

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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Lakes Hub contacts

Milang Office
phone 08 8537 0808
info@lakeshub.com

Meningie Office
phone 08 8575 1830
meningie@lakeshub.com

www.lakeshub.com
[facebook.com/lakeshub](https://www.facebook.com/lakeshub)

Megan Collins

Lakes Hub Coordinator

Andrew Dawes

Lakes Hub – Info. & Admin. Officer
Meningie

Robynne Barrett

Lakes Hub Office Admin assistant
(part time) Meningie

Carole Richardson

Community Nurseries Network
Coordinator
(part time) Milang

Jo Scott

Admin.

GWLAP

Office 8537 0807

www.gwlap.org.au

Will Miles

GWLAP - Projects Manager Lower Lakes
and Coorong Projects

Regina Durbridge

GWLAP - Monitoring & Evaluation Project
Officer

Aaron Cheesman

GWLAP - Revegetation Planner/
Coordinator -shared position

Kerri Bartley

GWLAP - Community Revegetation
Program Project Officer

Jonathan Starks

Coorong District Council - Revegetation
Works Coordinator Meningie 0419 049
208

Samantha Blight

CTLAP - Implementation Officer Meningie
0447 900001

Nature Play Week is coming!

27 September - 4 October 2014.

Do you remember your favourite childhood place in nature? Where was it? And how did you find it? and how did you feel when you were there?



I remember mine, it was climbing a beautiful old oak tree, I would climb almost to the top and lay on the branches and watch the world go by. It took a lot of courage, however I felt invisible, inspired and much better for it.

Research suggests that there is a link where a change in the experience of and exposure to nature has led to a gradual distancing between our kids and the natural world and this may have profound implications for the mental, physical, emotional and spiritual health of future generations – and for the health of nature itself.

A growing body of evidence suggests that, from backyards to streets, parks and gardens, from the beach to the bush, kids do better outside! (nature play sourced at www.natureplayweek.org.au)

Not sure what to do with the kids these school holidays?

Come along to the Snake talk with Peter Mirtschin at the Milang Old School House Community Centre on Wednesday 1 October or the Native Orchid Walk @ Raukkan on Tuesday 30th September. Bookings at Lakes hub. For other ideas **click on the image below to download the calendar of events from Nature Play SA**



NEWS RELEASE

Returning River Murray ecosystems to health

Weir pool water levels on the River Murray upstream of Blanchetown (Lock 1) and Waikerie (Lock 2) are currently being raised as part of a program to improve the health of the river environment.

The opportunity to raise water levels, initially within the normal operating range, has occurred because of the availability of Unregulated Flows in the River Murray, on top of South Australia's Entitlement Flow.

Water Resource Operations Manager with the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources, Jarrod Eaton, said the action will increase the natural variability of water levels which will help improve the health of river ecosystems as well as wetland and floodplain vegetation.

"We have partially raised weir pool water levels upstream of Lock 1 and 2 now, and may raise them up to a further 20 cm during spring. The action is not expected to adversely affect irrigators, farmers or property owners.

"We expect to keep water levels at an increased height until late spring and then draw levels down over a few weeks. However this is subject to water availability and monitoring of benefits.

"The Department will stay in touch with the local community over the next few months to keep them informed of operations, and to identify any issues.

"Manipulation of weir pool levels will become an ongoing feature of annual River Murray operations in an effort to mimic natural water level variability and improve the ecological health of the river and associated environments.

"River regulation has resulted in relatively stable water levels for many years, and this has not been good for the overall health of the river, wetlands and floodplains.

"Filling wetlands will improve the condition of river red gums, reeds, sedges and other floodplain plants, as well as improving habitat for birds, frogs, fish and other water-dependent species."

The weir pool manipulation project is part of the \$100 million *Riverine Recovery Project* (RRP), funded by the Australian and South Australian Governments, which aims to ensure that South Australia's River Murray wetlands remain healthy long into the future.

DEWNR is coordinating the project in association with SA Water, and Natural Resources SA Murray-Darling Basin.



The Hon. Greg Hunt MP
Minister for the Environment
The Hon. Barnaby Joyce MP
Minister for Agriculture



JOINT MEDIA RELEASE

19 September 2014

25th Anniversary Landcare Grants now open

Landcare and other community groups will share in up to \$5 million to help restore local environments and enhance the natural resource base with the launch of the 25th Anniversary Landcare Grants 2014-15 as part of the Australian Government's National Landcare Programme.

