km² is systematically sampled with ten survey bands 30 km in width, spaced every 2° of latitude from 38°30'S to 20°30'S (Kingsford et al. 1999a, see Braithwaite et al. 1985 for methodology; Fig. 1). More than 50 taxa of waterbirds are counted on all water bodies larger than 1 ha. All lakes are surveyed during October each year from a high-winged aircraft (Cessna 206) with two observers, one each side of the plane, estimating numbers of waterbirds of each species onto digital audio recorders. The aircraft is flown at a height of 30 – 46 m and a speed of 167 km hr⁻¹ (90 knots), within 150 m of the shoreline, where waterbirds usually congregate (Kingsford and Porter 1994). Most waterbirds are identified to species, although species in four groups could not be separated: small egrets (3 species), small grebes (2 species), small (>20 species) and large (>5 species) migratory waders (Kingsford and Porter 1994; Kingsford et al. 1994). Either the whole wetland is circumnavigated or a proportion of the wetland (> 50 %) counted. Counts for each species are totalled for each observer to give either a total count for a wetland or a proportional count for the wetland.



CLLMM Bird Monitoring

Jody O'Connor, Scientific Officer, CLLMM (DEWNR) is also be undertaking aerial survey over the lakes and Coorong today, Tuesday 29th Oct. The aim is to locate areas of waterbird breeding activity over the entire wetland system (same as last year). They will be flying at a minimum height of 500 feet, which should not cause any disturbance to landholders and generally fly on the water side of the shoreline, which also minimises any disturbance. You can contact Jody at jody.o'connor@sa.gov.au

Bar-tailed Godwits

Photo: Paul Wainwright

Historical/Nature Spot - What was Hunted in our Lakes 70 years ago?

We have heard of the duck shooters and the fishermen back in the days of plenty when hunting was common practise and in fact a means of survival. I now have happened across a story told by a lovely gentleman whom has been a resident of Milang for 83 years and has been an acquaintance of mine for the most part of my life.

He spent his childhood running along the banks of Lake Alexandrina with his friends and soon acquired the awareness that the Water Rat (*Hyromys chrysogaster*) which was in abundance could become a source of pocket money for him in the means of selling their fur. The partially nocturnal rat lived within the reeds, sedges and dense low level plants. He mentioned they burrowed parallel into the sides of the bank and made tunnels approximately 20 cm high below the surface with many entrances.

With his friend they would use a rabbit trap, now banned for the barbaric nature of its usage, and then would smear fish paste onto the plate to capture the rats. They only bothered to hunt during winter months when the rat was in heavy coat and displayed colours of shiny black, deep golden browns and even maroon. They would skin the rat after capture and then rail the furs off to Adelaide and further onto interstate where the fur coats were made. He ascertains that 80 water rats were needed for one fur coat for a medium sized person.

Other Facts of the Water Rat

They generally occur in permanent fresh or brackish slow moving water and are largely carnivorous feeding on crustaceans, aquatic insects and fish. They are relatively large, with body length (not including the tail) up to 40 cm long and an average body weight of 850 grams. The toes are webbed on the front and back feet, and numerous whiskers can be observed at the end of the long blunt nose. The most characteristic feature is the thick white tip at the end of the tail. Of course the procurement of water rats for little boys' pocket money is a story of the past (1940's) but it appears the tracks of the water rats are appearing along our lake frontage again. The numbers of water rats are thought to be 25% of what used to be due to the introduction of European carp and the loss of creek vegetation, but there are still sightings and tracks to be found along the banks of our lakes.



By Robynne Barrett, Meningie Hub

Photo: www.naturalresources.sa.gov.au/samurraydarlingbasin

Reference: www.environment.sa.gov.au & GWLAP 'Rat Identification Guide' www.gwlap.org.au

Community Revegetation Survivorship Monitoring

Ongoing Revegetation Survivorship Monitoring is undertaken by GWLAP staff and community volunteers. In the 2011/12 financial year 2 rounds of monitoring were undertaken at a combination of 2010 and 2011 planted sites, representing 20% of all the plants that went in during 2010 and 2011.

Survivorship of the 14 x 2010 Community Revegetation sites has remained stable, with 5 sites scoring greater than 80 % survivorship, 4 sites scoring between 60 – 80 % survivorship, 4 sites scoring between 40 – 60 % survivorship and 1 site scoring between 20 – 40 % survivorship.

