

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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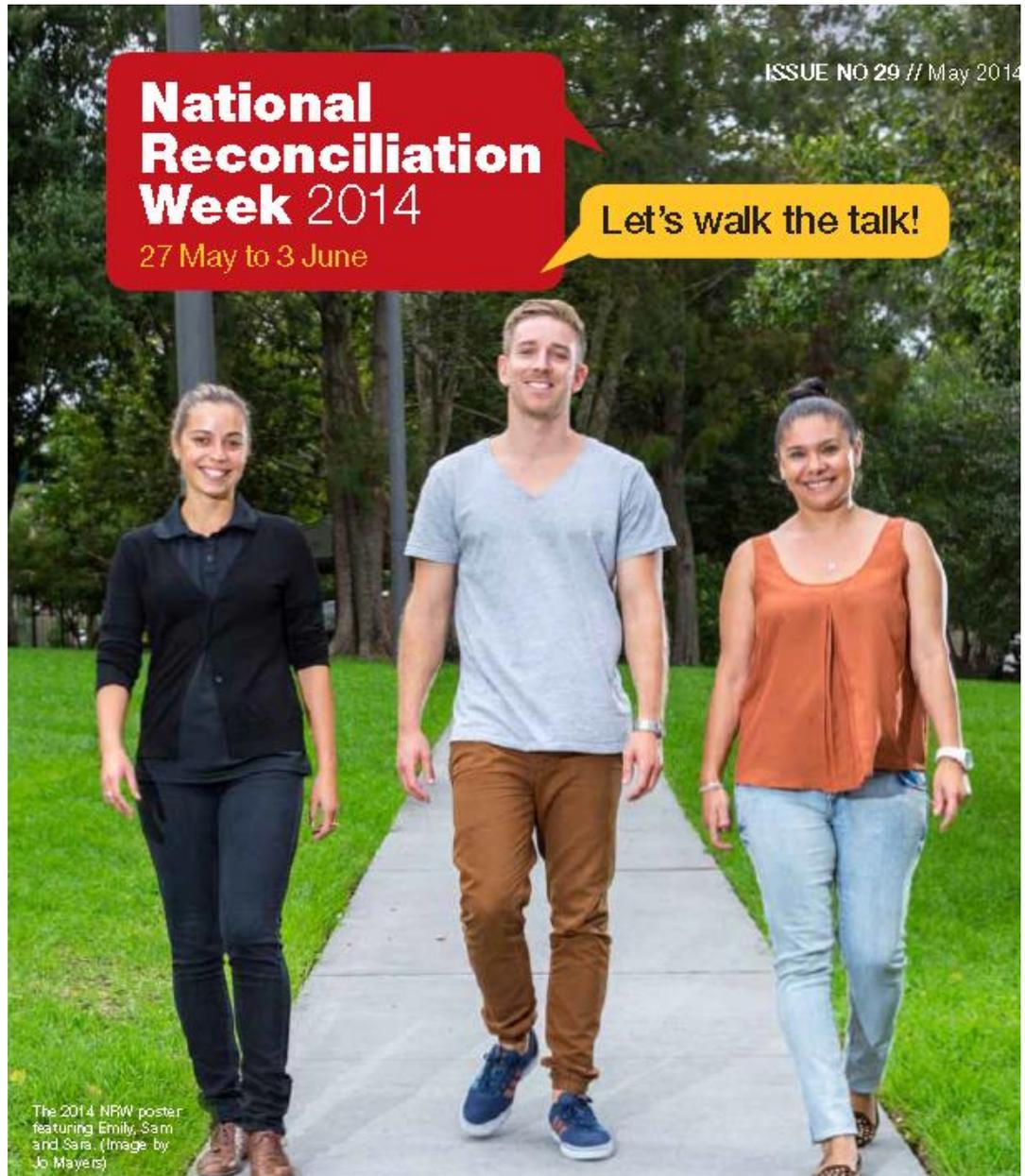
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National Reconciliation Week 2014



Weekly Links

Link of the week...

