



Weekly Bulletin



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A Big News Week

Big news this week, as Minister Ian Hunter (Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation / Minister for Water and the River Murray / Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation) has announced a \$60 Million Coorong Southeast Flows Restoration Project. This project, funded by the Australian Government and the South Australian Government, will redirect freshwater into the Coorong's South Lagoon, helping reduce salinity levels in the Coorong. You can read more about the announcement on page 3.

You'll also find this week a report from the planting of the 1 Millionth Plant, a huge achievement for the entire Coorong Lower Lakes Murray Mouth Community Revegetation Program.

Our new Community Grants section will be updated with new opportunities for projects as we come across them.

Remember if you see something you think others would be interested in, forward it on the Lakes Hub (with a note to say it's for the bulletin) and we will endeavour to pop it into the next issue.

A little request: we are seeking donations of any old nests, interesting things you have found (flotsam and jetsam), skeletons, nice pieces of wood etc. Anything we might be able to use in some environmental displays being put together for the Hub. See Megan if you have something to donate!

Have a cracker week!

The team at the Lakes Hubs.

Weekly Links

This week we have a great video update from the CLLMM team, featuring the Rupia translocation project. [Check out the video now by clicking here!](#)



HUGE EFFORT IN COMMUNITY REVEGETATION PROJECT

The 1 millionth plant in the Coorong Lower Lakes Murray Mouth Community Revegetation Program was planted in Clayton Bay on Friday. Minister Ian Hunter was joined by MP Adrian Pederick and Mayor Kym McHugh and representatives from Alexandrina Council, Murray Bridge Council, Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR), Goolwa to Wellington Local Action Planning Association (GWLAP), Coorong Tatiara Local Action Planning Association (CTLAP), Lakes Hub, Milang and District Community Association, residents of Clayton Bay, Pt. Sturt, Milang and Volunteers of the planting program who have been critical to the success of the program.

The group applauded as the seedling was planted by the Minister near Duck's Hospital, then moved to the hall for a delicious morning tea supplied by the Clayton Community Association volunteers. The Minister and other guests toured the Clayton Bay nursery, met the locals and generally enjoyed the hospitality. The weather was beautiful, the food delicious, and Dunn's Lagoon a picture.

Well done to all the nurseries, project officers, and volunteers involved in this massive effort over the past 4 years.



Minister Hunter joined MDCA, DEWNR, GWLAP, Council members and community to plant the millionth seedling



Beautiful Duck's Hospital, part of Dunn's Lagoon at Clayton Bay – site of the millionth plant

\$60 million for Coorong South East Flows Restoration Project

Date posted: 12 June 2014

Minister Ian Hunter

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

A new \$60 million project funded by the Australian and South Australian Governments will help reduce salinity levels in the Coorong.

"The South East Flows Restoration Project will use a combination of watercourses and existing drains to re-direct freshwater into the Coorong South Lagoon from the South East drainage system," said Senator Simon Birmingham, Parliamentary Secretary for the Environment.

"The project will also enable additional water to be diverted into South East wetlands en route to the Coorong, addressing priority local environmental needs along the way," Senator Birmingham said.

"The Australian Government is providing \$54 million in funding as part of our \$123 million contribution to improving the Coorong, Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth. We are committed to working to maintain the Lakes as a healthy and resilient wetland of international importance.

"This includes supporting on-ground actions to restore lakeshore and estuarine habitats, reintroducing native fish and constructing fish passages to allow movement between the lakes and the Coorong.

"A proportion of freshwater from the South East drainage system currently diverted into the ocean, which historically flowed into the South Lagoon, will be restored to the South Lagoon.

"By diverting this water into the Coorong South Lagoon, salinity levels in the Coorong will be better managed and improve conditions for native aquatic plants and animal species.

"The existing South East drainage system already delivers on average 30 GL per year to the Coorong at Salt Creek. The project will provide an additional 26 GL per year on average, providing long-term environmental outcomes for the Coorong," said Senator Birmingham.

