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National Water week 2014:

WATER SOURCES: There are more than you think

National water week is from **October 19-25th**. National water week is an annual event across Australia that aims to build community awareness around water issues in Australia and on a local level. This year the theme is WATER SOURCES: *There are more than you think*.

National water week is an opportunity to remind and teach us that we must treat water wisely if there will be enough to meet the needs of future generations.

I had the great pleasure of attending the launch of the Country Arts SA, South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resource Management Board and Goolwa to Wellington local Action Planning Association screening of the Long lunch DVD recently at the Milang football club .

The Long Lunch DVD is a story that presents the struggles of the Lower Lakes environment and communities during the draught. A heart warming documentation that reminded me of the importance of water sources, community and resilience and what we as a community can achieve at community level. Well done to all who were involved in the project. I hope the whole world gets to see the Long Lunch DVD .

To help celebrate National Water Week the Australian Water Association and the Goyder Institute For Water Research are hosting an event: ***A Hypothetical Forum: Fast forward to 2050 Water scenarios for South Australia's future Thursday 23 October Bragg Lecture Theatre Adelaide University .***

A panel of key identities from the water industry and the wider community will be engaged in a lively discussion of hypothetical future scenarios for Adelaide to 2050 and beyond. Comedian, activist and climate change researcher, Rod Quantock, will host the event. For more information download the flyer [here](#)

The Lakes Hub will be attending and we are happy to organise car pooling if anyone is interested in coming along. Contact Megan @the Milang Lakes Hub



RESILIENCE, MENTAL HEALTH and NATURE



"Thousands of tired, nerve-shaken, over civilised people are beginning to find out that going to the mountains is going home; that wildness is a necessity; that mountain parks and reservations are useful not only as fountains of timber and irrigating rivers, but as fountains of life."

You might be thinking that this quote by John Muir was written for today's society but you may be surprised, like me, to find that it was written in 1901.

As we move into Mental Health Week it is a timely reminder about our need to have connection with our environment and the power that nature has to benefit us both physically and psychologically. We certainly live and work in the perfect place to enjoy the best that nature has to offer.

A report, [Beyond Blue to Green: The benefits of contact with nature for mental health and well-being](#) was commissioned by beyond blue. It outlines the links between mental health and well-being and contact with nature.

The quote has encouraged me to think again about resilience. The Lakes Hub and the CLLMM Long Term Plan both have resilience as an underpinning tenet. Community resilience is generally defined as the capacity to withstand, recover from, and respond positively to crisis or adversity.



Continue over page ...

Just before the Lakes Hubs were established in 2009 a number of community groups provided information about what resilience meant to them;

- * Survivorship,
- * Good mental health,
- * Adaptation & ability to respond and adapt to change without falling in a hole
- * Being well connected
- * Getting out and feeling that you are part of something bigger other than yourself
- * Having control
- * Being involved in the decision making processes
- * Constant state of flux but coping with the change
- * Strengthening communities
- * Providing social enterprise opportunities
- * Injecting \$\$\$ into the region and providing job opportunities
- * Diversification

The programs and activities run through the Lakes Hub have intended to meet the communities need for resilience.

Resilience is often described as having three properties; resistance, recovery and transformation. As we move into the transformation stage the Lakes Hub is tasked with working with the community to find out how they wish to be involved in the CLLMM region in the future. The funding for the CLLMM Recovery Program ends in June 2016 and as a community we need to be active in making sure that we maintain the gains that we have made and that sustainability is possible for the future. The Lakes Hub staff and Community Advisory Panel members will be out and about in the community asking you what you think is relevant and important moving forward. If your community group has a scheduled meeting we would be happy to come along and initiate a "Leaving a Legacy" discussion. We would love to hear your stories.

We will also be undertaking a number of surveys which look at various aspects of the CLLMM program and community involvement and resilience , we hope to get wide involvement across the community. If you would like to have your say please email us and we will send you a survey to complete.

