

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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Community Nurseries Network— Semi-Finalist at Community Achievement Awards

COMMUNITY NURSERIES NETWORK was presented as a *semi-finalist* in the prestigious Five-star Print Environment and Sustainability Award at the 2013 Community Achievement Awards on Friday night 1st November at the Stamford Grand Adelaide.

Community Nurseries Network was presented by the Hon Tony Piccolo MP, Minister for Communities and Social Inclusion in front of over 350 guests from across the State.

COMMUNITY NURSERIES NETWORK is managed by the Milang & District Community Association and is made up of a collaboration of community and environment groups from around Lakes Albert and Alexandrina. The nurseries grow a large range of local native plants for the Coorong Lower Lakes & Murray Mouth Recovery Project. The network provides volunteer and employment opportunities that contribute to exceptional environmental and community outcomes.



Community Nurseries Network members Lynton Keen, Jill Dennis & Jo McPhee with MP Tony Piccolo

The weekly links...

Plant village

The idea is a simple one: to create a place where people can exchange knowledge on growing food plants. PlantVillage was developed so people could post questions and the network could come up with very specific answers that draws from our collective knowledge.

www.plantvillage.com

New Website launched

The Willung Environment Centre has launched its new website at www.willungaenviro.org.au. You can access newsletters, upcoming events and links to other organisations

2013 NRM Education Survey (open for teachers in the SA Murray-Darling Basin region)

If you are able to have a look and provide your information BEFORE NOV 28th, you'll go in the running to win a great prize www.surveymonkey.com/s/3SGZZRIf

Living Murray ecological monitoring

The Living Murray ecological monitoring programs are happening in the Lower Lakes and Coorong over spring and early summer .

Last Thursday University of Adelaide researcher Dr Scotte Wedderburn found a small population of the nationally vulnerable Murray hardyhead (*Craterocephalus fluviatilis*) at Dog Lake, Lake Alexandrina. Murray hardyheads have not been detected at this site since November 2010. This is the first recording Scotte has made of any threatened fish in the Lower Lakes during this year's spring monitoring. If you see Scotte and Tom around the lakes this week say g'day and ask them what they have been catching!

Thanks to Adrienne Frears—Icon Site Coordinator
Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resource



Nature Spot

Ecological importance of sedges: a survey of the Australasian Cyperaceae genus *Lepidosperma*

Russel G Barrett

Sedges (Cyperaceae) form an important ecological component of many ecosystems around the world. Sword and rapier sedges (genus *Lepidosperma*) are common and widespread components of the southern Australian and New Zealand floras, also occurring in New Caledonia, West Papua, Borneo, Malaysia and southern China. Sedge ecology is seldom studied and no comprehensive review of sedge ecology exists. *Lepidosperma* is unusual in the Cyperaceae with the majority of species occurring in dryland habitats.

Lepidosperma species are long-lived perennials with significant abundance and persistence in the landscape. Speciation patterns in the genus are of considerable interest due to complex biogeographical patterns and a high degree of habitat specificity. Potential benefits exist for medicinal products identified from several *Lepidosperma* species. Over 178 organisms, including 26 mammals, 42 birds, six reptiles, five amphibians, eight arachnids, 75 insects, three crustaceans and 13 fungi, are found to be dependent on, or making use of, *Lepidosperma* species. A significant relationship exists between *Lepidosperma* species and the moth genus *Elachista*.



Lepidosperma longitudinalis—pith sword-sedge
http://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Lepidosperma_longitudinale.jpg

www.aob.oxfordjournals.org/content/early/2013/02/01/aob.mct008

NAMING THE WETLANDS

Innumerable hours of enormous effort have spent by passionate and committed paid workers and equally passionate volunteers growing and planting around the Lakes and Coorong, and these hours are beginning to pay off already through the pleasure the plantings are giving to all of us as we drive and walk through the local area.

The State Government through DEWNR is receiving Federal funding to improve the ecology of the Ramsar Wetlands surrounding the Coorong, Lakes Alexandrina and Albert and their tributaries, namely the Angas, Bremer and Finniss rivers, and Currency and Tookayerta Creeks. This is a very ambitious project. It is very extensive, covering 142,500 ha, with so far in excess of 3.5 million trees in the ground. It is also very complex, involving partnerships between the Australian Government CLLMM Project, Goolwa to Wellington LAP and the Ngarrindjeri People. The planters are a mixture of contractors, and in particular many, many community members and school children. This is a Government/Community partnership which has been welcomed by the local communities in which it has operated. Milang, Meningie, Raukaan and Clayton Bay are some of these communities.

