

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 198
11 July 2014

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Celebrating NAIDOC Week

Congratulations to Harry Alfred Pitt, a Torres Strait Islander man, the winning artist whose artwork is featured on this year's poster.

Mr Pitt's concept for the poster depicts three brothers with their land behind them and the horizon before them. Their Elders are reflected in the water, giving the brothers the strength to overcome the challenges that may lie over the horizon.



Lakes Hub Bulletin Survey 2014

We have made a few changes to the Bulletin this year and this quick survey will help us understand what you think about the bulletin and any of changes that we have made.

Your input is greatly appreciated and you could win a trip for 2 on the Spirit of the Coorong.

The winner will be notified by phone & announced in the Bulletin # 202 edition in August.

[Click here to take the Lakes Hub Bulletin Survey](#)



CELEBRATING NAIDOC WEEK



Andrew Dawes, Lakes Hub Information and Administration Officer attended the flag raising ceremony and celebrations for NAIDOC Week at Meningie on Monday.

Rita Lindsay Jnr. & Michael Lindsay sang "Pinyin Ngarrindjerar" (The Ngarrindjeri people are coming) . Rita was playing a "Planggi"- possum skin drum and Michael the "Tartengk"-clapping sticks. Rita and Michael also sung "Amazing Grace" in Ngarrindjeri [click here to listen](#)

NAIDOC Week celebrates the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. NAIDOC is celebrated not only in Indigenous communities but by Australians from all walks of life. The week is a great opportunity to participate in a range of activities and to support your local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.



CELEBRATING NAIDOC WEEK

NAIDOC stands for National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee. Its origins can be traced to the emergence of Aboriginal groups in the 1920's which sought to increase awareness in the wider community of the status and treatment of Indigenous Australians.

NAIDOC Week is held in the first full week of July. It is a time to celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and an opportunity to recognise the contributions that Indigenous Australians make to our country and our society.

We encourage all Australians to participate in the celebrations and activities that take place across the nation during NAIDOC Week.

This week Australians have the opportunity to share and acknowledge the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples across the nation. Let us join together to celebrate the National Aboriginal and Islander Day Observance Committee (NAIDOC) Week 2014 (6-13 July).

National NAIDOC Committee co-chairs Anne Martin and Ben Mitchell said "This year's theme Serving Country: Centenary & Beyond honours all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men and women who have served with honour and pride in Australia's military conflicts and engagements across the globe."

Hundreds of events are taking place across the country from a community fun day in Gawler, SA to an Indigenous art tour of the Art Gallery of Western Australia in Perth, WA. The National NAIDOC Committee encourages you to find out what is happening in your local area and join in the celebrations.

The week will conclude with the presentation of the National NAIDOC Awards at a ceremony and ball event on the Gold Coast on Friday 11 July.

The awards recognise the outstanding achievements and contributions made by Indigenous artists, scholars, sportspeople, Elders and community members across the country. There are 10 award categories, including the Person of the Year and Lifetime Achievement Award.

Tickets for the event are now sold out but you can catch the broadcast on NITV on Saturday 19 July at 7:30 pm AEST.

For more information on NAIDOC Week and to find out what events are taking place near you, visit www.naidoc.org.au.



CELEBRATING NAIDOC WEEK

BUSH FOODS WALK

at

CAMP COORONG

TUESDAY 15TH JULY

BUS TRIP

- **10.30am** Bus leaves Lakes Hub Milang shop 2/10, Daranda Terrace Milang
- **12.00pm** BYO Lunch and explore the Pelican Path @ Meningie
- **12.40pm** Bus pick up point for Meningie residents - Meningie Lakes Hub
- **1.00pm** CAMP COORONG - BUSH FOODS WALK
- **3.30 pm**—Afternoon tea (included)
- **4.00pm**—Bus returns to Milang with drop off at Meningie along the way



Bookings and RSVP by 10th July 2014

Lakes Hub Milang

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info@lakeshub.com

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meningie@lakeshub.com

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Government of South Australia

Department of Environment,
Water and Natural Resources

CLLMM Quarterly Project Officer Meetings



Are you a project officer or community organisation that works on environmental projects in the CLLMM region?