Enjoy the long weekend and enjoy nature.

Karyn Bradford

Executive Officers

MDCA

TAL-KIN- JERI Dancers

On Tuesday the 30th September Lakes Hub staff attended the launch of the Uniting Communities Aboriginal Community Connect program which helps families affected by drug and alcohol related problems. During the launch Major Sumner performed a Smoking Ceremony at the Uniting Communities Aboriginal Community Murray Bridge Office. Following this the Tal-Kin-Jeri dancers performed a number of dances under the guidance of Ngarrindjeri Elder Major Sumner (Uncle Moogy)



Aboriginal Community Connect (ACC) is a culturally specific Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) program for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander individuals and families across the region. Uniting Communities ACC Murray Mallee lands senior practitioner Bill Wilson said an advisory group was established to help rollout the program. "Support for Aboriginal people with drug and alcohol issues has been a gap that's been identified in the past two and a half years, one that's been badly needed and warranted in the Murraylands," he said.

If you or an aboriginal person you know needs support for a drug or alcohol problem, contact Uniting Communities on 8531 0571 or visit the office at 4 Third Street, Murray Bridge.

The Hon. Greg Hunt MP
Minister for the Environment
MEDIA RELEASE
2 October 2014

20 Million Trees launched with first grants round now open

The Australian Government is inviting communities across the country to get involved in the 20 Million Trees Programme with the first competitive grants round now open for applications. The 20 Million Trees Programme was a key Coalition election commitment and is a vital part of the Australian Government's National Landcare Programme.

The Government is investing \$50 million over the next four years to re-establish Australia's green corridors and urban forests through the 20 Million Trees Programme.

It's an important part of the Government's total investment in natural resource management which amounts to over \$2 billion over the next four years.

20 Million Trees projects can be undertaken in urban and regional Australia, on both public and private land, providing community and environmental benefit at the local level.

Communities, groups and individuals are invited to apply for grants between \$20,000 and \$100,000 to help set up their own 20 Million Trees project.

Funding can be used to re-establish native vegetation, and create greener spaces to improve the liveability of local communities while increasing and improving habitat to support our threatened species.

A wide range of groups, organisations, and individuals in the community are encouraged to apply. This includes community groups, schools, landholders, land care and conservation groups and local councils. Applications for projects are now open and will close on 30 October 2014. Project guidelines for the competitive grants round provide individuals and organisations with the Information they need to apply for funding to start a tree planting project in their community.

As well as the grants, the Australian Government will also be running a tender process for Service Providers to undertake large-scale tree plantings. More details on the National Service Provider process will be available over the coming months.

More information about the 20 Million Trees programme is available at www.nrm.gov.au/20-million-trees.

IN THE NEWS

Glen Hill from Coorong Wild Seafood features in an interview on ABC Landline talking about his love of fishing and how Coorong Yellow Eyed Mullet are now bouncing back as the Coorong environmental conditions improve.



Click on the image above to view.

Did you know that you can get a recipe of the Month from Coorong Wild Seafood Website. This month its [Parmesan and Panko Crumbed Yellow-eye.](#)

Calling all nature writers!

I know that we have many talented and creative writers across the region so you might like to sharpen your pencils and enter [The Nature Conservancy Australia Nature Writing Prize 2014](#)

This is the third biennial **Nature Writing Prize**. The \$5,000 award is for an essay between 3,000 and 5,000 words in the genre of 'Writing of Place' and the winning essay will be published in the Australian Book Review. The prize is open to Australian citizens and permanent residents.

