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10th December 2013

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Alexandrina Visitor Information Centres visit Lake Albert

Strathalbyn and Goolwa Visitor Information Centre Volunteers were led by Carol Cooney on a familiarisation tour of the Lake Albert area.

After visiting the Wellington Court House the group proceeded to Raukkan where Clyde Rigney Snr gave a very informative overview of Raukkan and its history. Here volunteers were able to see the historic church which features on the Australian \$50 note.



From here the group proceeded into Meningie for lunch at the Hotel where Grant the chef had prepared the local delicacy Coorong Mullet which had been steamed and served on a reed base highlighting the environmental connection.

During lunch Andrew Dawes from the Lakes Hub gave a brief presentation on the area where he discussed our Ramsar listed Wetlands and the Importance of these Wetlands on the migratory birdlife that visit the area over our summer. Andrew also talked about the Meningie Foreshore Habitat Restoration

The weekly links

The Coorong, Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth Region is teeming with fresh ideas and local arts, craft and seasonal fresh produce. When thinking about Christmas gift ideas consider shopping at your local Farmers Markets, Artisan Markets, support small businesses and buy locally made and grown products. For a few "Green" gift idea's see links below.

www.oxfam.org.au/

www.envirodad.com/using-upcycling-to-shop-for-christmas-gifts/

www.greenhomeandgarden.com.au/community/have-an-environmentally-friendly-christmas-holiday/

cityhippyfarmgirl.com/2013/11/20/top-12-eco-friendly-christmas-gift-ideas/

www.earthfirst.net.au/gifts

www.farmersmarkets.org.au/

Wellington – Coorong Famil.

At Goolwa VIC we met at eight
Two were missing. Were they late?
But several phone calls made it clear
In Strathalbyn now they would appear.
When the Strath mob finally climbed on board
Only two seats were empty, thank the Lord!
At Bleasdale winery we stopped again. And why?
To collect one more passenger, Lady Di.

The last of our team, energetic Faye
Had walked on foot, for half the way.
At Wellington court house we made a stop
Saw new bedrooms, the gaol, and a coffee shop.
We departed Wellington ferry with a scraping noise
But Jim, our driver, maintained his poise
At Narrung we thought we might be caught
When the promised ramps were a tad to short.

At Raukkan we had a talk by local guide
A great Ngarrindjeri bloke called Clyde
We saw language books that locals wrote
And the church that features on the \$50 note.
By now we were a rather hungry bunch
So at Meningie hotel we stopped for lunch
Tasty Coorong mullet cooked on reeds
Pannacotta with lemon myrtle seeds.

By then, with all this interesting talk,
It was too late to do the Pelican walk.
At Camp Coorong, our last stop for the day
We learnt about the Ngarrindjeri people's way.
At the museum we spent almost an hour
Saw pelican feathers turned into a flower
Fine baskets woven with river reeds
Jewellery made from dry local seeds.

Captain Carol, in the front seat
Supplied cold water and sweets to eat
While Lieutenant Lianda, with her list
Made sure no loiterer ever got missed.
With Jim's careful driving of the bus
We got home again without much fuss.
A good fun day, with many a laugh
Thank you all Alexandrina VIC staff.

There's an App for that! - Ringbalin, River Stories

The Ringbalin App for iPhone and iPad has officially launched. It is \$6.49 in the App Store. [Click here to view it in the App Store](#)

"Ringbalin River Stories invites you on a journey along the Murray Darling Rivers guided by Elders of the oldest cultures on earth. You will follow the Ringbalin as it dances down the river, and witness the breaking drought. And you can meet Traditional Elders along the way. They have created individual journeys of story and place to share their Countries with you."

"Whether you are on the other side of the world, or just down the road, you can take this journey right now. But you can also come here, visit, see, touch and breathe it in. The stories are set in the world around you."



Media Release

4 December 2013

Lowering of Mildura Weir pool in 2014



Plans are underway for the Mildura Weir pool to be fully drawn down for about three weeks during May and June to allow new trestles with mechanised gates to be installed.

The work will mean that Lock 11 will be closed during this period and boat access through the weir will not be possible.