South Australia's Minister for Water and the River Murray Ian Hunter said the South Australian Government will provide an additional \$6 million in funding for the South East Flows Restoration Project.

The Coorong suffered significant ecological degradation as a result of the recent drought in the Murray-Darling Basin," Minister Hunter said.

"This project will help restore the Coorong by reducing salinity levels.

"By reinstating the flow path, the project will also deliver additional environmental water to wetlands in the South East, and will help improve seagrass beds near Kingston that currently receive excessive freshwater from the drainage system," he said.

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"Baseline monitoring of the en-route wetlands and the Coorong has already been undertaken during the project investigation, and will continue during project delivery. Additional funding will also be provided for comprehensive investigations which will include hydrological modelling, engineering and ecological studies.

South East Natural Resources Management (NRM) Board Presiding Member Frank Brennan said the Project will be managed by a Steering Committee including representation from the South East NRM Board and the South Eastern Water Conservation and Drainage Board.

"It's vital that the South East community, through community Board representation, is involved to ensure the best outcomes for the community and the environment," says Mr Brennan.

The CLLMM Recovery Project Community Advisory Panel will also be involved in the project to help represent the Coorong Community.



The Australian Government funding for the Project includes budgets for landholder consultation, broader community and Aboriginal engagement programs, and an environmental management program to support monitoring and understanding of the South East drainage system and Coorong. This project will also be subject to environmental approvals under national and State environment legislation.

The South East Flows Restoration Project is part of the Coorong, Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth Recovery Project, and is jointly funded under the Australian Government's Sustainable Rural Water Use and Infrastructure Program and South Australia's Murray Futures program.

World Oceans Day

Oceans cover most of our planet, but we still have a lot to learn about this incredible ecosystem. Brush up on your knowledge of our watery world for World Oceans Day.

The oceans not only have waves, tides and surface currents — they also have a constantly moving system of deep-ocean circulation driven by temperature and salinity.

Known as the global ocean conveyor belt or thermohaline current (thermo = temperature, haline = salinity), this deep ocean current gets one of its "starts" in the polar region near Norway.

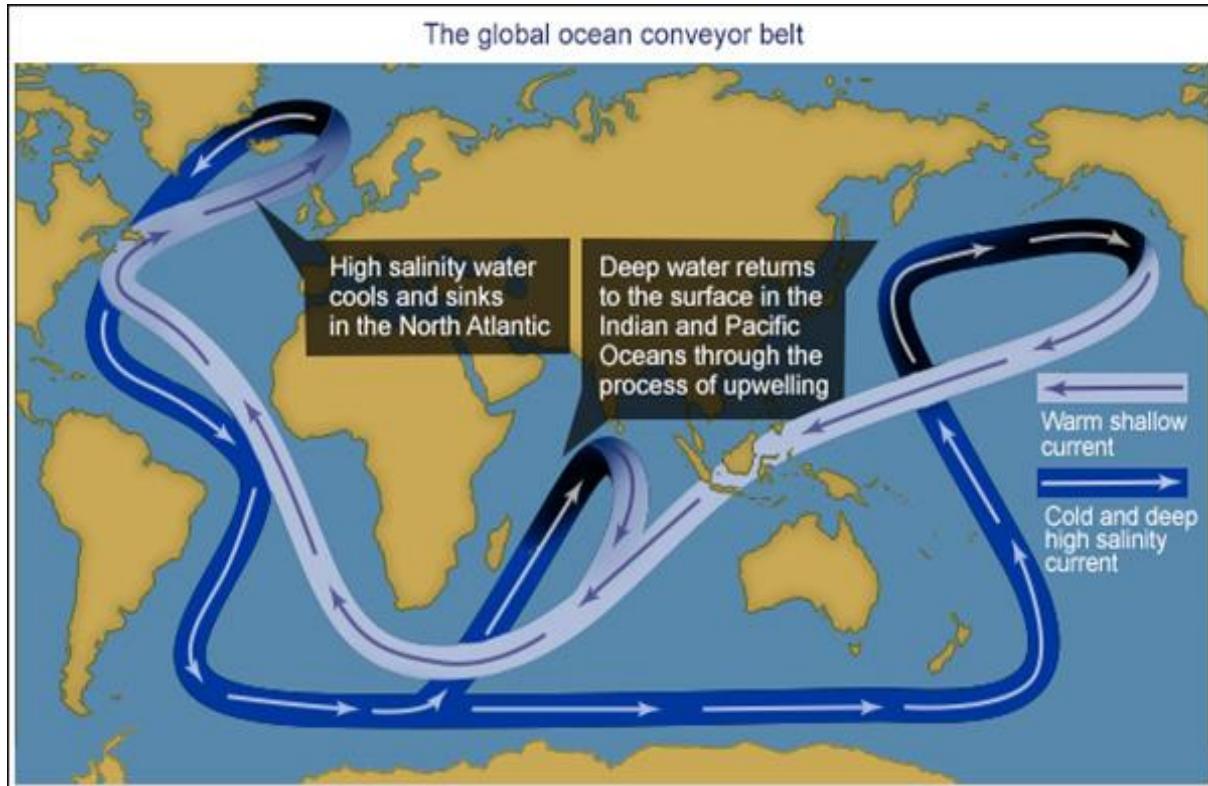
As sea ice forms, the water left behind becomes saltier and denser and begins to sink, making room for warmer and less dense incoming surface water, which in turn eventually becomes cold and salty enough to sink.