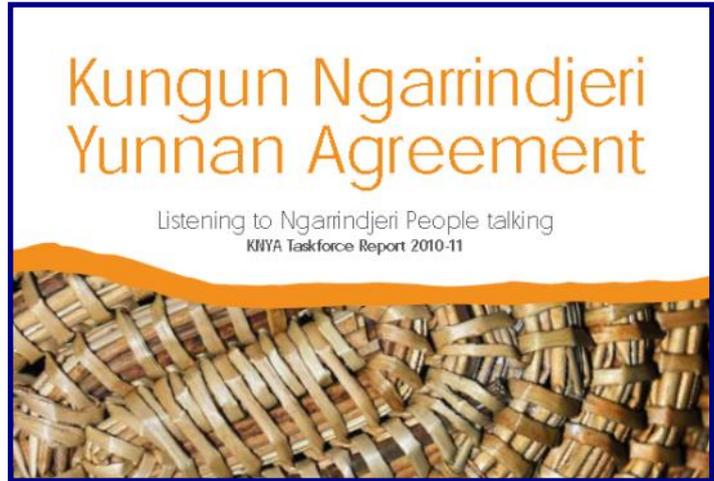
<http://www.reconciliation.org.au/nrw/>



National Reconciliation Week

During Reconciliation Week it is timely to reflect on the establishment five years ago of the Kungun Ngarrindjeri Yunnan Agreement (KNYA).

In 2009, the South Australian government and Ngarrindjeri Regional Authority (NRA) entered into the KNYA which has led to improved government and Ngarrindjeri engagement. The NRA is the peak body representing the Ngarrindjeri nation.



The KNYA establishes a consultation and negotiation framework and commits the state to support the active participation of Ngarrindjeri in natural resource and cultural heritage management within the Ngarrindjeri and Others native title claim area.

Ngarrindjeri Leadership meets quarterly with the signatory Ministers to the agreement to discuss, consult and consider high level matters relevant to the agreement.

The KNYA Taskforce, made up of NRA and state agency representatives, has also been formed to support the commitments made under the agreement. The taskforce meets on a monthly basis and has representatives from DEWNR, EPA, SA Water, DMITRE, the Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation Division of DPC and PIRSA.

The KNYA Taskforce has created an innovative space for government and Ngarrindjeri engagement. The forum enables coordination of Ngarrindjeri engagement across departments, which has led to collaborative initiatives such as NRA's successful application to the Commonwealth government's Indigenous Heritage Program alongside SA Water, Alexandrina Council, and the Murray-Darling Basin Authority. The project seeks to restore and protect cultural heritage along the Sir Richard Peninsula.

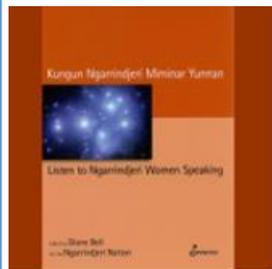
Another initiative of the taskforce has been the establishment of a working group between the NRA and Natural Resources South Australian Murray-Darling Basin (Natural Resources SA MDB) that has enabled increased consultation and engagement around the SA MDB Regional NRM plan.

The increased consultation has assisted in improving Ngarrindjeri engagement across relevant parts of the NRM Plan and has also contributed to the establishment of the Murray Bridge Aboriginal Learning on Country (ALoC) project.

This collaboration between Ngarrindjeri, the Rural City of Murray Bridge, Natural Resources SA MDB and two local action planning groups is implementing numerous land and water management activities, building partnerships, and increasing the NRM skills and capability of the Ngarrindjeri nation.

Much more than a book - these pages contain wisdoms that need to be adopted by those in positions of authority everywhere.....

Some community dialogues are so bogged down in the past that they lose footing, while others are



Publisher	Spinifex
Editor	Diane Bell
Language	Ngarrindjeri
Website	http://www.spinifexpress.com.au/book_detail.php?id=191
Star rating	★★★★☆

flanked in unattainable hopes that detract from the journey altogether. *Kungun Ngarindjeri Mimir Yunnan* is both enriching in its honouring of the past and refreshing in its illumination of all that is possible for future generations.

It's fitting then, that this story is told around a weaving circle - a women's place, with the continuous act of threading and creating serving as a poignant metaphor throughout the text - reminding us that as we journey outwards we must keep the centre sturdy and intact - that we will always keep coming

back to the beginning again, that frameworks enable the rest of us to weave.

