

The Lakes Hub is an initiative of the Milang and District Community Association Inc. funded by the Australian Government and the South Australian Government's Murray Futures program.

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## Missing Henry

How we will miss our River, Lakes and Coorong crusader, Henry Jones. With passion, strength and leadership Henry led the way in speaking up for the environment. He galvanised our community and by sharing his special brand of persuasion encouraged many people from all walks of life to advocate for the environment. At the height of the drought he challenged us all with a cataclysmic vision for our region if we sat back and did nothing in what became known locally as "The Dead Speech"

In a presentation in 2011 entitled the life and times of the Coorong, Henry said:

"It is our obligation to protect 60 million years of evolution.

The river is more than a sewer, it is more than a pipe that provides water, and it's more than a playground.

It is a wonderful living ecosystem that provides habitat to many living things.

It is our obligation to pass it on."

The Milang and District Community Association and Lakes Hub volunteers and staff send our thoughts and love to Gloria and all the family.

Karyn Bradford

Executive Officer MDCA

## The weekly link

Back when the Stop The Weir website was decommissioned the text and audio of Henry's 2007 speech to Alexandrina Council was submitted to the Internet Archive for preservation. [Hear Henry's passionate words once again by clicking here.](#)

## FIRST CREEK WETLAND @ BOTANIC GARDENS

If you are looking for an activity during the school holidays the Botanic Gardens First Creek Wetland is now open to the public. Wetlands are such an important part of our landscape here in Australia and the wide range of benefits they provide our environment, economy and society are amazing. The signage throughout the area is excellent and explains the facts in a way children will understand. In time the plants will grow and the landscape will change as the wetlands show us how essential and useful they are for maintaining a healthy environment.



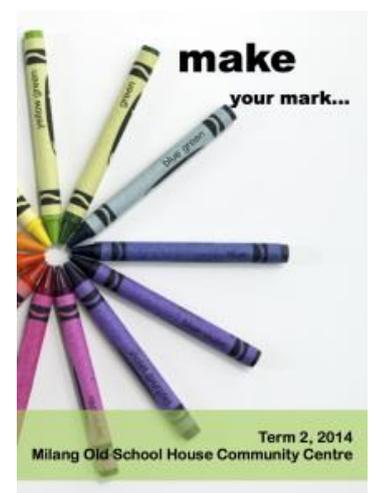
The garden will show visitors new plants and a function of plants which they may never have considered. The collection holds over 60,000 plants, many of which are Australian natives. Some are rare and endangered plants from South Australia which have been grown from seeds collected by the South Australian Seed Conservation Centre.



[More information about the First Creek Wetland can be found at the Adelaide Botanic Gardens website.](http://www.adelaidebotanicgardens.com.au)

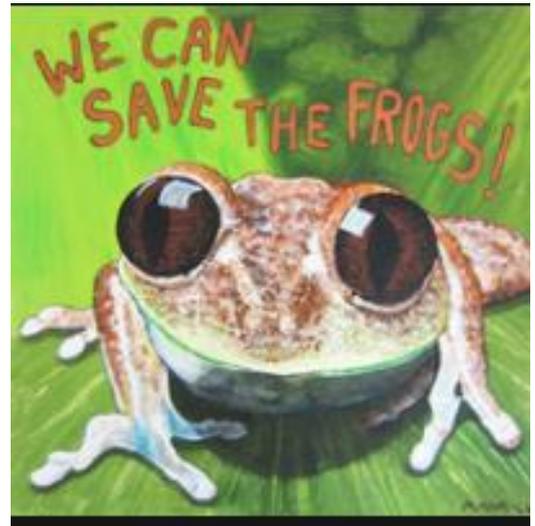
## Composting Workshop and more in new MOSHCC Program for Term 2

- Composting with worms
- Eco-Skills, an Introduction to Revegetation Work
- Less is more! Live more sustainably, lessen your environmental impact.
- [And much more! Download Now!](#)



## Save the Frogs Day April 26 Lakes Hub Colouring Competition

SAVE THE FROGS! is the world's leading amphibian conservation organization. Their mission is to protect amphibian populations and to promote a society that respects and appreciates nature and wildlife. They work in California, across the USA, and around the world to prevent the extinction of amphibians, and to create a better planet for humans and wildlife. This year the Lakes Hub are offering a colouring competition for children up to the age of 12 years old. You can download the frog template from our web site or you can draw your own frog/s. For more information on how to enter go to <http://lakeshub.com/2014/04/15/save-the-frogs-colouring-competition/> (to be drawn for Bulletin 190 in May)



Amphibian populations worldwide are in the midst of a mass extinction crisis, yet most people are completely unaware! We need your help in getting the word out: we encourage all nature lovers to seek out their inner frog artist and participate in the SAVE THE FROGS! Colouring contest.



