

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.

Number 195  
20 June 2014

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## Congratulations are in order!

Wow! Big congratulations to our friends the Goolwa to Wellington LAP for winning the Biodiversity Award at the United Nations Association of Australia Environmental Awards last Friday.

A fantastic achievement, well deserved. Read all about it on Page 5!

I've had the good fortune to be able to spend the last two Fridays at the Meningie Hub, helping Robynne and Karen cover the office while Andrew is taking a well deserved break. It was a bit warmer last time I visited, but the cold doesn't make the view any less beautiful out over Lake Albert, or the picturesque landscape on the way over.

I've got the slow combustion fire keeping my fingers warm while typing this, and the smell of the local produce from Coorong Cottage Industries coming through the door calling to me.

The drive back to Milang last week was particularly stunning, with a Full Moon rising to the right and the Sun setting over the Lake. I wish I had taken a photo.

Have you snapped a beautiful sunset or a sunrise over the Lakes? Send in your photo and we'll share some next week!

Have a great week!

Stuart.

***"A society grows great when old men plant trees whose shade they know they'll never sit in."***

*Greek Proverb*

## Weekly Links

Join thousands taking the challenge to refuse single-use plastic. You can sign up for a day or a week if the whole month sounds overwhelming. **Sign up** to get recipes, ideas & everything you need to take part.



# Bat Box Workshops in Milang

In many urban house blocks and parks most of the older trees with hollows in them have been removed. This means that there are fewer places for hollow dwelling species such as possums, parrots and bats to live, bred and rest.

Following on from our successful “ Bat talk “ with Chris Grant at the MOSHCC in April the Lakes Hub and the Milang Men's Shed will be facilitating workshops to make some wooden Bat boxes . The workshops will be scheduled in August in time for installing the bat boxes in local bushland areas in Spring. The Bat boxes will be placed in and around the Milang District to help support the six species of bats in our region. If you are interested in making a bat box for your property or would like to join us in a hands on workshop please contact Megan at the Lakes Hub to register your interest.



Come learn how to make a Bat Box

## Tolderol Game Reserve—Volunteer Opportunity

Tolderol is a game reserve situated on the north-western fringe of Lake Alexandrina, 13km northeast of Milang. The land is owned by the Department of Environment, Water, and Natural Resources and is a part of the internationally significant Ramsar wetlands, the Lower Lakes, Coorong and Murray Mouth (1985 RAMSAR listing). Over 125 bird species have been recorded at Tolderol, along with 27 key Ramsar species.

The reserve is a series of regulated artificial bays, channels and embayment's which have been constructed and were used to provide a variety of habitats for waterbirds, particularly migratory birds. From the early 1980's to 2008, the water level management at Tolderol (via pumping) was predominantly undertaken by volunteers, most notably John Eckert. A combination of extended drought conditions and extremely low flow conditions resulted in water levels in Lake Alexandrina to decline to as low as 1.0 metre below sea level between 2007 and 2010. During this period it was no longer possible to deliver water to the wetland complex. Following the sad passing of John Eckert, the end of drought and a significant lack of funding no water level management has occurred at Tolderol in recent years.

In early 2014 a small amount of funds were secured to investigate making the pump operable again and undertake any preparation works to be able to deliver water to a small number of basins in spring 2014. This has included securing the pumps access to water (removal of sandbars and dense reeds) making sure flow paths for the outflow are clear and plant/weed control.

Three fixed photo points are being installed by GWLAP in clear viewing areas along the main levee, (which should be in place by July) to allow for the community to take photos at the site, to help us monitor the changes that are occurring at Tolderol (instructions for use, and who to send the photos to will be clearly labelled on each photo point).

A regular monitoring day is scheduled on August 21<sup>st</sup>, which will be monitoring water quality and photo points at the site. Interested community members are more than welcome to join in the monitoring, and are able to get involved in any bird watching opportunities at the site, particularly following delivery of water in Spring. More information will be provided closer to the monitoring days.

Additionally once the on-ground works have taken place, Natural Resources MDB is encouraging community members to take part in monitoring activities outside the scheduled monitoring days. And if people want to record a bird survey and send the results to John Adams ([john.adams2@sa.gov.au](mailto:john.adams2@sa.gov.au)) that would be most appreciated.

If you have any further questions please feel free to call or email

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Natural Resources SAMDB Staff providing an update on Tolderol Game Reserve Management, May 2014

# GWLAP wins National Environmental Award

South Australians were well represented at the United Nations Association of Australia World Environment Awards announced in Sydney last Friday (13<sup>th</sup> June).

The Goolwa to Wellington Local Action Planning Association were thrilled to receive the Biodiversity Award for the best company, organisation, community or individual that has demonstrated innovation and excellence in the protection of Australia's biodiversity.

Will Miles accepted the award on behalf of Goolwa to Wellington LAP which recognised all of GWLAP projects including the Lakes Community Revegetation Project.

"It is such an honour to receive the Biodiversity Award, said Will.

"The award is a real tribute to the energy and the commitment of all the volunteers that have made our projects happen. GWLAP undertakes projects that are driven by the community and we have such a motivated and active community that we can make great things happen.