Restoration of the Pink Lakes, north of Meningie

Date posted: 24 September 2014

You may have noticed a sea of white milk cartons adjacent to the Princes Highway north of Meningie around the Pink Lakes. No this is not a memorial to fallen soldiers, but rather the latest plantings under the [Coorong and Lower Lakes Vegetation Program](#). This site, where 106,000 trees, shrubs, grasses and ground covers have been planted, forms part of a broader program in which more than a million plants have gone into the region this winter. Department for Environment Vegetation Program manager Hafiz Stewart said the Pink Lakes site that's been revegetated includes a combination of road reserve, private property and council-maintained Crown land. "An important part of the project, which aims to restore the ecological diversity of the site, included first controlling and suppressing invasive pyp grass and suckering poplar trees," he said. "We also needed to be aware of the potential for erosion on the site's sandy rises. To minimise this risk we strip sprayed the weedy grasses and left woody weeds in place to help maintain soil structure.

"The project aims to reinstate a complex, structured, natural habitat and plantings have included coastal white-mallee, drooping sheoak, cypress pine, knobby club rush, coastal daisy-bush and striped hakea.

"A range of tree guards have been used including the biodegradable milk carton type and an open plastic mesh weave guard for the particularly sandy areas, to help diminish wind disturbance, protect the plants from grazing animals and provide a favourable growing environment.

"The site will initially require intensive maintenance to stop weeds re-emerging, but in the longer term, the dense revegetation will out-perform the weeds.

"Ongoing rabbit control efforts will also be required to reduce grazing pressure on the plants."

The planting has been carried out by a commercial contractor, who employed mainly local people from the South East for the project.

The commercial revegetation program is funded by the Coorong, Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth (CLLMM) Recovery Project, part of the South Australian Government's Murray Futures program which is funded by the Australian Government.

As part of the revegetation effort, the Coorong and Tatiara and the Goolwa to Wellington Local Action Planning groups' Community Revegetation Programs have also undertaken plantings around the edges of the Lower Lakes and Coorong this winter.

Wilderness School visit to the Lakes Hub

During September Wilderness School year 9 students stayed at their newly purchased facility "Crawford" a wonderful property they use to educate their students in the environmental significance of the local region. The Lakes Hub was asked to facilitate in an activity over three two hour sessions on one day each in September, October and November .

On September the 23rd the first activity was held and staff at the Lakes Hub firstly welcomed the students and then proceeded to give a power point presentation on the local flora and an insight in the local biodiversity of the area. After an interpretive talk on the local flora a guided walk along the Lions Walk /path was undertaken. Despite climatic conditions affecting the abundance of native Orchids many orchids were discovered and identified with the assistance of Ken Strother and Robynne . The girls were particularly interested in all the common names such as "donkey ears" and "eggs and bacon". The dry weather and frosts certainly paid its toll on the orchids this year but this only demonstrated to the girls of the importance of the weather and its effects on our environment.



Above: Robynne presenting to the Wilderness School Students .



Coloured spider-orchid *Caladenia colorata* an example of what was seen on the walk.