## Nature Spot

### The Orange-Bellied Parrot

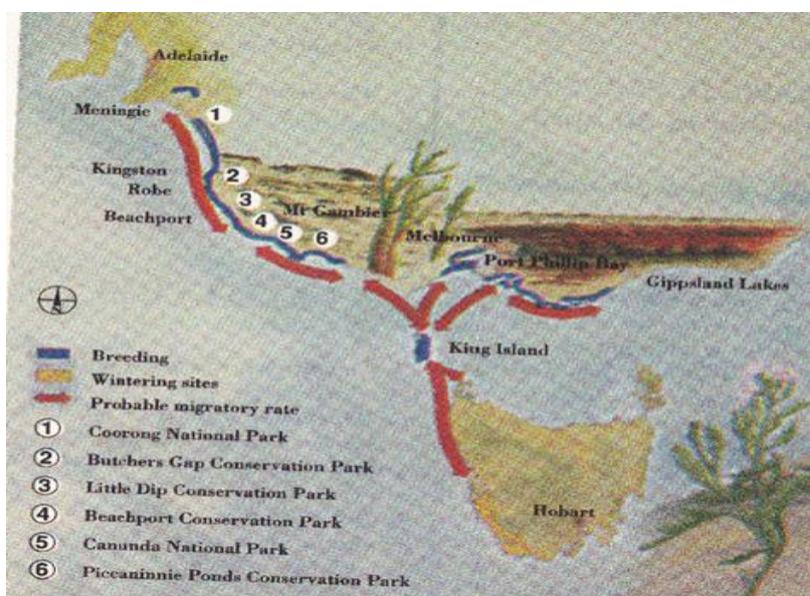
Australia's Orange-Bellied Parrot, can be ranked along with the giant panda and the Siberian tiger as one of the rarest and most endangered species.

The parrot is bright grass-green with a two tone blue frontal band and a narrow blue edge to the wing. The tail is green above and yellow below and the birds have a distinctive bright orange patch low on their belly. They average 21 cm in length which is a little larger than a budgie. Their voice is an alarming buzzing chatter.

The Orange-bellied parrot is a migratory bird. During the summer it lives on the open coastal plains of South-West Tasmania. It feeds on the seeds of various plants of these 'button-grass' plains and nests in tree hollows in adjacent forests and woodlands. In March they leave south-western Tasmania and head north to the mainland. The migration takes up to two months. They begin arriving on the mainland from late March onwards and disperse along the coast from as far east as the South Gippsland lakes in Victoria to as far west as the Coorong. About one-third of the known population occurs along the beaches to South-Eastern South Australia.



Studies have shown that the orange-bellied parrot pairs together for life, with the same pair occupying a nest for up to five years. Six eggs may be laid each season, and it may seem surprising that the population is not expanding. As a migratory bird it has to face the arduous task of crossing Bass Strait. The juveniles are mostly unaided by adults and appear to migrate independently. Predators such as the introduced fox and feral cats also take their toll.





The Murray–Darling Basin Authority has expressed deep sadness at the news that Henry Jones has passed away.

MDBA chairman Craig Knowles said Henry was a powerful influence on the way Australians view the River Murray, in particular the Lower Lakes and Coorong region of South Australia.

“Henry’s contribution to the wellbeing of the Murray has had an effect well beyond the reaches of his home at Clayton Bay,” Mr Knowles said.

“He was a realist and an optimist. Holding firm to a profound belief that the Murray could be a healthy working river, Henry was esteemed by his own community as well as people right across the Basin.

“Henry turned that passion and hands-on knowledge of the river environment into action, which was instrumental in shaping the Basin Plan.

“Australians will continue to benefit from his great vision and commitment for years to come.”

Henry passed on his ideas and wisdom as a long-standing member of the Native Fish Strategy Taskforce, Basin Community Committees and The Living Murray Community Reference Group.

Last year the MDBA awarded Henry Jones the River Murray Medal in recognition of this personal dedication over the years.

“On behalf of the Authority and the many staff who have known Henry over the years, I would like to pass on our sincere condolences to Gloria and family,” Mr Knowles said.

MEDIA RELEASE For more information contact the MDBA Media office at [media@mdba.gov.au](mailto:media@mdba.gov.au) or 02 6279 0141.

## The Long Lunch at Milang, by Country Arts

Last Tuesday, around 100 environment volunteers shared a lunch event prepared from fantastic local produce which was served on the shores of Lake Alexandrina at Milang.

The event was a celebration of volunteers' efforts in the long recovery of the Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth system.

The fabulous food was prepared and served by volunteers from the Milang Old School House Community Centre.