There is a ritual in weaving, from where we actually start, the centre part of the piece, you're creating loops to weave into and then you move into the circle. You keep going round and round creating the loops and once the children do those stages they're talking - actually having a conversation, just like our Old People. It's sharing time. And that's where our stories are told.

The issues that these old and young Ngarrindjeri women raise are timely and universal. They speak of caring for country, maintenance of land, the delegation of responsibility, caring for family, the Stolen Generations, the position that women hold within the community and the effectualness of their own wellbeing. They speak of economic development, caring for the nation and of course, caring for stories. These stories are embedded in the text and defined by the voices of their tellers: Aunt Leila, Aunt Ellen, Aunt Eileen and so on. Their messages are powerful and full of wisdom deriving from culture, community and motherhood. Each tale has its own painful reminder of the cycle of life - that we are all passing on and beyond in what is an unstoppable continuum and that for many of the Ngarrindjeri nation, that cycle was cut short through the purported act of genocide.

What became evident to me at the finish of this book while closing the pages over the appendix, is that its profound ideas for a spiritually, emotionally, environmentally and economically sound community are the very ingredients that need to be adopted by those in positions of authority everywhere.

The Ngarrindjeri women who have generously shared their ideas and wisdoms here, have done so with the dignity exalted from the past and with an affordance to the future. They have told their stories in a way that illustrates the power of dialogue, of our women's conversation and ultimately of coming together to weave our own livelihood for our children and our children's children(Sourced 28-5-2014 from www.abc.net.au/indigenous/stories/s2385596.htm)

Saving threatened fish

The Monarto Zoo and Murray Bridge Aboriginal Learning Country (ALOC) teams recently joined forces to protect habitat for the southern purple-spotted gudgeon (*Mogurnda adspersa*), a small native fish which is listed as critically endangered in South Australia.



on

The species was thought to have gone extinct in this state in the 1970s, until it was re-discovered at one wetland in the Lower Murray in 2004.

The ALOC teams have been working with the Natural Resources SAMDB Wetlands and Floodplains team and the Eastern Hills and Murray Plains Catchment Group to remove willows and clear out reeds which are choking up a key wetland that the species relies on.

The project is supported with funding from the State NRM Program Community Grants and the SA Murray-Darling Basin NRM Levy.

Indigenous Community Volunteers



Indigenous Community Volunteers (ICV) is a registered charity and non-profit organisation working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities to help them achieve their goals.

ICV provides access to resources and highly skilled volunteers in urban, rural and remote communities. Communities are always in control: they tell us their vision for the future, what assets or skills they need, and they select the right volunteers for the project. We help communities shape their own future.

ICV volunteers have skills and experience across a wide variety of areas including environmental management, IT, strategic planning, hospitality, tourism, arts, trades and health. To see projects ICV have done with communities around Australia please see their website www.icv.com.au, Annual Report and newsletter Stepping Stones.

For more information or to talk about any potential projects please call Kate Braham in ICV's SA office on 0448 142 629 or email kbraham@icv.com.au.

History Spot– Raukkan

By Robynne Barratt

As you drive into Raukkan you will be made aware of the beautiful surrounds and how the sense of community pride seems to be shining out in all directions. The town is situated on the shores of Lake Alexandrina and is a rural community and has land of 14,000 acres surrounding the township. The



commercial undertakings of the community are managed by the Ngarrindjeri which involves cropping and beef cattle. Previously known as Point McLeay Mission, however it was known to the Ngarrindjeri as 'Raukkan', the town was officially renamed Raukkan in 1982.