The United Nations Association of Australia (UNAA) provided feedback from the Judges:

"The judges were impressed by the range and variety of conservation outcomes and the extent of partnerships developed across the community both locally and globally. A highlight for the judges was the innovative provision of funding grants to community groups outside of the environmental sector, such as sporting clubs and disability groups, to undertake restoration and management works. This highly innovative model provides immediate biodiversity benefits while connecting with community groups not traditionally engaged with ecological issues. "

Other South Australians recognised at the awards were:

**Swinburne University of Technology Sustainable Product Design Award:**

WINNER: Seeley International PTY LTD, Braemar 'Super-Six' Ducted Gas Heater (SA)

**Virgin Australia Community Award:**

WINNER : Kangaroo Island Dolphin Watch, Little Island Big Pond (SA)

**Biodiversity Award:** FINALIST: Wetlands Habitat Trust – Pailwalla (SA)

**Excellence in Sustainable Water Management Award:**

FINALIST: Byrne Vineyards, Scotts Creek Brenda Park Wetlands and Vineyard Project (SA)

**Local Government Awards:**

FINALIST: Adelaide City Council, City Library (SA)

**Environmental School Award:**

FINALIST: Tatachilla Lutheran College, EcoClassroom (SA)



### River Murray water allocation planning feedback

The South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management (SAMDB NRM) Board is inviting feedback on proposed changes to the River Murray Water Allocation Plan (WAP).

The WAP aims to ensure water resources are managed sustainably for all water users and for the environment.

Contact Peta Brettig, Natural Resources SAMDB, on (08) 8463 6877, or visit our website to find out more about [providing feedback](#) or about [the WAP amendment process and the policies being considered](#).

### 2014 Youth Volunteer Scholarship Awards open

Nominations for the 2014 Youth Volunteer Scholarship Awards are now open.

The scholarships are awarded in recognition of young volunteers who are currently involved in volunteering, have a history of community participation, and who have demonstrated their personal motivation and interest in volunteering and helping others in the community.

Guidelines and online nomination forms are available from the [Office for Volunteers website](#). The closing date for nominations is Friday 25 July 2014.

### Wetlands Information Day

Lake Bywater/Forster Lagoon Wetlands' Open Day is a community event that offers you an interactive opportunity to talk with Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR) staff and independent experts about the possibility of varying water levels in Lake Bywater and Forster Lagoon wetlands.

Your involvement in this process will inform and guide DEWNR as it investigates the feasibility of management for Lake Bywater & Forster Lagoon wetlands.

**McGRATH'S FLAT**

By the Princes highway, as it enters the Coorong is a scatter of old buildings. Collectively they have the name of a district through which passed a scattered cavalcade of overland history. Early drovers like Hawdon and Bonnet brought cattle from the east, pioneer pastoralists like the Leakes trekked to the South East, Chinese migrants jig jugged to the Victorian goldfields, the first motorists rattled hazardously along the road to Melbourne.

The name of McGrath Flat came from a tragedy. George McGrath, a pioneer of the 1840s, and two companions proposed to walk overland from Adelaide to Port Phillip Bay by way of Portland. At Bonney Wells, on the verge of the Coorong, this is where he was killed.

After having been taken up as a pastoral run about the middle of the century, McGrath Flat became of all unlikely things, a dairy farm in the hands of John Barton Hack. The indomitable settler went there with nothing. He built a house of thatch and wreck timber from the beach, but had failure to find a market for his butter, he left defeated. Hence the name Hack Point.

Then, for a while, the house beside the road was the Tam O'Shanter Inn, licensed to T. McCallum, of a family long linked with the district.



## New water trade rules start next month

People are reminded that there are only a couple of weeks until the Basin Plan water trade rules come into effect on 1 July.

The Murray–Darling Basin Authority's water trade manager Heather Cotching said the changes were part of water market reform taking place across the basin.

“The new rules will ensure there is greater ability for people to trade, by providing better access to market information and removing barriers to trade,” Ms Cotching said.

“New website content will go live on 1 July, which will publish state water trading rules in one central location and provide information on the basin's most traded water market products.”

Ms Cotching said buyers and sellers would be able to find and compare products based on features such as the water resource name, reliability, volume, and location.

State governments would also only be able to restrict a trade under certain conditions. This would free up trading opportunities in the market.

“By removing barriers to trade, people will have the same rights regardless of where they are trading,” Ms Cotching said.

“We released technical guidelines in April to make sure everyone got the chance to understand the new rules before they came into effect on 1 July.

“This involved working with state agencies and irrigation companies to ensure there was enough information available to market participants.”

Ms Cotching said the most important change for individuals trading water would be the new requirement to declare their sale price. Otherwise, most changes applied to basin governments and irrigation companies.