Special features at the Long Lunch were poetry, performance and art installations by local and visiting artists, Michelle Murray, Annabelle Collett, Mike Tye and Evette Sunset.

The art works reflected the cycle of drought and recovery of the Lakes environments experienced by those communities.

Three ephemeral sculptural works by Evette Sunset and Mike Tye are placed around the lake foreshore area. Titled Flow, Wet and Returning, these works conceptually describe what is needed for a healthy eco-system.

Clayton artist, Annabelle Collett, made a centrepiece displayed inside the lunch marquee titled Preserving the Lakes.

The day was still and overcast; the sky heavy with the possibility of rain. Lunch guests reflected that the rain was like a gift from nature and recalled the harsh years of drought.



## Nurseries news and happenings

**The March Community Nurseries Network meeting was held at Raukkan, much to the relief of members from 'East side' who usually travel to Milang for the meeting.**



Nursery Manager Kevin Kropinyeri, Vema Koolmatrie and Jane Swan at Raukkan Nursery

Raukkan nursery manager Kevin Kropinyeri welcomed the group, and after a delicious coffee at the Raukkan general store, Vema Koolmatrie hosted a history tour of the town. Starting at Taplin's monument, Vema told the story of the history of Raukkan before, during and after the mission was established. On to Taplin's house which is now restored as a gallery with historical photos and artefacts, and then to the church with its beautiful stained glass windows. Our tour ended at the nursery where Kevin and Robert Mrongovius showed the group around.

The regular monthly meeting was held at the Raukkan meeting room, and attended by nursery staff and volunteers from various nurseries, as well as GWLAP staff.

### ***Myoporum insulare*—a beauty**

A sample of flowering *Myoporum* was taken into the botanical gardens herbarium for identification by expert Bob Chinnoch. The plant growing at Clayton Bay nursery was flowering and fruiting so heavily that it was feared to be the weedy species *Myoporum laetum*. The specimen was found to be the good one—*Myoporum insulare*. The difference between the two species can be seen with redder berries on the *M. laetum*, as well as translucent dots on the leaves when held up to the light. Now to seed collection from this bountiful shrub.



### **Algae found in potting soil bales**

Potting soil in bales at Clayton Bay were found to have some algae growing on the outside of the soil against the inside bale wall. Advice from Greg Dalton suggested that the soil has a high organic content, and that because the bales were not covered with a tarp and had over several months been rained on, the algae was able to grow happily in the bales on the sides where the sun was shining. A photo and information was sent to Van Shanks Bio Grow describing the algae occurrence. The algae is not a plant pathogen.

So—**Cover your soil bales securely with a tarp or keep under cover out of the rain.**

**Thanks Greg—again**

# Native Plant Science Forum

Tuesday 6th May 2014

9:00am to 2:30pm, Murray Bridge Golf Club, Ritter Street, MURRAY BRIDGE



## Guest speakers;



**Dr. Linda Broadhurst – Research Scientist- CSIRO Plant Industry**

**Improving the past, present and future of Australian restoration – the role of genetics  
Restoration in the Australian landscape- Understanding provenance and genetic diversity**

Linda will examine some of the major genetic issues underpinning selecting seed for restoration, review our track record in restoring genetic diversity and discuss how we might use this information to improve restoration. Of major importance in the rebuilding of Australia's degraded vegetation is ensuring that these have the adaptive capacity to cope with the major environmental challenges expected over the coming decades. Linda's research reveals that small plant populations which often characterise highly fragmented landscapes often suffer from inbreeding effects that limit both the quality and quantity of seed available for restoration.



**Dr. Adam Miller, Research Fellow**

**Department of Genetics, The University of Melbourne**

Adam will demonstrate the limitations of provenance only and the benefits of composite seed sourcing for revegetation and habitat restoration works. His research focuses on mapping genetic diversity at landscape scales across species groups, using this as a framework for identifying genetically diverse communities, and developing guidelines for sourcing and mixing seed. Done in a calculated fashion this offers a practical strategy for maximising health and environmental resilience of augmented or restored populations. These practices also provide potentially valuable conservation tools, acting as evolutionary conduits that can enhance the adaptive potential of populations in surrounding environments through the spill-over of beneficial genes.



**Dr. Andrea Kodym**

**The University of Melbourne**

**Growing the ungrowable – Keystone species for revegetation through plant tissue culture**

Many Australian native plant species are not available for revegetation because of the lack of efficient propagation methods. Among this group of plants are Austral bracken fern (Dennstaedtiaceae) and the sedges *Gahnia radula* and *Lepidosperma spp.* (Cyperaceae), which are widespread and significant understorey species of various native plant communities.