The first port of call would be the Raukkan General Store which sells coffee worthy of any coffee maker in Adelaide as well as cake and snacks which are served by trained baristas. Then there is the gallery which was formerly the first western building in which George Taplin resided. This beautiful building is praiseworthy of any visitor wanting to gain an education in the history of Raukkan. To be discovered is a treasure trove collection of articles and photographs, weapons, tools and woven products. Included is literature donated by a descendant of Herbert Read, a past missionary. Notably upon entering is the fine-looking historical photograph of George Taplin whom was the first missionary in 1859. Taplin consulted with the Ngarrindjeri people and worked hard at improving their health, education and farming practises. His alliance with the local people formed a continuing involvement with the Ngarrindjeri and carved the way for them making informed decisions about their community which is well into practise today. David Unaipon born in 1872 who has his photo on the \$50.00 note was a historical resident from Raukkan and his fame and identity can be found amongst the history in the museum. He became a preacher, author and inventor. Unaipon embodied Aboriginal advancement with perhaps his most famous development the Shearing Handpiece. He was eventually accepted as a known spokesperson for his people and was most influential in Australian government on Aboriginal policies.

Alongside of him is another artist drawing of David Blackwell a farmer employed to educate the Ngarrindjeri locals on farming practises. For a brief time was also a supervisor at Raukkan. The silk art created by Lena Rigney on display is stunning and embellishes the birdlife in the area.

As the museum was created by the local Ngarrindjeri the story that is told within the walls becomes far more fascinating and educational and extremely significant.

The most noteworthy historical building is the Raukkan Church, also depicted on the \$50.00 note. The Church first opened in 1869 and has an important place in history as a missionary church involving the Ngarrindjeri. The restoration of the church is a positive result of community and government programmes working together to preserve a part of Australian history. A special feature is the reproduction of a stained glass window installed in memory of Ngarrindjeri Anzacs whom fought in the 1914 Great War and lived previously at Raukkan, the Church has become a significant representation of Raukkan and is very important to the community. Visitors are welcome to Raukkan and cultural tours are available on request.

Ngarrindjeri weaving: *taken from Ngarrindjeri Lakun gathered and collated by the Ngarrindjeri Weavers and Anne McMahan*

The Ngarrindjeri word Lakun, which means to weave, has multiple meanings and shares meaning with some of our other words. The act of Lakun is about bringing families and people together.

Culturally weaving brings people together, to sit and weave is both a time of reflection and a time for family and community. Gathering the rushes for weaving involves family members, groups of men or women as well as mixed groups; using the collection of the weaving rushes as family time.

Each woven object maker is known by their stitch, a weaver's stitch is like their signature. There are stories attached to the woven object, the stories are about its maker, its purpose, the place the rushes came from, the journey to collect them, the life experiences that the weaver has lived while making that object and also the quiet times spent weaving.

Ngarrindjeri men and women made and sold woven items because it allowed them to continue their identities and traditions and also make money or trade in difficult times.

Early in the 20th century the women from Point McLeay Mission now known as Raukkan, made and sold their weaving to the river boat traders and tourists to the Mission. The tourist travelled across Lake Alexandrina from Milang. The Ngarrindjeri from Point McLeay also travelled to Milang to sell their weaving.

The Ngarrindjeri apply their traditional land management techniques of not collecting all the rushes from any one point, only the mature longest rushes are collected to ensure that there will be rushes for future generations. The weavers do this by spreading the seeds from the flowering tips and by leaving some of the young plants growing at the tips of the rushes behind: this is the Ngarrindjeri way of sustaining life within Ruwe/Ruwe.

Throughout the colonisation period Ngarrindjeri weaving has shown innovation in design and adaptation to meet the changing needs of the people. Settler women placed orders for specific items not available in the Province of South Australia and when possible the Ngarrindjeri weavers made them.



“When you are weaving you start small, like your own family, as you weave out it's like you are adding your grandchildren and then your relatives, The weaving binds them all together close to your heart” Auntie Eileen McHughes

ELDERS WEAVING AT MILANG

A group of very lively ladies from the Elders Weaving Group from Reynella (through Onkaparinga Council) recently visited Milang for a weaving workshop with Ngarrindjeri elder Ellen Trevorrow at the ACE Space. After an overnight stay in Milang, the ladies, together with Lakes Hub staff, collected some sedges from a local property for them to take home to continue their weaving projects. The

sedges are traditionally pulled out rather than cut, and are used extensively by Ngarrindjeri women for weaving