The purpose of this enormous scale planting is

- to add carbon to the soil to prevent acidification
- to restore wetland habitat for native wildlife
- to stabilise the soil and prevent shoreline erosion.

As well as increasing the beauty and health of the whole Lakes and Coorong area, I believe these CLLMM plantings are contributing to changing the story of the Lakes and Coorong from one of negativity ('evaporation' basin) to one of positivity and appreciation, so that the area can be truly known as 'the jewel in South Australia's crown.'

Over a period of several months in 2013 community members were invited to submit suitable names for these plantings and these have been voted upon. Of about 70 submitted names, the name which was the most popular was COORONG LAKES RECOVERY, which when applied to the plantings become the 'COORONG LAKES RECOVERY WETLANDS'.

More recently Suzie Rex, Chair of the River, Lakes and Coorong Action Group asked that this name be changed to 'COORONG AND LAKES RECOVERY WETLANDS', to emphasise the importance of the lakes, and to differentiate them from the saline Coorong.

If you wish to have your say on the name for the plantings please contact the Lakes Hub from the details on this Bulletin.

Anne Hartnett.



Up-Coming Events / Opportunities

Volunteer to help local community and environment

Volunteers are much needed at the Milang Environment Centre Nursery (M.E.C. Nursery Milang) to help with transplanting of local native plant species for local revegetation projects.

Nursery Manager Jill Dennis has put the call out for help to transplant seedlings into individual tubes which will be planted in the region in winter of 2014. Jill commented that "Volunteering at the nursery is not only helpful to the environment, but also a great way to meet other people in the district with similar concerns for their local environment".

For further information contact :

Nursery Manager Jill Dennis

Ph. 0498 632 839

E. mecnursery@shoreline.com.au



TALKING HEADS—Sedge Planting around Lake Albert

Drop into the (new location) Lakes Hub in Meningie on Wednesday 27th November between 4.30pm and 6.00pm and participate in the site selection process and learn about DEWNR planting of River Club Rush (*Schoenoplectus validus*) to reduce bank erosion.

Information and Bookings: Lakes Hub Meningie phn. (08) 8575 1830

meningie@lakeshub.com



Channel 9 Young Achiever Awards

The purpose of the **Channel 9 Young Achiever Awards** is to acknowledge, encourage and most importantly promote the positive achievements of young South Australians up to 28 years of age. The Awards recognise the achievements of South Australia's youth in nine categories, with one of the nine category winners being named the Channel 9 / Premier's Young Achiever of the Year.

Close of Nominations: Wednesday 22nd January 2014

Judging: Wednesday 19th February 2014

Gala Awards Presentation: Saturday 29th March 2014

www.awardsaustralia.com/young-achiever-awards/sa

SALT INTERCEPTION SCHEMES– WHAT ARE THEY ?

HEAR HOW SALT INTERCEPTION SCHEMES WORK: METOHODS TO REDUCE AND MANAGE THE AMOUNT OF SALT LEVELS IN THE RIVER MURRAY.



Are you interested in the future of the Lower Murray and Lakes?

Lakes Hub Talking Heads presentation by **Peter Forward, SA Water, Principal Engineer** talking about the River Murray Salt Interception Scheme in South Australia

Tuesday 3rd December 4 - 6pm
Lakes Hub MILANG



For information & bookings contact
the Lakes Hub Milang
Ph: (08) 8537 0808
Info@lakeshub.com
www.lakeshub.com

Photo Arthur Mostead

<50	Rainwater
650	Salinity level can damage irrigated crops
800	World Health Organisation standards consider this the maximum desirable limit for water quality
>1500	Can't be used for many crops Likely to cause direct damage to natural ecosystems
>5000	No longer considered to be fresh water Most freshwater animals and fish won't survive
>50,000	Seawater

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Aquatic vegetation monitoring for The Living Murray program

from Adrienne Frears Icon Site Coordinator, Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resource .

Plant experts Dr Jason Nicol and Dr Sue Gehrig from SARDI Aquatic Sciences are in the Lower Lakes this week (25-29 November 2013) undertaking their bi-annual aquatic vegetation monitoring for The Living Murray program. While normally just focusing on the natural regeneration of underwater and emergent plant communities, this round of monitoring is special. For the first time since November 2008, extra assessments will be undertaken on the remnant stands of Swamp Paperbark (*Melaleuca halmaturorum*) at Kennedy Bay, Salt Lagoon, Goose Island, and various sites on Hindmarsh Island. Area of stand, stand health and any signs of recent germination will be assessed and compared to the 2008 data. Please say g'day to Jason and Sue if you see them on their travels this week.