Nature Spot ,

from Jill Dennis Shoreline Community Nursery Manager

Correa reflexa Common name Native Fuchsia

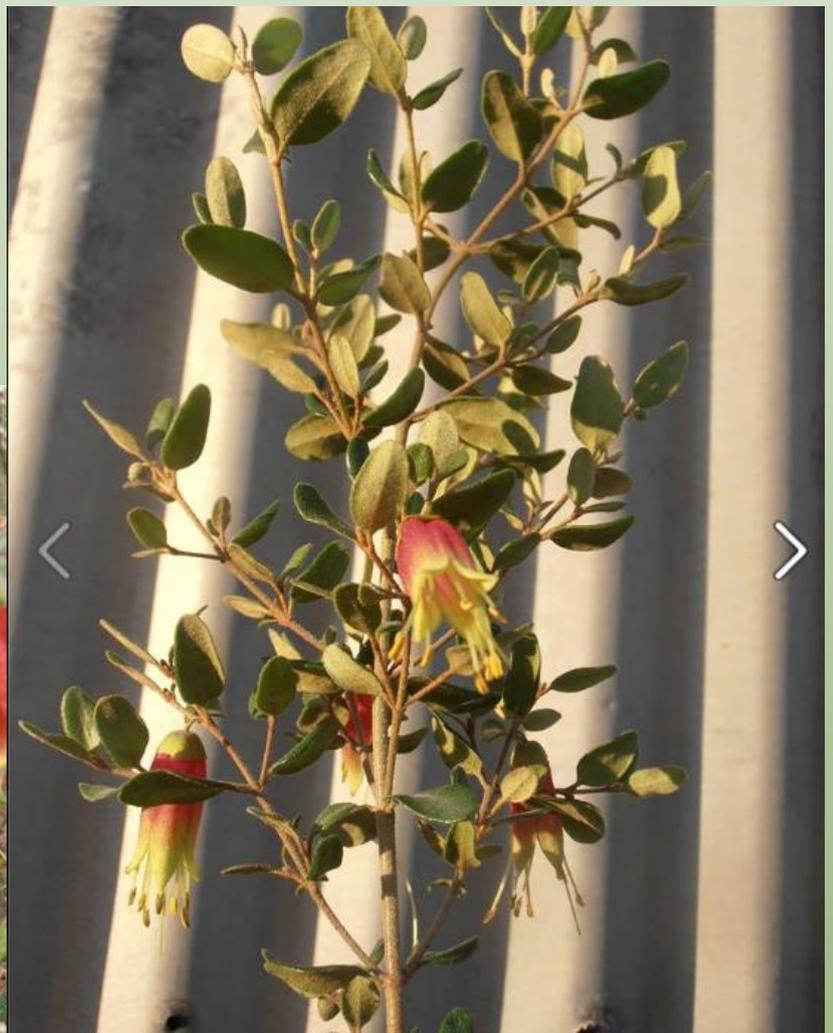
Decumbent or erect shrub, 0.5–1.5 m high

Flowers Cream Pink Red

Flowering time September October November

Well drained but moist soils in either sun or shade

This plant is a nectar source for birds.



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 .



Habitat Creation Workshop



Come join us and learn about different habitat requirements for our local fauna, we will make habitat boxes for possums, bats, parrots, kookaburras, pardalotes and owls.

Where: Tanunda

When: 8th of October 2014

Time 10:30-2:30

This is a free workshop, lunch and morning tea will be provided.

RSVP to Aimee Linke 0427 590 344 by the 6/10/14 and directions will be provided



Project supported by Small NRM Grant and Connecting Communities 2014-15 Grant



Water Security Display Tent at Keith & Coonalpyn Shows



All of your water security questions answered in the one spot

Keith District Show - Saturday 11th of October
Coonalpyn Show - Saturday 18th of October



Come along and talk to Technical Experts about their innovative water security products

- Shane Oster Alpha Group, water leak detection equipment
- Tim Powell Integrated Irrigation, water monitoring equipment
- Navitus Solar Renewable energy for pumps & monitoring equipment
- Leon Yates Groundwater Pumps, windmill pumps, solar panels
- Brenton Diener Diener Industries, solar power and pumps
- MEA Monitoring equipment & weather stations
- Stuart Eastaugh Fcubed - desalination units
- ASIS Electronics Water testing equipment
- Fabtech Dam and catchment liners (at Keith only)
- Natural Resources SE Water testing - bring your sample
- Weather station network Pest plant and animal advice



Quick Facts.....

From Snake Catchers Victoria Australia Facebook Page and shared by Ian Kitchen (Batty person) on Field Naturalists of Victoria Facebook Page

Another image of the carnage from 33 feral cats just dissect-ed in the Australian desert. If you look closely enough you might see the remains of 59 reptiles (including 2 Varanus tristis), 32 birds (including

budgies, little woodswallows and kestrel) and 17 native mammals (including a long-eared bat and 4 pseudantechinus - marsupial carnivores that live in caves) it demon-strates the impacts that feral cats can have, despite them rarely being seen out in the bush.