Survivorship on the 24 x 2011 Community Revegetation sites results consisted of; 10 sites scoring greater than 80% survivorship, 10 sites scoring between 60 – 80 % survivorship, 4 sites scoring between 40 – 60 % survivorship and one site scoring between 20 – 40 % survivorship. Sandy soils and not having all understorey species guarded contributed to lower survivorship at a number of sites, with inundation in low lying zones at 2 sites also a contributing factor.

Monitoring is an essential component of the project guiding future works and determining the success of the revegetation. Recommendations from this Survivorship monitoring project guide future revegetation.

The full report "Vegetation Survivorship Monitoring of the Community Revegetation Project SUMMARY FINAL REPORT June 30th 2012" By Regina Durbridge, Goolwa to Wellington Local Action Planning Association is available on the GWLAP website www.gwlap.org.au

We will provide a summary of 2013 Survivorship Monitoring results soon.

Walks and Talks (by A. H. Wilson) LAKE ALEXANDRINA 11

Natives of the Ngarrindjeri tribe lived hereabouts one hundred years ago. They wandered in the region at will. To them it was a huge hunting ground, and they, as skilful hunters, were able to gather their fish, flesh and fowl as needed. The aboriginal knew the ways and habits of all wild life, and as they formed his principal food supply, he developed great skill and sagacity in the practice of securing his game. Many of the native legends are very beautiful and deserve a place with the folk-lore of other aborigine peoples of the world. Perhaps they will some time be collected and written up, as Longfellow reproduced the American Indian legends in his famous 'Hiawatha'. Of course we should regard them as merely legends, and not matter-of-fact statements on the Origin of Species! The aborigines lived close to Mother Nature, and perhaps had time to gather impressions from her various moods, and the outstanding features of her fauna and flora,— thus they evidently conceived the idea of explaining their origin according to their own poetic fancy. Mr. David Unaipon, who still champions the cause of his coloured brethren, has published many of the quaint legends and traditions of the natives of these parts. Some residents of the lake regions tell how the natives speared their fish, and also relate their method of cooking. At Point McLeay a mission station cares for the descendants of the original natives, but the primitive customs and arts are no longer in evidence.

Masses of reeds usually fringed the great lake, but with the introduction of cattle these have been largely destroyed, and the samphire has been the chief feature of the shore for years. The increased salinity of the water, at times caused by a low river, or the in flow of sea-water has also done much to kill off the reeds. With the system of barrages now in use, the increased freshness of the water is bringing changes in the surrounding verdure. A certain resident of the lake shore tells of reeds now growing at the water's edge which he has not seen for thirty years. The lake shore may yet again be clothed with its original border of green, which would restore much of its lost beauty.

An area known as Reedy Point has been reserved as a sanctuary for bird life, and is evidently a favourite resting place for the black swan. This graceful bird thrives in the locality. The huge pelican also is at home in the shallows or further out on deeper water. He attracts the eye by his great size and stately bearing. His huge beak is an effective weapon, and many fish are gathered into the capacious maw of this great fisherman. The region of the lake, and indeed all the lower reaches of the Murray, has long been regarded as a sports man's paradise. As soon as the shooting season opens, the crack of firearms may be heard on all sides. The teal, and black duck, are much sought after for the dinner table and consequently suffer most in the open season. Those who have lived near the lakes most of their time, declare there is not another place where bird life could be so well studied. To them the quack of the black duck and the honk of the Cape Baron goose and the musical voice of the swan has many charms. To some the quack of a bird may seem nothing worth while, the music of voices of various birds in their native habitat on a moonlight night is sweeter music than the noise of any blaring brass band. Some residents love to sit out on summer evenings and listen to the voices of birds and the soft music of nature. To the bird lover, the various calls and quacks are easily distinguished. Some day a poem or song may be written to interpret the soft natural music that floats over the surface of Australia's greatest lake. The birds are many, each with different habits and tastes. Some live on shells, others on insects or weeds, some wade in the shallows, others are quite at home far out on the deeper water. The teal or blue wing duck fly swiftly by, also the mountain duck with her gayer colours. At sunset flights of birds may be seen in V formation as they wing their way to their nesting places in distant parts.