The group also visited the Shoreline Nursery in Milang (formerly MEC nursery) to look at the range of plants grown by nursery manager Jill Dennis and staff. The ladies were delighted to see some bush foods amongst the plants, and also took home some *Cyperus* plantlets to grow their own weaving material. The ladies have vowed to come back to these delightful shores in the near future



LEFT:
Cyperus gymnocaulis
(Spiny flat sedge) used for
weaving by Ngarrindjeri
women

News Release **Minister Ian Hunter**

Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation
Minister for Water and the River Murray
Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation

Saturday, May 24, 2014

\$2.9 million to help native fish species

A series of fishways will be built at the Murray Mouth barrages, enabling fish to move freely between the Coorong and Lower Lakes as part of their breeding and feeding cycle.

Speaking at Goolwa today on World Fish Migration Day, Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation Ian Hunter said that currently, the barrages and spillways form a barrier that obstructs fish movement.

"The fishways will create a passage through these structures so fish can move between the freshwater lakes and the Coorong estuary," he said.

"This will provide greater access to breeding areas and different feeding grounds while facilitating the spread of rare native species in the Coorong and Lower lakes area.

"Ultimately, it will help to ensure sustainability for more than 30 species of native fish and restore Murray-Darling Basin fish populations."

The Australian Government is providing \$2.6 million which, together with almost \$300,000 from South Australia, will enable this important project to happen.

"We are committed to working with South Australia to restore the Coorong, Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth to a healthy and resilient wetland of international importance," Federal Parliamentary Secretary for the Environment, Simon Birmingham said.

"The fishways project is part of the Coorong, Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth Recovery Project, to which the Australian Government is contributing \$123 million.

"It is jointly funded by the Australian Government's Sustainable Rural Water Use and Infrastructure Program and South Australia's Murray Futures program under a 90-10 per cent funding agreement," he said.

The establishment of fishways was part of the vision of Murray River crusader and fourth-generation fisher Henry Jones, who was a passionate advocate for the health and sustainability of the Murray, particularly the Lower Lakes region.

"Henry sadly passed away last month, but it is wonderful to see part of his legacy live on through this project," Mr Hunter said.

"Today's announcement is great news for everyone who has worked hard to bring this project to fruition, but it is especially positive for the future of our native fish population in the Basin and the region."

Construction of the fishways will be managed by SA Water. The South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI) has provided input into the design of the fishways based on their studies into the ecology of fish species.

SARDI will undertake monitoring to assess the effectiveness of the fishways once they have been built, in 2016.

Students raise their voices for World Environment Day

In celebration of World Environment Day on 5 June, more than 150 students will raise their voices at a School Swamp Field Day.

Students from four Fleurieu schools will become teachers for the day and educate each other about the importance of swamps using hands-on interactive workshops.

Event organiser Jodie Sommerville from Natural Resources South Australian Murray-Darling Basin (Natural Resources SAMDB) said the Mount Compass School Swamp is a great venue to hold World Environment Day celebrations as it is a nationally endangered ecosystem.

"The Swamp Savers program conducted by Natural Resources SAMDB seeks to engage young people from across the Fleurieu in swamp protection, through awareness-raising activities and using the Kids Teaching Kids philosophy," she said.

Ms Sommerville said it is hoped that students will be able to recognise the value of swamps, appreciate their beauty, and therefore help protect and manage them in the future.

"This year the theme for World Environment Day is 'raise your voice not the sea level', and that is exactly what the students will be doing," she said.

"By presenting their own workshops, the students see that they can have a positive impact on the world, starting in their own communities," Ms Sommerville said.

Student workshops will include frog monitoring, planting for threatened plant species including the *Allocasuarina robusta*, photo point monitoring, water quality testing, making milk carton bird feeders and plant identification.

Joining Mount Compass Area School for World Environment Day will be Investigator College, Godwa Primary School and Eastern Fleurieu School—R-6 campus, Strathalbyn.

The SAMDB Natural Resources Management Board supports the Swamp Savers program through funding from the Australian Government.

Photo caption: Students will continue revegetation work at Mount Compass School Swamp on World Environment Day.

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www.environment.sa.gov.au

www.naturalresources.sa.gov.au/samurraydarlingbasin



Calling all interested birders

Are you interested in learning how to identify birds?