The cold dense water flows along the ocean bottom all the way from the northern hemisphere to the Southern Ocean where it merges with more cold dense water from Antarctica and is swept into the Indian and Pacific Oceans.

Eventually it mixes with warmer water and rises to the surface before finding its way back to the Atlantic. It can take 1000 years to complete this cycle.

Plastic trash takes a very long time to bio-degrade in the oceans. The actions of sunlight and wave motion tend to break plastic objects into smaller and smaller pieces until they eventually become smaller than a grain of sand. That's why there is no obvious floating island of plastic debris, but rather a fine soup of plastic particles floating in the water column.

www.abc.net.au/science/articles/2014/06/04/4018335.htm



Whale watching

For the latest whale sightings along South Australia's coast visit the [Whale Centre website](#).

www.sawhalecentre.com/sightings/index.html

The migration of the southern right whale brings breathtaking beauty and sheer power to our majestic South Australian coastline every year. The whales visit between June and early October as they move into the warmer waters off the South Australian coast to calve. While our whale visitors are mostly southern right whales, we also have sightings of sperm whales, humpbacks, blue whales and the occasional orca. Whales visit the length of South Australia's coastline, providing a whale watching paradise with an endless choice of scenery.

: click here for whale watching sites and details [www.environment.sa.gov.au/
marineparks/enjoy/whale-watching](http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/marineparks/enjoy/whale-watching)

How to get the most out your whale watching experience

- Have access to binoculars and a camera with a decent zoom lens.
- Bring your patience and a chair. Take your time and enjoy both the frolicking of the whales and the beautiful natural environment you are in. They may take some time to appear but you will be rewarded with one of nature's most beautiful scenes.

If you have a boat, respect both the whale and the law. You must be at least 300m away from whales, are not allowed to approach them and must keep your motors in idle if approached. Whales may appear slow and gentle but they can easily overpower boats with their speed, particularly when surfacing from below.



www.sawhalecentre.com



www.weekendnotes.com

Strengthening endangered numbers, (Murray Valley Standard, Thursday 29th May 2014)

Endangered southern purple-spotted gudgeon numbers have received a boost as schools and conservation groups reach an important stage in a breeding program.

Students from Urrbrae Agricultural High School and Alberton Primary School released 225 captive-bred fish in a Natural Resources South Australian Murray-Darling Basin (SAMDB) first.

Before the 2007-10 drought reduced species numbers, the fish were known to live at Jury Swamp, a wetland north of Murray Bridge, which is where they were released. The schools have been working with Nature Glenelg Trust and Natural Resources SAMDB the past five years to bring the species back from extinction.