Animals Anonymous Wildlife on Wheels

VISIT THE NATIVE WILDLIFE DISPLAY

Upper Finniss Field Day: fish, flows, future.

Saturday 18th October

10 am - 2 pm

Lunch provided

RSVP by 10th October to

**admin@finnisscatchment.org
or 0428 441 978**

Join us for a fun-filled day along the picturesque Finniss 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



Finniss Catchment Group
www.finnisscatchment.org

On the Level

Lake Levels (AHD)

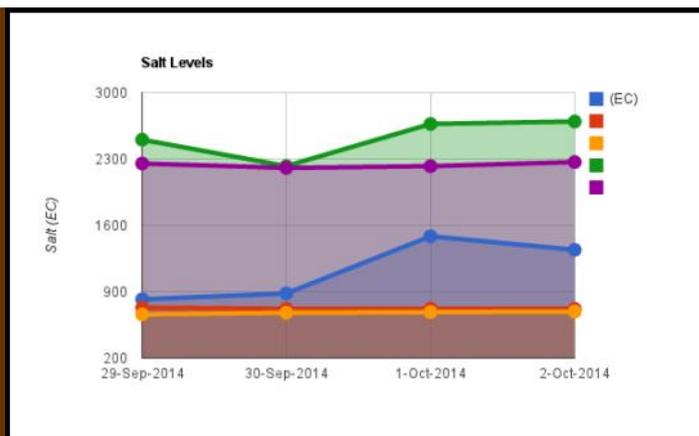
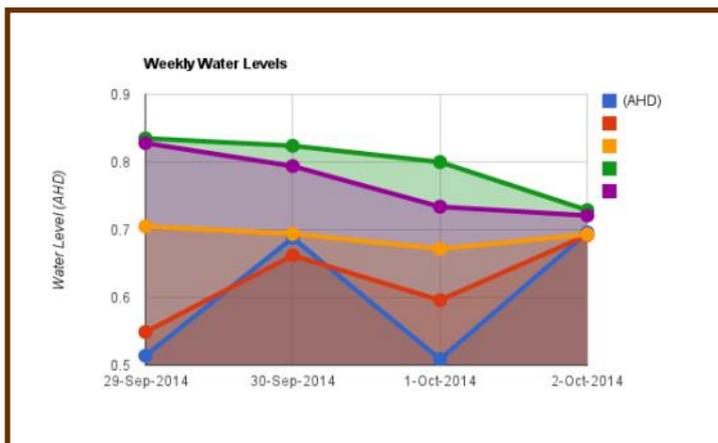
Date	Goolwa	Milang	Raukkan Offshore	Meningie Jetty	Nth Warrengie Point
29-Sep	0.514	0.549	0.705	0.835	0.828
30-Sep	0.688	0.662	0.694	0.824	0.794
1-Oct	0.509	0.596	0.672	0.8	0.734
2-Oct	0.696	0.692	0.693	0.729	0.721
3-Oct	0.722	0.699	0.699	0.708	0.725
Average	0.626	0.640	0.693	0.779	0.760

Salt Levels (EC)

	Goolwa	Milang	Raukkan Offshore	Meningie Jetty	Nth Warrengie Point
29-Sep	819	731	660	2503	2252
30-Sep	881	719	677	2225	2206
1-Oct	1484	720	684	2669	2224
2-Oct	1341	719	690	2695	2267
3-Oct	1059	720	760	2712	2268
Average	1117	722	694	2561	2243

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](#), [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.

October 2014	
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	World Mental Health Day
11	Port Elliot Show Meningie Garden, Craft & Hobby Fair, Meningie Oval 10 am—4pm \$2 entry Keith District Show
12	Port Elliot Show
13	
14	
15	
16	
17	
18	Upper Finnis Land Care Field Day– Fish, Flows, Future Coonalpyn Show
19	

Disclaimer

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