Anyone needing advice on their level of compliance, or how they can become compliant can contact the MDBA by calling our engagement hotline on 1800 230 067, or emailing [watermarkets@mdba.gov.au](mailto:watermarkets@mdba.gov.au)

The guidelines to the new trading rules are available on the MDBA website at [www.mdba.gov.au/what-we-do/managing-rivers/water-trade](http://www.mdba.gov.au/what-we-do/managing-rivers/water-trade)

**For more information contact the MDBA Media office at [media@mdba.gov.au](mailto:media@mdba.gov.au) or 02 6279 0141. Follow @MD\_Basin\_Auth on Twitter Join the discussion on the MDBA blog: <http://freeflow.mdba.gov.au/>**

# Water Recovery Strategy for the Murray-Darling Basin



## What is the purpose of this Water Recovery Strategy?

The Water Recovery Strategy sets out the Australian Government's approach to environmental water recovery in the Murray-Darling Basin. It outlines how the Australian Government will deliver its commitment to bridge the gap in a way that restores the Basin environment to health, while delivering a positive outcome for the economy and for Basin communities .

## With this Water Recovery Strategy the Australian Government is seeking to:

- inform the public about the course of water recovery so that communities have certainty, allowing people to plan and invest
- achieve the reduction in diversions consistent with the Basin Plan by 30 June 2019, to provide for healthy and resilient ecosystems with rivers and creeks regularly connected to their floodplains and, ultimately, with good connectivity to the mouth of the river system
- deliver the best productive outcomes from the Australian Government's investment in water saving infrastructure
- support the long term viability of irrigation communities to provide them with confidence in their future.

To read to full Murray Darling Water Recovery report click [here](#)

# LOCAL NATIVE **PLANT** **SALE**



**SATURDAY 21<sup>st</sup> June**

**9.00am - 2.00pm**

CLAYTON BAY COMMUNITY NURSERY

ALEXANDRINA DRIVE

(next to Community hall)

**Enquiries: 0418 838003**



## 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](http://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)

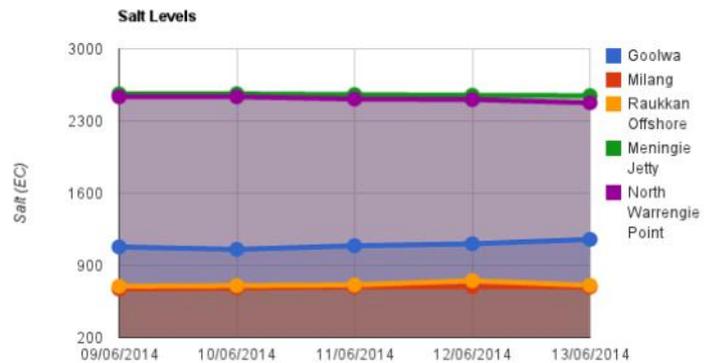
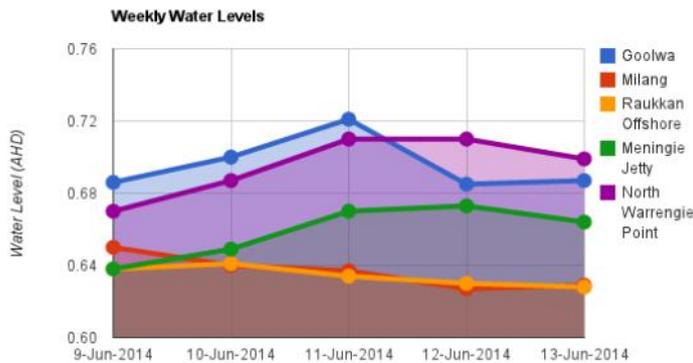
Date	Goolwa	Milang	Raukkan Offshore	Meningie Jetty	Nth Warrengie Point
9-Jun	0.686	0.65	0.638	0.638	0.67
10-Jun	0.7	0.64	0.641	0.649	0.687
11-Jun	0.721	0.637	0.634	0.67	0.71
12-Jun	0.685	0.627	0.63	0.673	0.71
13-Jun	0.687	0.629	0.628	0.664	0.699
<b>Average</b>	<b>0.696</b>	<b>0.637</b>	<b>0.634</b>	<b>0.659</b>	<b>0.695</b>

## Salt Levels (EC)

Date	Goolwa	Milang	Raukkan Offshore	Meningie Jetty	Nth Warrengie Point
9-Jun	1079	671	697	2563	2535
10-Jun	1055	681	703	2564	2535
11-Jun	1090	691	710	2556	2513
12-Jun	1109	693	751	2550	2508
13-Jun	1152	690	706	2546	2477
<b>Average</b>	<b>1097</b>	<b>685</b>	<b>713</b>	<b>2556</b>	<b>2514</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.dailyflowreport.com.au), [River Murray Storage Data](http://www.rivermurraystorage.com.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.

June 2014	
21	Winter Solstice– Bonfire Clayton Bay 6pm
22	
23	
24	Volunteers Lunch MOSHCC 12pm-1pm
25	
26	
27	
28	
29	
30	
July 2014	
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	NAIDOC WEEK
8	
9	
10	
11	
12	
13	
14	
15	Bushtucker Walking Tour at Camp Coorong 1pm - 3.30pm Bookings via Lakes Hub
16	
17	
18	
19	

### Disclaimer

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