The fish, known as *Mogurnda adspersa*, was common in the South Australian wetlands, but was considered extinct until 2004, when it was found at Jury Swamp.

Meanwhile, a survey of the Lower Lakes during March and April found four years of healthy water flows have not been enough to restore fish populations to pre-drought levels. Researchers from the University of Adelaide, SA Research and Development Institute and Aquasave searched for three species of fish listed as threatened: the Murray hardyhead, Yarra pygmy perch and southern pygmy perch.

They found only one Yarra pygmy perch in the entire ecosystem, despite the release of almost 6000 captive-bred specimens of that species into the lakes in the past three years.

They also found 14 southern pygmy perch at Mundoo Island and more than 200 Murray hardyhead between Clayton and Goolwa.

More than 15,000 native freshwater fish have been released into the lakes since the drought under a Coorong, Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth critical fish habitat project.



Let it go: Meagan Trollope and Brooke Francis, of Urrbrae Agricultural High School, say goodbye to fish they bred in captivity at the school.

Have Your Say—Draft SA Community Landcare Plan for comment



Draft South Australian Community Landcare Plan

Consultation open
until 31 July 2014

The Draft Community Landcare Plan for South Australia proposes a shared vision for Community Landcare and is a call to action for the wider community. This is an important document in providing strategic direction for the Landcare Movement and promotion of landcare activities, values, significance and worth to funding bodies, politicians, and the wider community.

The Landcare Association of SA has developed this document and seeks your comments and suggestions on how this plan can be improved and implemented. A series of public forums will be held around the State and these will be advised once finalised. For now however, comments can be made by completing the attached response form and returning form and returning it to:

The Landcare Association of South Australia
PO Box 2019
Magill North, South Australia 5072
Or email to:
communitylandcareplan@landcaresa.asn.au

Alternatively you can provide feedback to the Landcare Association of SA Chairman Gerry Butler at gbutler@landcaresa.asn.au

The Plan is also available for review and download at the Landcare Association of SA Website - <http://www.landcaresa.asn.au/node/78>

It is important for Landcare at a State Level to have this plan implemented and to make it successful we need your input so please take a few moments to have a look at the plan and provide your feedback.



17 JUNE WORLD DAY TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION

The World Day to Combat Desertification has been observed since 1995 to promote public awareness relating to international cooperation to combat desertification and the effects of drought.

In 1994, the United Nations General Assembly [declared \(General Assembly Resolution A/RES/49/115\)](#) June 17 the "World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought" to promote public awareness of the issue, and the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa.

Ever since, country Parties to the Convention, organizations of the United Nations System, international and non-governmental organizations and other interested stakeholders have celebrated this particular day with a series of outreach activities worldwide.

The World Day to Combat Desertification is a unique occasion to remind everybody that desertification can be effectively tackled, that solutions are possible, and that key tools to this aim lay in strengthened community participation and co-operation at all levels.

Country Parties and civil society organizations are invited to organize events to celebrate the World Day to Combat Desertification as an additional opportunity to increase awareness raising and participation in the process.

For more information about the Day, please contact: [secretariat\(at\)unccd.int](mailto:secretariat(at)unccd.int)

Community Grants

SCHOOLS 2014-15 NRM ACTION GRANTS NOW OPEN!

Closing date for submissions is Friday 27 June.

The grants encourage schools and preschools to initiate projects that build school and community capacity in one or more of the following areas:

- education for sustainability through Youth Voice
- reconnecting with nature through gardens and outdoor activities.
- These projects may involve practical on-ground activities, environmental education and information exchange or awareness raising and promoting change to more sustainable practices.

Applications and more information are available online

www.naturalresources.sa.gov.au/adelaidemtloftyranges/get-involved/grants-and-funding

Please note: The NRM board is offering Community NRM Action Grants in July. These grants of up to \$5000 are designed to encourage community groups and individuals to run projects that build public understanding and action for a sustainable natural Environment.