Minister for the Environment, Greg Hunt, and Minister for Agriculture, Barnaby Joyce, were pleased to officially launch the 25th Anniversary Landcare Grants 2014-15 at the 2014 National Landcare Conference, saying the grant round was a fitting way to help celebrate 25 years of landcare.

"The best way to help celebrate landcare's 25th anniversary is by supporting landcarers across the country to do what they do best. Grants of up to \$20,000 will support local Landcare groups to help protect their local environments and look after the land," Minister Hunt said.

"We are looking to harness the expertise and enthusiasm of not just Landcare groups but farmers, fishers, Indigenous communities and other land and sea managers," Minister Joyce said.

"Applications are now open and close on 20 October, so I encourage the whole Landcare community to come up with great ideas that will help protect our land and natural assets, and to get involved by getting their applications in."

Minister Hunt and Minister Joyce reconfirmed their commitment to ensuring that 20 per cent of Australian Government investment made through the regional natural resource management organisations will be directed towards local projects and activities undertaken by community groups, including Landcare, under the National Landcare Programme's regional stream.

"This means that farmers, landcare and other community groups will have access to funding on an annual basis so that they can continue to undertake important on-ground works in their local communities," Minister Joyce said.

Continue over page

As part of the National Landcare Conference, Ministers Hunt and Joyce were also pleased to announce the establishment and membership of the National Landcare Advisory Committee.

Over the next twelve months the committee will provide advice directly to both Ministers on matters such as landcare investment priorities, implementation and whether the National Landcare Programme is meeting its objectives.

The committee has a broad membership and will ensure both Ministers have a direct line of advice from the regional and local level. The National Landcare Advisory Committee consists of the following members:

- * Ms Sue Middleton (chair). Ms Middleton has extensive experience in land management and community leadership in project development and planning. She is currently Chair of the WA Regional Development Trust, and Chair of the Institute for Agrifood Security at Curtin University.
- * Ms Juanita Hamparsum (deputy chair). Ms Hamparsum comes to the Committee with 16 years experience in agriculture, accounting and finance. She is Chair of the Cotton Innovation Network, the Risk and Audit Committee – Namoi Catchment Management Authority, and a Director of CSD Holdings Pty Ltd.

The other members include:

- * Dr Ron Edwards, who brings extensive board experience in the fisheries and not-for-profit sector
- * Ms Melissa George, Chair of the Indigenous Advisory Committee
- * Ms Tessa Jakszewicz, Chief Executive Officer of Landcare Australia Ltd
- * Mr James McKee, Chief Executive Officer of NRM North, region of Tasmania
- * Mr Cameron O'Neil, who works with community run natural resource management organisations across regional Queensland.
- * Ms Cathy Phelps, Dairy Australia's Natural Resource Management Programme Manager
- * Mr David Walker, Past Chair of the National Landcare Network
- * Mr Allan Williams, Programme Manager at Cotton Research and Development Corporation

The Government's total investment in complementary natural resource management programmes amounts to over \$2 billion over the next four years.

For more information about the National Landcare Programme 25th Anniversary Landcare Grants 2014-15 go to www.nrm.gov.au



Lake Albert Wetlands Gain in Popularity

Since the return of normal water levels in 2010 the reeds and sedges have increased in area partly from natural causes and partly from the reestablishment as part of the Coorong, Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth (CLLMM) Recovery Project's Vegetation program. To date approximately 200,000 *Schoenoplectus validus* have been planted along the edge of the two lakes.

This increase in shelter has led to an increase in the number of birds seen in the area. The above picture was taken on September 22nd just in front of the Bird viewing area on Narrung Road at Meningie. Here you can see a number of resident species all happily sunning themselves.

Recently a number of locals have seen a pair of Sea Eagles very close to this area with thoughts that they may be nesting nearby.



Historic Coorong Rock Missing

The "Very Good Water" rock has previously featured in the Bulletin however we now have to report that the circa 1858 engraved marker rock has been removed and suspected stolen. Previously known as the Coorong Corner Causeway (see historic postcard below) this area is located approximately 40 Km south of Meningie and the VGW rock was situated just east of the hand laid rock causeway still visible today. This rock was used by early settlers as an aid in finding fresh water when travelling through the Coorong region.