Wonderful hauls of fish have been secured by fishermen, notably Murray cod and mulloway. Twenty years ago mulloway provided the best catches. The mulloway, a salt water fish, no longer comes into the lake as the locks near the Murray mouth bar their entrance. Congolly and calop provide the principal supply at the present time. Will the Murray cod come again? (This question is raised from time to time, and one who ought to know gives it as his opinion that it will be many years before the cod becomes plentiful).

This may be attributed to the saline qualities of the Murray waters, caused by the seepage from the many irrigated areas along the river frontage. The salty nature of the seepage water, which rinds its way into the river, seriously affects the condition of water in the river bed, and has a disastrous effect on the spawn. The Woodrow brothers, well-known fishers of the region, can tell many fish stories (true ones) concerning some excellent catches. The following fact is well-known to the people of Milang. A few years ago a very large school of mulloway was sighted off Milang Jetty. The huge shoal of fish, churned the waters as they came right up to the jetty where boats and fishing gear were right at hand. By means of prompt action the Woodrow brothers were successful in hauling a net around most of the school. They secured a phenomenal catch, and landed seven and a half tons — chiefly fish from 20 to 40 lbs. weight. Such a miraculous draught of fishes has not been known thereabouts before or since.

The lake can, on occasions, be very stormy, and has sometimes taken toll of human life. Perhaps the most tragic happening was that in 1879 when two young girls and a man (of the Yelland family) were drowned. The tragedy cast a gloom over the whole community. The sad event is kept in remembrance by a marble monument which stands over the graves in Point Sturt Cemetery. The surroundings of Lake Alexandrina do not present any special feature of natural scenery. Perhaps this explains in part why Australia's greatest lake holds so small a place in the interest of Australian people. Perhaps one day it will be better known and appreciated.

Up-Coming Events / Opportunities

Transplanting at Community Nursery

Join with other volunteers to help with transplanting some of the 25,000 plants being grown at Clayton Bay Community Nursery

WHEN: Monday 11th & Tuesday 12th November 2013

WHERE: Clayton Community Nursery, 6 Alexandrina Drive Clayton Bay (next to hall)

TIME: 9am to 3pm (or any time in between)

CONTACT: Nursery Manager 0459 707 876, cbneg@gmail.com



Rodwell Creek/Wistow Landcare Group Inc. (Incorporating Red Creek Landcare Group) Invitation to the Launch of Our 20 Year Review

Guest speaker will be **Dr Bruce Munday** (Author of *“those dry-stone walls: stories from South Australia’s stone age”* & Member of the Native Vegetation Council and National Parks & Wildlife Council and Secretary of Tungkillio Landcare Group)

SATURDAY 2 NOVEMBER at 2pm, Wistow Hall, 537 Wellington Rd WISTOW

Afternoon tea will be served, RSVP for catering purposes by 29 October to Jill Taylor- Chair, Ian Blight- Secretary, Beryl Belford- Treasurer Email jilliant1@gmail.com or ianblight@hotmail.com or bbelford@activ8.net.au

Neville Bonney Quandong Book Launch

Neville Bonney’s new book on quandongs will be launched on Tuesday 19th November at the Rare Fruit Society meeting. Venue: Burnside Community Centre, 401 Greenhill Road, Tasmore, corner of Portrush Road, behind Burnside Town Hall, starting at 7:45pm.

Our advice is to get there early, as the Rare Fruit Society meetings are large. Anyone would be welcome to attend.



ONLINE SURVEY

Here is your chance to tell us what benefits the Coorong and Lower Lakes provide

During October the CLLMM program is conducting an online survey.

The aim is to get a better idea of what the community, visitors and the broader community receive from the Coorong and Lower Lakes ecosystem.

Please complete the ***Ecosystem Benefits and Community Values Survey*** at

https://www.research.net/s/Coorong_ES_Survey

The survey will be active until the 15th November 2013

What Benefits do you get from the Lakes & Coorong Ecosystem?

This online survey will remain open for another 2 weeks, until 15th November to ensure as many community members as possible have their say.