THE NORMAN WETTENHALL FOUNDATION - SMALL ENVIRONMENTAL GRANT SCHEME

The Norman Wettenhall Foundation supports **biodiversity conservation projects** Australia-wide. **They like to fund small groups where grants make a big difference.** The objectives of the Small Environmental Grant Scheme is to support biodiversity conservation projects in Australia that are concerned with one or more of the following:

- monitoring and recording data
- community education
- community capacity building (training)
- research and science

Applications for funding are highly competitive and they are only a small group with limited resources. You may need to show **enthusiasm, collaboration**, perhaps **passion**, make it **interesting**, and most importantly, it must be clear how you will **directly make positive changes to biodiversity conservation in Australia**.

Have a look at the page Awarded Grants to see what kinds of things they fund, but don't be limited by these, have a go at doing something different.

On the Level

Lake Levels (AHD)

Date	Goolwa	Milang	Raukkan Offshore	Meningie Jetty	Nth Warrengie Point
2-Jun	0.682	0.644	0.641	0.655	0.678
3-Jun	0.668	0.635	0.639	0.663	0.687
4-Jun	0.65	0.624	0.639	0.675	0.696
5-Jun	0.643	0.625	0.636	0.674	0.695
6-Jun	0.663	0.635	0.639	0.657	0.683
Average	0.661	0.633	0.639	0.665	0.688

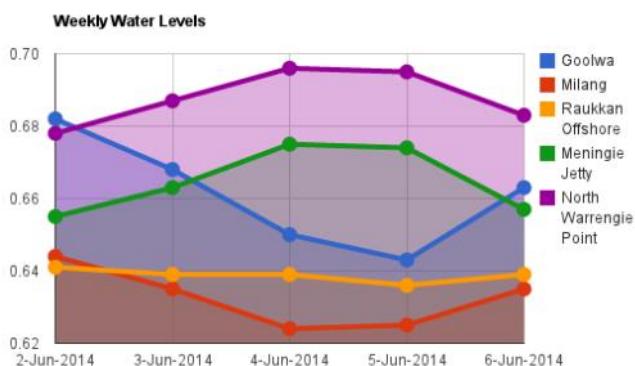
Salt Levels (EC)

Date	Goolwa	Milang	Raukkan Offshore	Meningie Jetty	Nth Warrengie Point
2-Jun	1372	685	889	2488	2394
3-Jun	1405	683	839	2493	2391
4-Jun	1658	682	771	2493	2430
5-Jun	1629	675	700	2537	2412
6-Jun	1454	671	694	2553	2440
Average	1504	679	779	2513	2413

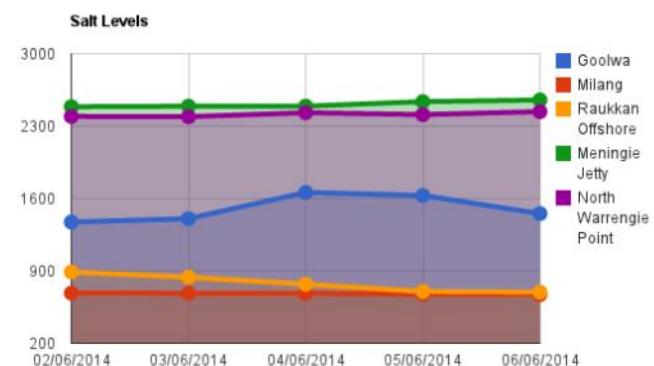
Data received from: www.waterconnect.sa.gov.au/RMWD/Pages/default.aspx

Please note: salinity levels in the Goolwa Channel can be influenced by tidal ingress.

Water Level (AHD)



Salt (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 ($\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$)
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: Suttor 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.

June 2014

1	
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4	World Environment Day Monitoring Event Murray Bridge Golf Course
5	World Environment Day- Alexandrina Council Environmental Action Plan Launch 6pm-8pm
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9	Queens Birthday
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