The Murray–Darling Basin Authority and Goulburn–Murray Water anticipate the work will start in May but are already consulting with local river users, including tourism operators, to determine the most appropriate time to carry out the work.

MDBA head of River Management David Dreverman said the drawdown would take the water level in the Mildura Weir pool to about 3.6 metres below full supply level, depending on river flows.

"Drawing the water down to this level will affect river users, which is why we are consulting with them to determine a time for this work that will have as little impact as possible on their activities," Mr Dreverman said.

"We'll also need to take into account the river and weather conditions."

Mr Dreverman said a prototype trestle with mechanised gates was first installed at Mildura Weir in July 2010 and had performed well.

"Mechanised gates will be a significant improvement on the existing method of adjusting the pool height and flow rates, which requires weir staff to manually install and remove large numbers of timber 'drop bars'."

Mr Dreverman said that once the trestles were replaced and the weir was reinstated, the weir pool would be raised back to full supply level by around mid-June 2014.

"Some increases in river salinity can occur during drawdown, depending on how much water is flowing through the system, so we'll be closely monitoring salinity levels throughout the drawdown period," he

[For more information, contact the MDBA Media office at media@mdba.gov.au](mailto:media@mdba.gov.au) or 02 6279 0141 or Goulburn-Murray Water on 03 5826 3754.

Follow the MDBA www.twitter.com/MD_Basin_Auth

Join the discussion on the MDBA blog: www.freeflow.mdba.gov.au/

Murray—Darling schools get hopping in 2014

From frogs to farms, catfish to local culture, next year school students across the Murray—Darling Basin will be pointing their microscopes at their local community and seeing how their place is connected to other parts of the basin.

The Murray—Darling Basin Authority’s education director, Will Inveen, said the 2014 Basin Champions program invited students from year 4 to year 9 to link up with MDBA experts and investigate the health of a river or creek near their school. “Students will learn how the health of their own community can affect the broader Murray—Darling system through their local waterways,” Mr Inveen said. “After successfully piloting the program in 2013 with 15 schools, in 2014 we will focus on primary schools in term two and secondary schools in term three, with a program aligned with the Australian Curriculum.” Classes can choose to set their own topic or develop one with the support of the MDBA Education team.

“Mentors from the MDBA will be on-hand through weekly videoconferences to answer students’ questions. They will provide advice on the best investigation methods to use, help shed light on ecosystem health issues and point to useful resources available,” Mr Inveen said.

Videoconference sessions will also address why things like water testing, river health, salinity and native fish are important to local communities, local cultures and the economy. Mr Inveen said each class would be asked to transform their findings into a creative report, such as a play, song, animation or video, to share with other Basin Champions schools during the final videoconference.

To express your interest or find out more, phone 02 6279 0500, email the education team at education@mdba.gov.au or visit www.mdba.gov.au

For more information, contact the MDBA media office at media@mdba.gov.au or 02 6279 0141.

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LAKE ALBERT SCOPING STUDY UPDATE

LAKES HUB MENINGIE 'The Chambers' 14 PRINCES HWY

THURSDAY 19TH DECEMBER

Between 4.30 and 6.30 pm

At the Meningie Lakes Hub

THERESA ANDREW (DEWNR) PROJECT MANAGER, LAKE ALBERT



LIGHT REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED

For information

contact Lakes Hub Meningie

Ph: (08) 8575 1830



Partnerships/Major Projects Branch

Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources



Government of South Australia

**Department of Environment,
Water and Natural Resources**

Up-Coming Events / Opportunities

MILANG ENVIRONMENTAL CENTRE
(M.E.C.)
NURSERY

Growing over 80,000 plants for the region, including Caring
Lower Lakes Murray Mouth Revegetation Project, NRM
Endangered Species projects, Aboriginal Council Projects
and more.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
for transplanting seedlings



Contact Nursery Manager Jill Dennis
Phn, 0498 832 839 mecnursery@shoreline.com.au

A study of managed aquifer recharge and options for stormwater uses
Dr Peter Dillon, Wednesday 11th December @ 4pm
CSIRO Land & Water Public Seminar Series



Abstract:
A Goyder Institute research project involving a number of partners has been exploring the range of potential uses of urban stormwater including: public open space irrigation and industrial use, reticulation to residential areas for garden watering and toilet flushing, and augmenting mains water supplies. A case study site at Parafield in the City of Salisbury allowed water quality and risks to be assessed and a risk management plan was prepared for non-potable uses. Public attitudes to these forms of supply were also evaluated via web surveys and focus groups. The assets and operating costs for these options were included in an economic assessment that also touched on environmental impacts. Further work is still underway to evaluate biofilm growth in pipelines and reliability of supplies at the case study site, and to undertake risk assessments at other stormwater harvesting sites. This talk will give a brief overview of methods and results so far, and their broader implications.