Natural Resources South Australian Murray-Darling Basin (Natural Resources SAMDB) is hosting some free training workshops on identifying birds by recognising bird calls, visual observations and nest descriptions.

The workshops are scheduled to occur in Berri during June and July 2014.

The workshops are part of the new bird monitoring program for the SAMDB region which will link with other bird monitoring programs across the state and Australia.

Natural Resources SAMDB Community Monitoring Project Officer Simon Bryars, said it is well accepted that birds are a good indicator of environmental health including habitat condition and ecosystem function.

"For some time now it has been recognised that a targeted bird monitoring program that taps into community observations would be beneficial for the SAMDB region," he said.

"Through the new program we are looking to collect information in parts of the SAMDB region that haven't been surveyed much and to train up new community volunteers whose observations can be used by the monitoring program.

"We are also looking to tap into experienced birders who may already be collecting bird data."

According to Mr Bryars, this information will provide a better overall picture of bird distributions across the SAMDB region.

"There will be exciting opportunities for birders to conduct surveys in areas that they may not normally have access to," Mr Bryars said.

Bird observations will be collected through an online portal that community members will be able to access and will be shared through the Atlas of Living Australia.

To find out more about the training workshops and the bird monitoring program, phone the Natural Resources SAMDB Mount Barker office on 8391 7500 or email simon.bryars@sa.gov.au.

Photo caption: Splendid wren in natural SAMDB habitat. A targeted bird monitoring program that taps into community observations would be beneficial for the SAMDB region.

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www.naturalresources.sa.gov.au/samurraydarlingbasin



The **WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY** event has been postponed due to low numbers. We anticipate that the event will be rescheduled in Spring 2014. We apologise for any inconvenience.

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY 2014

June 4

Wednesday June 4th
9:30am - 3.45pm

Murray Bridge Golf Club

"Coorong and Lower Lakes Environmental Update – Sharing monitoring results"

Morning

- Welcome to Country and overview of the operation of the Lower Lakes and Coorong
- Water quality and acid sulfate soils, waterbirds, *Ruppia* and cyanobacteria

Afternoon

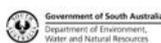
- Vegetation, fish, community involvement, scientific linkages to the management of the Lower Lakes and Coorong
- Questions and discussion

Morning tea and lunch provided

RSVP by 30th May 2014 info@lakeshub.com or 85370808

Photo courtesy of Stuart Jones

For further information contact the lakes Hub at : info@lakeshub.com or call (08) 8537 0808



The Coorong, Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth Recovery Project is funded under the South Australian Government's Murray Futures program and by the Australian Government. The Living Murray is a joint initiative funded by the New South Wales, Victorian, South Australian, Australian Capital Territory government and the Australian Governments and is coordinated by the Murray-Darling Basin Authority.

Do you own a commercial or lifestyle property?

Like to learn how to save yourself money and worry?

PIRSA Biosecurity SA and Rural Solutions SA are presenting 4 free interactive workshops that will help you to:

- Increase your understanding of how you can best protect your property from the entry and spread of pests and diseases
- develop a property biosecurity plan; and
- provide advice on current pest and weed problems

Workshops will be held at the following times (subject to response) and locations:

Tuesday 10 June 2014	Wednesday 11 June 2014
Workshop 1 1 pm - 4 pm	Workshop 3 10 am - 1 pm
Workshop 2 6 pm - 9 pm	Workshop 4 4 pm - 7 pm
Murray Bridge Community Club Sturt Reserve	Mannum Community Club 66 Randell St
Refreshments will be provided. Please advise us of any specific dietary requirements along with your rsvp	



Please RSVP with your choice of workshop by Tuesday 3 June to Simone Lawson on 8463 7435 or at simone.lawson@sa.gov.au

PREMIUM
FOOD AND WINE FROM OUR
CLEAN
ENVIRONMENT



Up/Coming Events

We're really proud to be launching
Alexandrina Council's new
Environmental Action Plan



COMMUNITY ENVIRO-EXPO

FREE WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY EVENT

Thursday June 5, 6-8pm. Goolwa Centenary Hall, 14 Cadell Street, Goolwa



Come and celebrate the launch of our vibrant new plan for environmental action across Alexandrina Council.