The black and white picture below was taken from the 1913 Australasian Newspaper where it was stated that the VGW rock was in situ prior to the telegraph line being installed which was erected under direction from Charles Todd and completed in 1858.



Position Vacant

MILANG & DISTRICT COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION INC.



LAKES HUB COORDINATOR

Job Share / Parental Leave Contract (8 months)

.4 FTE increasing to .8 FTE from Jan 2015

SCHADS AWARD Level 7

Expressions of interest are invited for the position of Lakes Hub Coordinator based at Milang with responsibility to manage the Lakes Hub Offices at Milang and Meningie and associated programs and activities which foster community engagement and collaboration in the implementation of the long-term plan for the Coorong, Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth.

The successful applicant must be committed to community development principles and qualifications / previous experience in natural resource management, event management and communications in a community setting will be highly regarded.

For a position description contact 08 85370687 or moshcc@bigpond.com.au or download from www.lakeshub.com

Applications comprising of a covering letter, current CV and statement addressing the selection criteria, should be forwarded to the Executive Officer, by email to karyn@moshcc.com.au or by post to Milang & District Community Association Inc., 24 Daranda Tce Milang SA 5256 to arrive no later than C.O.B. Wednesday 8th October, 2014.

The Lakes Hub is the initiative of the Milang and District Community Association and is part of the Coorong, Lower Lakes Recovery Project, part of the Australian Government and the South Australian Government's Murray Futures program .

Clayton Bay Foreshore Master Plan – Community Consultation

Alexandrina Council, WAX Designs and EBS Ecology will be in Clayton Bay for 2 days on Friday & Saturday 10-11 October. Come along to share your ideas for the Clayton Bay Foreshore and see the design team at work.

Where: Clayton Bay Community Hall, corner of Alexandrina Drive and Grand View Drive.

When: Community Drop-In Sessions

- * Friday 10 October 2-6pm
- * Saturday 11 October 10am – 2pm

Presentation & Community Sausage Sizzle

- * Saturday 11 October 7-8pm

Next Steps:

Community feedback received during these two days will be fed into the development of a draft Master Plan. This draft will be released for a further round of community consultation over the summer holiday period (December 2014/January 2015). We aim to have the final Plan endorsed by Council in March 2015.

Clayton Bay we need your help!

why?
To help develop a foreshore masterplan for Clayton Bay...

to do what?
come and tell us what works well now and what could be better...

when and where?
Attend drop in sessions at the Clayton Bay Community Centre; corner of Alexandrina Dr and Grand View Dr Clayton Bay

Friday 10th October: 2pm-6pm
Saturday 11th October: 10am-2pm
(community drop-in sessions)
Saturday 11th October: 7pm-8pm
(community sausage sizzle & presentation by us on 'what we heard')



Visit the facebook page by searching Clayton Bay Foreshore Masterplan to keep up to date

Council contact person
Shen Mann (08) 8555 7000
Shen.Mann@alexandrina.sa.gov.au



NATIVE ORCHID WALK



You are invited to join us for this rare opportunity to help survey Block K @ Raukkan with Mick Durant from Greening Australia and Ngopamuldi Rangers

9:30 am Tuesday 30th September

**Tea, coffee and lunch available from the Raukkan general store
Eftpos available**

Car pooling from Milang available, departing the Lakes Hub at 8.30am

Bookings and RSVP essential by Friday 26th September 2014

For more information and bookings please call Lakes Hub Milang 08 85 370808

info@lakeshub.com, Meningie 8575830, meningie@lakeshub.com

www.lakeshub.com



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Sunny Spring Days set to Warm up Snakes

Snakes are an important and protected part of our eco system; yet many people are fearful of snakes.



You are invited to come and hear **Peter Mirtschin** from Snake Venom Australia talk about snakes and discuss the important role they play in the Coorong, Lakes and Murray Mouth region.

- Understand snake behaviour and learn how we can all live in harmony with snakes to help protect their numbers . Peter 's presentation will be fun and informative, all ages welcome.