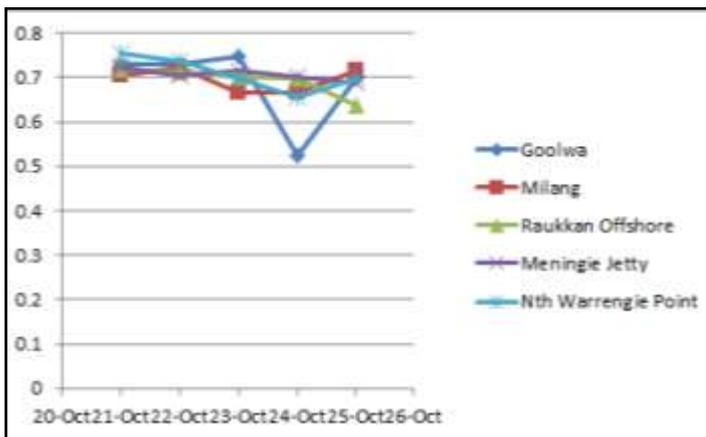
Don't forget, once you complete the survey you go into the running to **WIN a \$200 basket of regional produce!**

On the Level

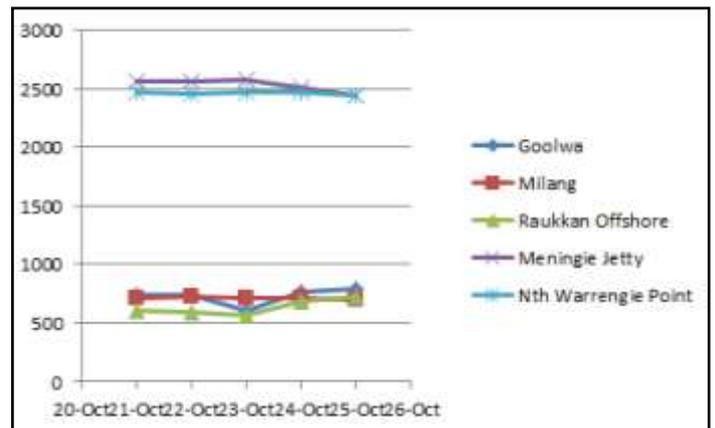
21st - 25th October 2013					
Lake Levels (AHD)					
Date	Goolwa	Milang	Raukkan Offshore	Meningie Jetty	Nth Warrengie Point
21-Oct	0.73	0.706	0.721	0.723	0.756
22-Oct	0.729	0.722	0.711	0.704	0.738
23-Oct	0.747	0.666	0.7	0.715	0.697
24-Oct	0.526	0.666	0.699	0.701	0.654
25-Oct	0.697	0.716	0.638	0.688	0.697
	0.686	0.695	0.694	0.706	0.708
Salt Levels (EC)					
Date	Goolwa	Milang	Raukkan Offshore	Meningie Jetty	Nth Warrengie Point
21-Oct	737	717	600	2566	2467
22-Oct	735	720	589	2569	2462
23-Oct	603	713	564	2572	2473
24-Oct	768	713	687	2508	2473
25-Oct	789	698	723	2449	2450
	726	712	633	2533	2465

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

Lake Levels



Salt Levels (EC)



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.

October 2013	
29	
30	
31	
November 2013	
1	
2	Introduction to Bird Watching & Monitoring Mount Barker NRC 85801830 danielle.packer@sa.gov.au Rodwell Creek/Wistow Landcare Group 20 Year Review 2pm Wistow Hall
3	
4	
5	
6	SA Landcare Conference www.landcaresa.asn.au , 0407972149 or gbutler@landcaresa.asn.au
7	SA Landcare Conference www.landcaresa.asn.au , 0407972149 or gbutler@landcaresa.asn.au
8	
9	
10	National Recycling Week 11-17th November www.recyclingweek.planetark.org
11	Clayton Nursery Transplanting Day 9am-3.30pm Carole Richardson 0459 707 876 cbneg@gmail.com
12	Clayton Nursery Transplanting Day 9am-3.30pm Carole Richardson 0459 707 876 cbneg@gmail.com
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19	Neville Bonney Quandong Book Launch 7.45pm Burnside Town Hall
20	CLLMM Project Officer Quarterly Meeting 10.30am to be confirmed
21	World Fisheries Day www.grdc.org or check out the Facebook page
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