Meet new people, network with local businesses and volunteers or just come to have a good time. Everyone's welcome!

LOCAL FOOD PRODUCTS • ECO-TOURISM DISPLAYS

COMMUNITY GROUPS • STALLS & EXHIBITIONS

WELCOME BY THE TAL-KIN-JERI DANCE GROUP

FIND OUT MORE:
Call Shen Mann on 8555 7000
or email shen.mann@alexandrina.sa.gov.au



We need your help

Swamp Fest planting day 2014

Volunteers are needed to help with a large planting of the endangered Mount Compass Oak-bush and to reinstate habitat surrounding one the largest Fleurieu Peninsula swamps.

Come to help plant and guard seedlings and enjoy some informative talks.

You will need to bring:

- Wet weather gear (e.g. waterproof jacket / pants, gum boots)
- Warm clothing and boots
- Work gloves
- Water bottle

A complimentary lunch will be provided.

When: Sunday 13 July 2014

Time: (9.30am morning tea) 10am – 4pm

Where: Stipturus Conservation Park
Fleurieu Peninsula,
7kms from Mount Compass

RSVP: Registrations by 4 July 2014
Jodie Woof

T: 8278 0603

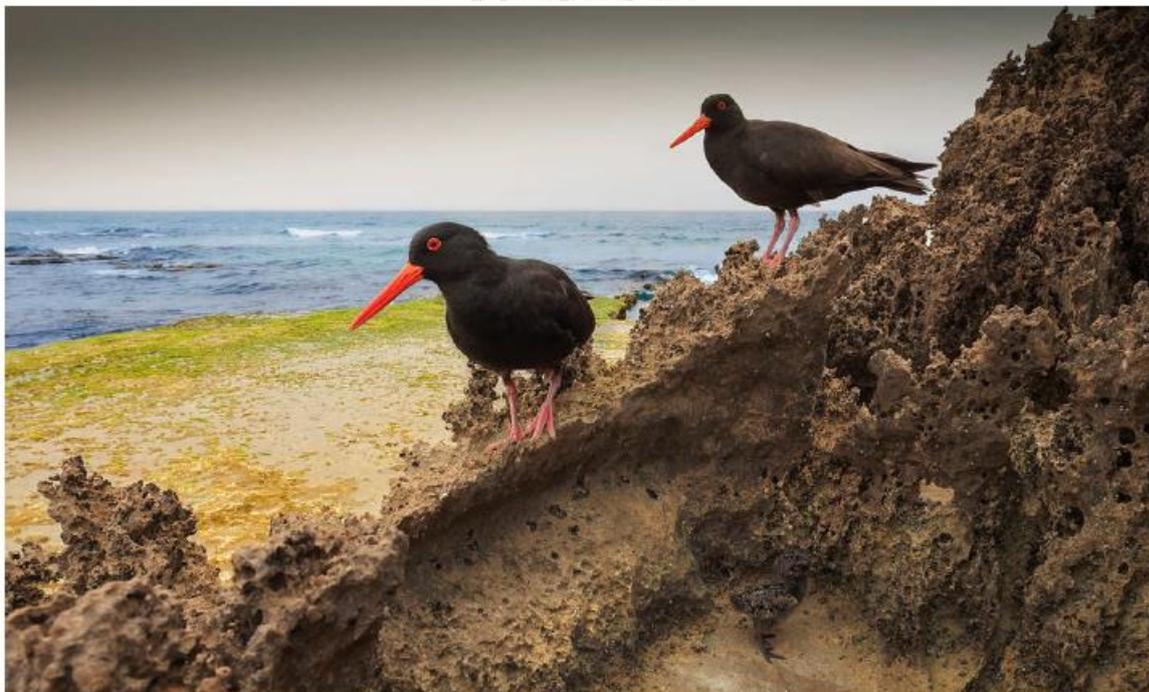
E: jodie.woof@sa.gov.au

(Please let Jodie know if you have any special dietary requirements)