Each Quarter the Lakes Hub organizes quarterly networking meetings designed to support project officers to meet others who are participating in environmental projects in the Coorong, Lower Lakes, Murray Mouth region. The meetings are a great opportunity to hear the latest updates on what environmental and community organisations are participating in within the CLLMM region.

The next meeting is scheduled for **Friday 18th of July** at the **Goodman Building Botanic Gardens, 10.30am- 12.00pm** followed by lunch and an optional guided tour of **First Creeks Wetlands**.

Guest speakers

* **Michael Shanahan**, Digital Media Advisor, DEWNR

Michael is the new Digital Media Advisor for the department. He previously worked with the Botanic Gardens in communications and media. He is experienced in using social media to promote conservation and NRM outcomes and will be speaking about the use of the My Parks phone app in promoting the First Creek Wetland

* **Jason Higham**, Manager Environmental Analysis, DEWNR

* **Rebecca Quin**, Environmental Analysis Officer, DEWNR

Jason and Bec are coordinating the review of the 2006 Ecological Character Description (ECD) for the Coorong, Lakes Alexandrina and Albert Ramsar site. The ECD assists management of the Ramsar site to ensure the ecological, social and economic benefits of the wetland can be protected. They will speak about the ECD and Ramsar management principles.

If you think this sounds like your field and you are currently working in the CLLMM region and would like to attend these meetings please make contact with Megan Collins, Lakes Hub Coordinator to discuss further on 85370808, bookings are essential .

Frogs in the Coorong and Lower Lakes

MONITORING OUTCOMES OF 2013

Over the past three years the internationally recognised Coorong, Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth (CLLMM) region has experienced increased freshwater flows into the system since 2010. This has led to the recovery of many freshwater and estuarine ecosystems. However the return of water to vital fringing wetland habitats has not seen the expected recovery of the EPBC vulnerable-listed southern bell frog (*Litoria raniformis*). Monitoring results show negligible improvement in its abundance.

Between September 2013 and January 2014, a monitoring project was undertaken to assess how native frogs, particularly *L. raniformis*, have responded to improved water availability and habitat after the drought. Survey sites included wetlands around Lake Alexandrina, Lake Albert and its tributaries. Call identification and active searching were used to identify frog species. Nocturnal surveys were undertaken at 81 locations across the region (43 project sites, 38 volunteer sites) using assistance from volunteers. Overall a total of 214 survey events were completed.



Photo: Green filamentous algae and sparse common reed (*Phragmites australis*) where adult southern bell frog were observed rafting in, while calling.



Photo: A southern bell frog seen during frog surveys near Clayton Bay township in September 2013 (Photo: Regina Durbridge, GWLAP)

SOUTHERN BELL FROG RESULTS

Although the amount of available frog habitat was considered to be greater than in previous years, *L. raniformis* was detected at only two of the 81 sites surveyed. These sites were located at Wellington East wetland and near Clayton Bay Township. Overall the number of southern bell frogs detected across the study region was low to extremely low.

Adult *L. raniformis* were heard calling within semi-open vegetated and sheltered waterbodies that contained plant material like algae for the frogs to raft on. Male *L. raniformis* frogs were recorded calling in January 2014 and one individual was spotlighted on open ground in September 2013 (but was not calling).

The increased available habitat in 2013/14 may have made *L. raniformis* more difficult to detect due to their known readiness to disperse to 'greener pastures'. Changes in structural habitat at sites previously occupied by *L. raniformis* may have contributed to the low abundance results too, with dense plant growth (i.e. reeds) now dominating sites. An analysis of data from all years surveyed (2009, 2010, 2012 & 2014) show the highest number of calling males were found amongst semi-open emergent vegetation of 5-50% cover, and submerged or floating vegetation of 1-25% cover. Areas of dense vegetation were not preferred by *L. raniformis*. In some areas, dense vegetation is beginning to obstruct water flow into some wetlands. This can negatively impact water quality which may deter frogs from using the area.