This presentation will provide an insight into our research on these difficult-to-propagate plants and will show how plant tissue culture can provide an alternative way of propagating plants when nursery based propagation hits its limitations.

Our research also focuses on the propagation of female trees of the dioecious *Allocasuarina luehmannii* (Casuarinaceae).

**Morning tea and lunch provided**

**Places are limited. To reserve your seat please contact Regina Durbridge at**

**[regina.durbridge@gwlap.org.au](mailto:regina.durbridge@gwlap.org.au) / 0427 364 551**

This event is funded through the Goolwa to Wellington Local Action Planning Association Community Revegetation Project as part of the South Australian Government's Murray Futures Program, funded by the Australian Government's Water for the Future Initiative in conjunction with the Coorong Tatiara Local Action Plan & Coorong District Council.





You're invited to come and help us celebrate the

# Grand Opening

of the  
NEW Boardwalk  
at the  
Mount Compass School Swamp

Fleurieu Swamps are a unique and important part of our local ecosystem, and thanks to the recent upgrade of the Mount Compass School boardwalk the public are again able to access this nationally endangered ecosystem and discover their value and beauty.

From this...



...to this!



**Thursday 1st May**  
Opening at 11am, followed by a free BBQ at 12

Please RSVP to Jacqui Wilson  
jaqui.wilson@gvltap.org.au  
8532 9117



# On the Level

## Lake Levels (AHD)

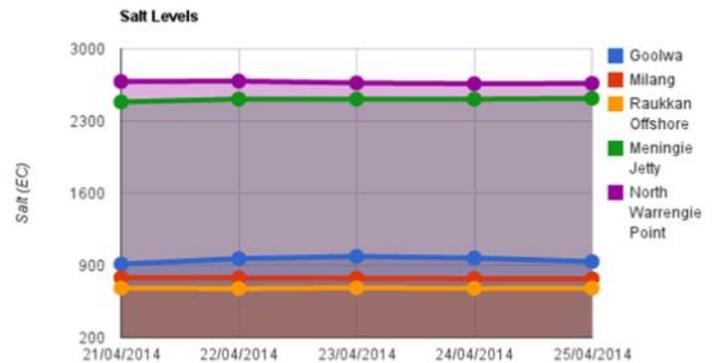
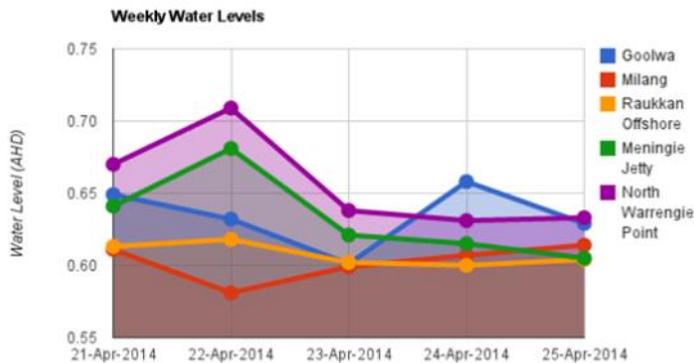
Date	Goolwa	Milang	Raukkan Offshore	Meningie Jetty	Nth Warrengie Point
21-Apr	0.649	0.611	0.613	0.641	0.67
22-Apr	0.632	0.581	0.618	0.681	0.709
23-Apr	0.601	0.599	0.602	0.621	0.638
24-Apr	0.658	0.607	0.6	0.615	0.631
25-Apr	0.629	0.614	0.604	0.605	0.633
<b>Average</b>	<b>0.634</b>	<b>0.602</b>	<b>0.607</b>	<b>0.633</b>	<b>0.656</b>

## Salt Levels (EC)

Date	Goolwa	Milang	Raukkan Offshore	Meningie Jetty	Nth Warrengie Point
21-Apr	912	781	680	2485	2683
22-Apr	965	779	676	2513	2687
23-Apr	987	775	683	2513	2669
24-Apr	971	772	677	2512	2662
25-Apr	936	771	680	2520	2665
<b>Average</b>	<b>954</b>	<b>776</b>	<b>679</b>	<b>2509</b>	<b>2673</b>

Data received from: [www.waterconnect.sa.gov.au/RMWD/Pages/default.aspx](http://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](http://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](http://www.waterconnect.sa.gov.au), [Daily Flow Report](http://www.waterforgood.sa.gov.au), [River Murray Storage Data](http://www.waterforgood.sa.gov.au)

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](http://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.

May 2014	
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	International Composting Awareness Week
6	
7	
8	<a href="#">Composting with worms @ MOSHCC</a> 9:30 - 11:30am Bookings: 8537 0687
9	
10	
11	
12	National Volunteer Week
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22	International Day for Biological Diversity
23	World Turtle Day
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### Disclaimer

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