Up/Coming Events

4th Annual National Beach-nesting Birds Workshop June 2014



This year our annual National Beach-nesting Birds workshop will run across two days to allow for a broad range of presentations, workshops and social events. This will be a great opportunity to share knowledge and advance our conservation efforts for this special suite of birds and their coastal habitats.

to
at
of

Day 1 Friday 13th June 2013

Times: Conference 9:00am – 5:00pm

Where: Lighthouse Theatre, 185 Timor St, Warrnambool, Victoria
Optional Dinner at Piccolo Restaurant, Warrnambool 7pm start

Day 2 Saturday 14th June 2013

Times: Workshop sessions 9:00am – 12:45pm
BBQ Lunch 12:45pm – 2:00pm
Field Trip 2:00pm – 4:30pm (finishing times may vary)

Where: Port Fairy Consolidated School, Albert St, Port Fairy, Victoria
For field trip locations see page four.

RSVP no later than Monday 26th May to bnb.events@birdlife.org.au , using the supplied registration form.

On the Level

Lake Levels (AHD)

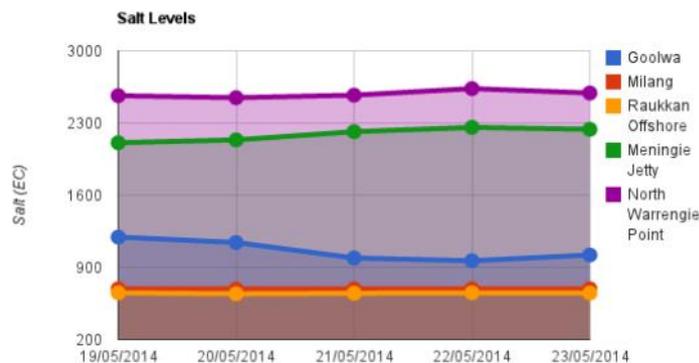
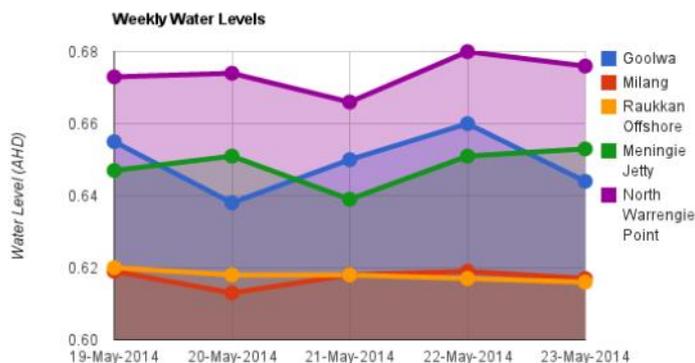
Date	Goolwa	Milang	Raukkan Offshore	Meningie Jetty	Nth Warrengie Point
19-May	0.655	0.619	0.62	0.647	0.673
20-May	0.638	0.613	0.618	0.651	0.674
21-May	0.65	0.618	0.618	0.639	0.666
22-May	0.66	0.619	0.617	0.651	0.68
23-May	0.644	0.617	0.616	0.653	0.676
Average	0.644	0.617	0.618	0.648	0.674

Salt Levels (EC)

Date	Goolwa	Milang	Raukkan Offshore	Meningie Jetty	Nth Warrengie Point
19-May	1194	692	653	2109	2565
20-May	1141	690	643	2136	2546
21-May	991	692	649	2216	2570
22-May	964	692	653	2258	2634
23-May	1020	692	650	2239	2591
Average	1062	692	650	2192	2581

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

Please note: salinity levels in the Goolwa Channel can be



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.

May 2014	
23	World Turtle Day
24	World Migratory Fish day
25	
26	National Reconciliation Week
27	
28	
29	Lakes Hub Talking Heads with GWLAP– Regina Durbridge on Community Monitoring , 4.45pm-6pm MOSHCC
30	
JUNE 2014	
1	
2	
3	
4	World Environment Day Monitoring Event Murray Bridge Golf Course
5	World Environment Day- Alexandrina Council Environmental Action Plan Launch 6pm-8pm
6	
7	
8	
9	Queens Birthday
10	
11	
12	
13	
14	
15	

Disclaimer

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