Natural Resources
SA Murray-Darling Basin



This study shows that southern bell frogs prefer a complex and diverse range of habitats. So it is important that we manage wetlands in a way that promotes appropriate vegetation communities that have suitable breeding habitat. This can be achieved by building upon current land management practices and implementing a variable hydrological regime.

OTHER FROG SPECIES RESULTS

A total of eight frog species (including *L. raniformis*) were recorded in the CLLMM region in 2013/14. The most widespread and abundant species was the **common froglet** (*Crinia signifera*) which was detected at 89% of sites and in abundances of greater than 50 individuals at 47% of those sites. The **spotted grass frog** (*Limnodynastes tasmaniensis*) and **eastern banjo frog** (*Limnodynastes dumerilii*) were also abundant, and were found at 82.7% and 72% of sites respectively.

One species identified in 2013 which had not been detected in previous years was the **painted frog** (*Neobatrachus pictus*). Frogs were sighted (but no calling was heard) at seven locations at Point Sturt, Milang, near Raukkan, Hindmarsh Island and Goolwa from September 2013 to December 2013. *N. pictus* is a burrowing species and is known to call in autumn and winter particularly after heavy rain.

Long-thumbed / barking marsh frogs (*Limnodynastes fletcheri*) was found at a similar number of sites to 2012 (37% in 2013 compared to 35.5% in 2012). The average number found per site was less in 2013 than in 2012 when the species was recorded in numbers greater than 50 individuals at six locations.

The **Peron's tree frog** (*Litoria peronii*) was observed at slightly more sites in 2013 (9.9%) and was more abundant than previous years.

The **brown tree frog** (*Litoria ewingii*) was more common in the Wellington and Clayton Bay/Hindmarsh Island districts. It was detected at 63% of sites in 2013 which is greater than previous years. Frog numbers per site were generally low, with a approximately 2-9 individuals calling.

The highest number of species observed was six species at three sites (near the townships of Clayton Bay and Goolwa and at Pelican Lagoon on Nalpa Station). The highest average number of species per site was observed in 2010 following the widespread re-inundation of fringing wetlands on the return of lake levels.

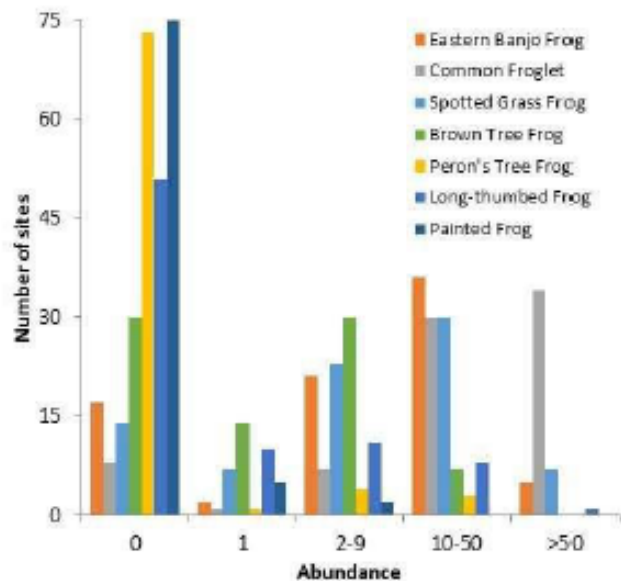


Figure 1: Distribution of abundance scores per species in 2013/14 across 81 sites

GET INVOLVED

Over 20 volunteers contributed 150 hours to the project. This meant that an extra 38 sites could be monitored and surveys could take place over a much larger area.

Frog monitoring kits are available for loan through the Milang and Meningie Lakes Hubs, the Strathalbyn Natural Resources Centre and the Goolwa Visitor Information Centre.

If you are interested in learning more about frog monitoring and getting involved please contact:

Regina Durbridge
Monitoring and Evaluation Project Officer
P: (08) 8537 0808
E: regina.durbridge@gwlap.org.au



FOR MORE INFORMATION OR A COPY OF THE FULL REPORT

Kate Mason Natural Resources – SAMDB
110A Mannum Rd, Murray Bridge
P (08) 8532 9144
E: kate.mason@sa.gov.au
www.nrm.sa.gov.au



Natural Resources
SA Murray-Darling Basin



Government
of South Australia

Do you have vegetation on your place that looks like this?