Training and Events

Macroinvertebrate Identification Workshop:

***Macro invertebrates of the River Murray
and Lower Lakes***

Presented in conjunction with the Environment Protection Authority (Water Quality Section)

- Species identification
- Using identification keys/reference material
- Sampling and accurately recording
- Scoring your site


When: Wednesday 27th November, 2013

Where: Currency Creek Winery,
Winery Road, Currency Creek

Time: 9.30 am – 1.00 pm

Free - Bookings: essential
Limited places: available.

Contact Greg 8536 5622



On the Level

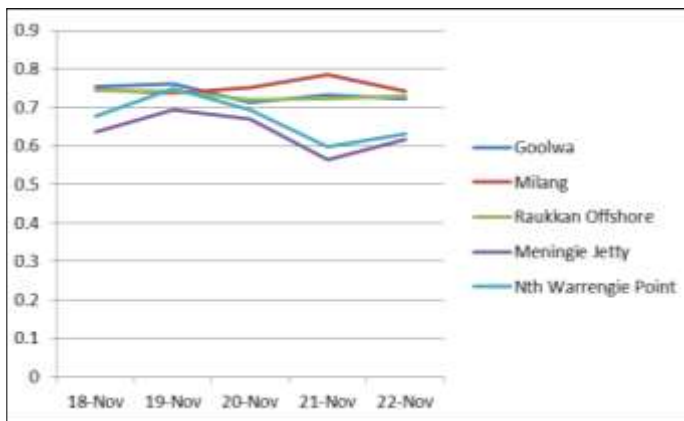
Date	Goolwa	Milang	Raukkan Offshore	Meningie Jetty	Nth Warrengie Point
18-Nov		0.746	0.744	0.635	0.678
19-Nov	0.762	0.738	0.741	0.694	0.75
20-Nov	0.713	0.752	0.72	0.669	0.694
21-Nov	0.733	0.786	0.722	0.565	0.598
22-Nov	0.723	0.742	0.73	0.617	0.631

Salt Levels (EC)

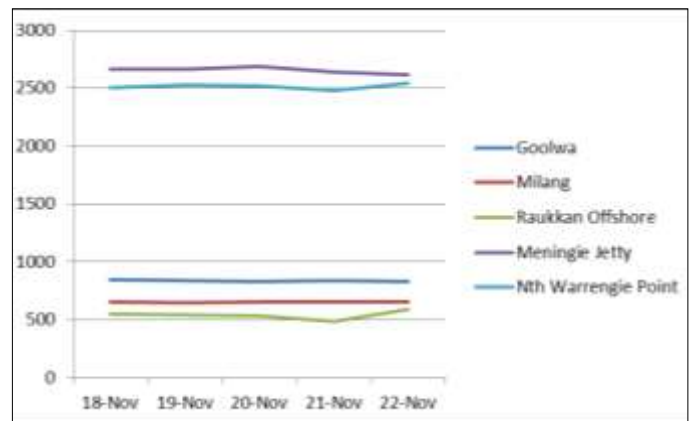
Date	Goolwa	Milang	Raukkan Offshore	Meningie Jetty	Nth Warrengie Point
18-Nov		652	547	2667	2507
19-Nov	843	651	543	2661	2528
20-Nov	834	658	538	2687	2517
21-Nov	837	655	486	2641	2482
22-Nov		656	593	2615	2542

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.

November 2013	
23	
24	
25	
26	Flinders Uni lecture 'Are Weather Forecasts Still for Wimps' 3.45pm Level 1, 182 Victoria Square 7221 8693
27	Talking Heads DEWNR Schoenoplectus plantings for lake edge stabilisation Meningie Hub 8575 1830
28	
29	
30	

December 2013	
1	
2	
3	Talking Heads Salt Interception Scheme Peter Forward, SA Water, Milang Hub ph8537 0808
4	
5	International Volunteers Day www.volunteeringaustralia.org Friends of Meningie meeting call Lakes Hub for information 8575 1830
6	
7	
8	Goolwa Christmas Festival
9	
10	UN Human Rights Day www.un.org/en/events/humanrightsday/
11	
12	
13	Christmas Where the Angus Flows, Strathalbyn 6.30pm onwards
14	
15	
16	
17	Port Elliot Christmas Carols 5pm
18	
19	
20	
21	
22	
23	
24	
25	Christmas Day

Disclaimer

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