When: Wednesday October 1st 4.30pm-6pm

Where: Milang Old School House Community Centre

Cost: FREE EVENT

Bookings at Lakes Hub Milang 85370808, Meningie 85751830

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.





Trees For Life

Come to an Introductory Bush Regeneration Workshop

Wednesday October 8, 2014

Strathalbyn

Learn more about our local native vegetation and the practical steps you can take to help restore it to health. Become a Bush For Life volunteer and:

- Adopt a bushland site
- Come to our bush regeneration group activities
- Care for bushland on your own property
- Learn more through our advanced training

Bush For Life is a community based program run by Trees For Life, that trains community members in minimal disturbance bush regeneration techniques. The program currently has more than 700 active volunteers working across 300+ sites covering in excess of 3400 hectares across South Australia.

To book your place or find out more
phone 8406 0500



Government of South Australia
Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges
Natural Resources Management Board

Upper Finnis Field Day: fish, flows, future.



Saturday 18th October
10 am - 2 pm
Lunch provided
RSVP by 10th October to
admin@finniscatchment.org
or 0428 441 978

Join us for a fun-filled day along the picturesque Finnis River near Nangkita:

- fish expert, Nick Whiterod, will show us native fish
- walk along the river and learn about monitoring water flow
- have a go at identifying macroinvertebrates



Finnis Catchment Group
www.finniscatchment.org

On the Level

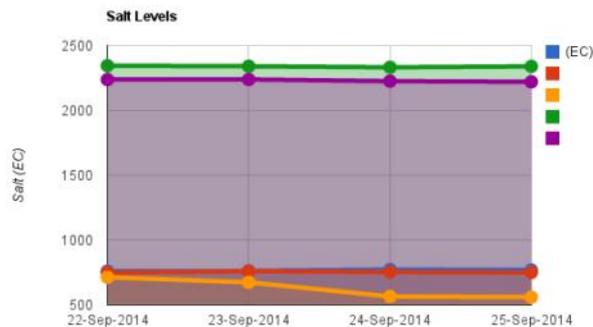
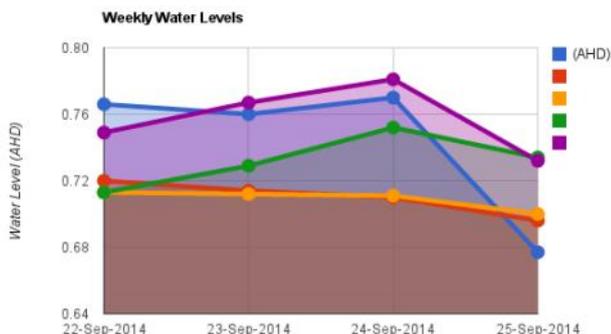
Lake Levels (AHD)

Date	Goolwa	Milang	Raukkan Offshore	Meningie Jetty	Nth Warrengie Point
22-Sep	0.766	0.72	0.713	0.713	0.749
23-Sep	0.76	0.714	0.712	0.729	0.767
24-Sep	0.77	0.71	0.711	0.752	0.781
25-Sep	0.677	0.696	0.7	0.734	0.732
26-Sep	0.698	0.695	0.7	0.705	0.721
Average	0.734	0.707	0.707	0.727	0.750

Salt Levels (EC)

Date	Goolwa	Milang	Raukkan Offshore	Meningie Jetty	Nth Warrengie Point
22-Sep	760	750	713	2345	2238
23-Sep	762	759	674	2341	2239
24-Sep	772	754	565	2333	2226
25-Sep	769	750	560	2340	2221
26-Sep	819	758	545	2342	2243
Average	776	754	611	2340	2233

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



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](#), [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

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.

September - Bio Diversity Month	
30	Orchid Walk—Block K Raukkan
October	
1	Snake Workshop– Peter Mirtschin, Milang ACE Space 4.30 pm-6pm Bookings at Lakes Hub 85370808
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	Strathalbyn Agricultural Society Show– Public Holiday
7	
8	Introductory Bush For Life Workshop– Strathalbyn
9	
10	
11	Port Elliot Show Meningie Garden, Craft & Hobby Fair, Meningie Oval 10 am—4pm \$2 entry
12	Port Elliot Show
13	
14	
15	
16	
17	
18	Upper Finniss Land Care Field Day– Fish, Flows, Future

Disclaimer

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