Image courtesy of Kay Parkin

This plant is Triodia, also known as Spinifex, Porcupine Grass or Turpentine Grass. This is the preferred habitat of the endangered Mallee Emu-wren. It is believed that some of the last SA populations of this bird were wiped out during the recent fires in the Billiat & Ngarkat Conservation Parks. However, there is a small remaining population in our area. The Coorong Tatiara LAP Team are interested in funding the protection of this type of vegetation, and also in monitoring these areas to see if we can discover some new populations of this beautiful and endangered bird.



For further information about the Mallee Emu-wren please visit www.malleecma.vic.gov.au/resources/fact-sheets/emuwren.pdf

To discuss any of your project ideas, or to apply for this funding, please contact a member of the Coorong Tatiara Local Action Plan Team on 85 723 611 or visit www.coorong.sa.gov.au/ongroundworks

Are you doing any revegetation this year?

Funding is available to carry out revegetation projects across the Coorong Tatiara Local Action Plan area. Funding is available to carry out projects through to the end of 2016.

On Ground Works Incentive	Funding Rate per ha /km	Basic Funding Conditions
Native Windbreaks	\$350 to \$400 / ha \$2,000 / km	Minimum width of 10 metres and 3 rows. Stock proof fence. Ongoing weed & pest control.
Native Vegetation Block	\$450 to \$600 / ha \$2,500 to \$3,000 / km	Rate depends on biodiversity value eg endangered species. Stock proof fence. Ongoing weed & pest control.



Orange-bellied Parrot

Identification and information workshop

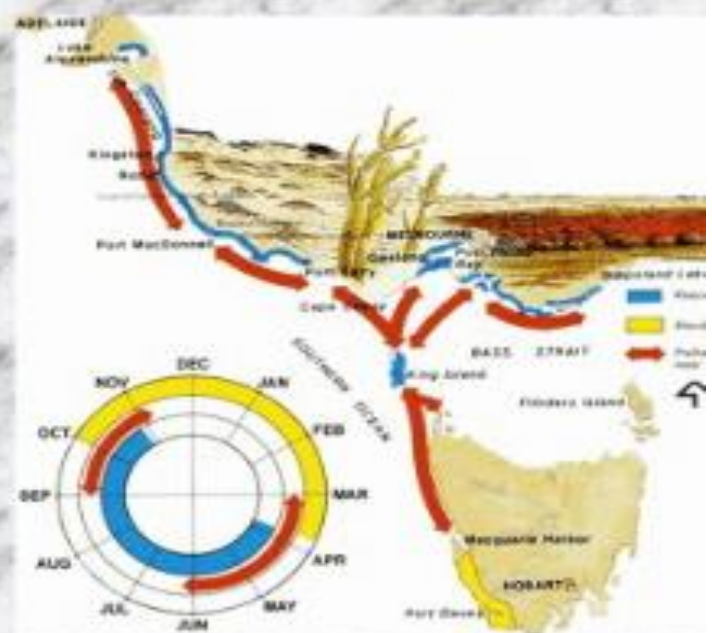


Chris Tzavos

July 12th (Sat) - Meningie RSL Hall
28 Narrung Road, Meningie
1030am—1200pm

Followed by a visit to a field site in the hope of finding some *Neophema* parrots, to put some of the identification skills to practice.

July 19th (Sat) - Mount Gambier Public Library
Multifunction Room
1030am—1200pm



Contact Bob Green 0407 649 909 or email shriketit@bigpond.com



Butterfly Conservation SA Inc.

Invitation to our

BUTTERFLY FORUM

“ATTRACTING BUTTERFLIES INTO YOUR LIFE”

Learning from each other

at Waite Campus Day Care Centre
Paratoo Rd. URRBRAE (off Waite Rd.) Gate 6.