The Speaker:
Peter Dillon leads the Sustainable Water Systems Stream in the Urban Water Theme of CSIRO Water for a Healthy Country Flagship. He also leads the SAH Commission on Managing Aquifer Recharge. The work he will present has been undertaken by a team from CSIRO Land & Water, Ecosystem Sciences, Uni of Adelaide and UNSW.
Chair: Dr Deakin Fage

www.csiro.au SEMINAR ROOM, BUILDING 1, WAITE CAMPUS COFFEE @ 3:45 PM
<http://www.clw.csiro.au/division/adelaide/seminars/>
CONTACT: ian.owentons@csiro.au telephone: 83038419



Bremer Catchment Group Needs Your Support

Please see the following important messages from the Bremer Barker Catchment Group Secretary, Ian Blight. The BBCG needs new members to continue. Please forward to everyone you know in the Bremer River and Mt Barker Creek Catchment areas so people are aware of the opportunity to join and support the group.

1)The Bremer Barker Catchment Group (BBCG) has been relatively inactive for some time but has been kept operational in case the interest or demand for an environmental group located in Mt Barker increased enough to resume a more active function.

The needed interest has not been forthcoming until now and so the current members would like to advise anyone interested in environmental issues within the catchments of the Bremer River and Mt Barker Creek of the impending decision to wind up the BBCG on June 30, 2014, unless there is enough new members and interest to re-activate the group before then. Any prospective members should contact Beryl Belford on : bbelford@activ8.net.au

2) BBCG has some funds available for appropriate environmental projects and invites expressions of interest for grants up to \$3,000 by 28th Feb 2014. For further information contact Beryl Belford on : bbelford@activ8.net.au

Regards, Ian Blight
Secretary BBCG

On the Level

Lake Levels (AHD)

Date	Goolwa	Milang	Raukkan Offshore	Meningie Jetty	Nth Warrengie Point
2-Dec	0.665	0.673	0.682	0.696	0.72
3-Dec	0.669	0.676	0.676	0.68	0.695
4-Dec	0.691	0.675	0.682	0.689	0.704
5-Dec	0.558	0.642	0.667	0.676	0.656
6-Dec	0.549	0.656	0.682	0.655	0.635
Average	0.626	0.664	0.678	0.679	0.682

Salt Levels (EC)

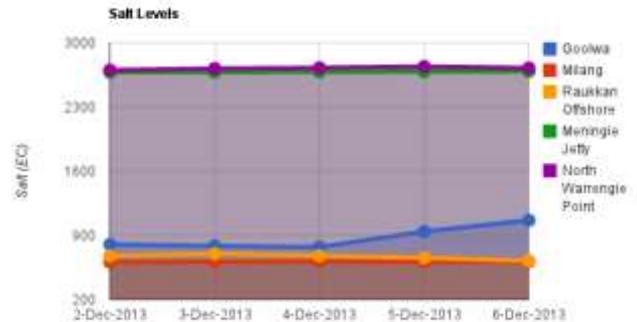
Date	Goolwa	Milang	Raukkan Offshore	Meningie Jetty	Nth Warrengie Point
2-Dec	801	608	675	2679	2702
3-Dec	784	611	701	2680	2719
4-Dec	772	614	678	2684	2727
5-Dec	941	611	655	2686	2741
6-Dec	1065	613	623	2689	2725
Average	873	611	666	2684	2723

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	Talking Heads Lake Albert Scoping Study Update Meningie Lakes Hub Office 4.30-6.30pm
20	
21	
22	
23	
24	
25	Christmas Day

Disclaimer

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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.