Sunday 27th July 2014 2pm - 4.30pm

Program

- Marvel at the mysteries of Ants and Butterflies
- Hear how the butterfly is used in the school curriculum
- Learn from a native plant grower 'What to plant for bio-diversity in the home and community.
- Tag a Butterfly! How and Why
- Nectar and larval plants - for sale
- 'Butterfly Site' Gardens will be 'on view' (photographs, plus)
- Guided tour of the Waite Campus Day Care butterfly garden
- Afternoon tea
- plus Books, posters, activities for children.

Painted Lady Butterfly
Vanessa kershawii
Photo: E.Steele-Scott

RSVP by July 17 to:
Jill Davy 24 Hart Ave. Unley SA 5061
ph. 8 373 6772 jilldavy@adam.com.au
or
Lorraine Woodcock
alwoodcock@bigpond.com



Annual General Meeting

Saturday 12 July 2014

10 am -12 noon

Clayton Bay Community Hall,

Alexandrina Drive, CLAYTON BAY

Guest speaker Regina Durbridge, GWLAP

FROGS & FROG MONITORING

All Welcome, Tea and coffee will be provided.

Please RSVP to Jane Ph: 8537 0526

Email: wyndwood@activ8.net.au

On the Level

Lake Levels (AHD)

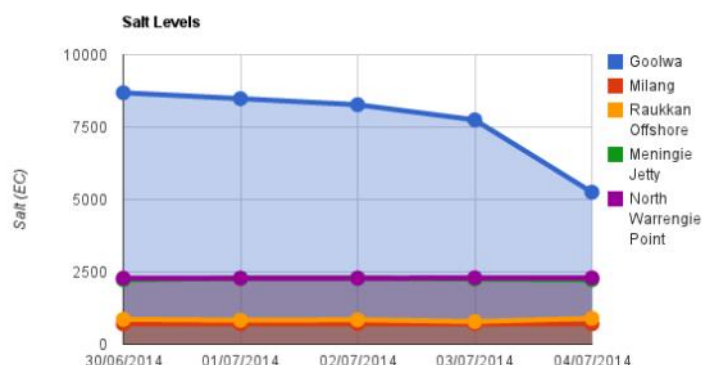
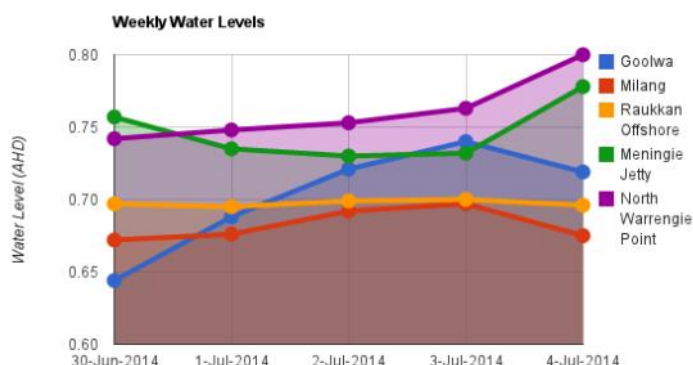
Date	Goolwa	Milang	Raukkan Offshore	Meningie Jetty	Nth Warrenge Point
30-Jun	0.644	0.672	0.697	0.757	0.742
1-Jul	0.688	0.676	0.695	0.735	0.748
2-Jul	0.721	0.692	0.699	0.73	0.753
3-Jul	0.74	0.697	0.7	0.732	0.763
4-Jul	0.719	0.675	0.696	0.778	0.8
Average	0.702	0.682	0.697	0.746	0.761

Salt Levels (EC)

Date	Goolwa	Milang	Raukkan Offshore	Meningie Jetty	Nth Warrenge Point
30-Jun	8688	697	860	2228	2282
1-Jul	8484	702	828	2277	2280
2-Jul	8274	706	844	2284	2279
3-Jul	7750	706	782	2254	2295
4-Jul	5250	702	892	2229	2293
Average	7689	703	841	2254	2286

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.



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](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

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	
27	
28	
29	
30	
July 2014	
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	NAIDOC WEEK
8	
9	
10	
11	
12	
13	
14	
15	Bush Foods Walking Tour at Camp Coorong Bookings via Lakes Hub
16	
17	
18	Quarterly Project Officers Meeting at Botanic Gardens
19	

Disclaimer

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