

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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Aussie Backyard Bird Count

Ever wondered how many bird species you have in your very own backyard? Then take part in the *Aussie Backyard Bird Count* **Monday 20 October and Sunday 26 October.**



www.aussiebirdcount.org.au

BirdLife Australia and the Birds in Backyards team have come together to launch this year's national Bird Week event the **Aussie Backyard Bird Count!**

Celebrate National Bird Week 2014 by taking part in the biggest citizen science project to hit Aussie shores! From 20-26 October, thousands of people from across the country are heading out into their backyards, local parks or favourite open spaces to take part in the first ever **Aussie Backyard Bird Count!**

To get involved all you need is 20 minutes, your 'green patch' of choice, and some keen eyesight (or binoculars!) And it doesn't matter if you're a novice or an expert—we'll be there to help you out along the way! Simply record the birds you know and look up those you don't on our new Aussie Bird Count app (available for download in September) or our [website](#). You'll instantly see live statistics and information on how many people are taking part near you and the number of birds and species counted not just across your neighbourhood but the whole of Australia!

Not only will you get to know your feathered neighbours, but you'll be contributing to a vital pool of information from across the nation that will help us see how Australian birds are faring.

So get your friends and family together, head into the great outdoors and start counting!



Coorong Lower lakes and Murray Mouth news and updates

Technical briefing on the outcomes of the Lake Albert Scoping Study

The Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources will be conducting a follow up meeting in Meningie on the outcomes of the Lake Albert Scoping Study to interested members of the public.

The meeting aims to respond to a range of questions and requests for additional information that have been made by community members following the release of the outcomes of the study, including those raised by key stakeholder groups at an initial outcomes briefing held in Meningie in mid-September.

Technical experts from the department, including those who led the study's modelling of potential Lake Albert management options, will be present and available to answer additional technical questions.

When: 12.30pm on Wednesday 29 October 2014

Where: Meningie Bowling Club

This meeting is open to the community – please pass this on to interested community members that would like to find out more about the Lake Albert Scoping Study project.

If you would like further information on the meeting do not hesitate to contact the Department on 8463 3918.

The final 2013-14 CLMM Murray Futures Monitoring Reports are now on the DEWNR website.
www.environment.sa.gov.au/managing-natural-resources/river-murray/river-restoration-and-environmental-water/monitoring-river-health

Celebrating Australia's Wetlands Publication

We are pleased to announce the release of a new wetlands publication by the Australian Government titled 'Celebrating Australia's wetlands: A showcase of Australia's Ramsar sites'. The publication showcases 23 Australian Ramsar sites, including Cobourg Peninsula (NT), Barmah Forest (VIC), Great Sandy Strait (QLD) and Moulting Lagoon (TAS). It highlights the unique environmental and cultural aspects of wetland ecosystems across the country.

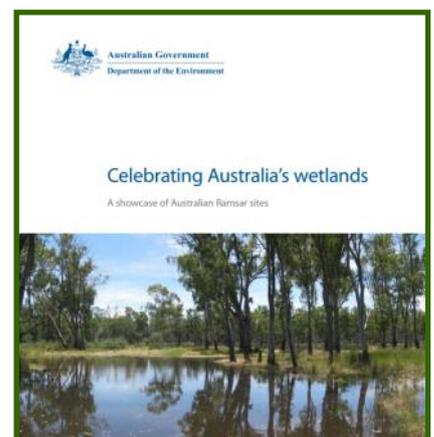
The document can be accessed and ordered online: <http://www.environment.gov.au/water/wetlands/publications/celebrating-australias-wetlands>

Feel free to share this publication with your networks.

Wetlands Section

Australian Government Department of the Environment

wetlandsmail@environment.gov.au



The Coorong and Lakes Alexandrina and Albert Ramsar Site, South Australia

This unique mosaic of 23 wetland types has received substantial publicity in recent years due to its significance at the end point of the Murray-Darling Basin.

The Coorong and Lakes Alexandrina and Albert Ramsar site is a long, shallow brackish to hyper-saline lagoon that stretches for 140 kilometres in length. It is separated from the Southern Ocean by a narrow sand dune peninsula. The Lakes Alexandrina and Albert are comprised of fresh to brackish/saline waters.

Ramsar designation: 1985

Location: At the downstream end of the Murray River, in south-east South Australia

Size: 140 500 hectares

The site provides habitat for a large number of waterbirds and 43 species of fish, including nationally threatened species such as the orange-bellied parrot (*Neophema chrysogaster*), the southern Mount Lofty Ranges emu wren (*Stipiturus malachurus intermedius*), the Murray hardyhead (*Craterocephalus fluviatilis*), the Yarra pygmy perch (*Nannoperca obscura*) and the Murray cod (*Maccullochella peelii*).



Meningie Lakefront within the Coorong and Lakes Alexandrina and Albert Ramsar Site

(© Copyright, South Australian Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources)

The site also contains (in part) the critically endangered 'Swamps of the Fleurieu Peninsula', as well as the threatened *Gabnia* sedgeland ecosystem and a number of nationally listed plant species. The site is also significant because it forms the only estuarine habitat in the Murray-Darling Basin and is the only access point for diadromous fish species within the Basin.

The area is popular for recreational activities such as fishing, camping, boating, walking, bird watching, canoeing, sailing, water-skiing, picnicking and research. The area also supports tourism, commercial fishing and farming.

The Ngarrindjeri Indigenous people have a close association with the area and some of the northern islands within the Coorong lagoon are reserved for their use. This association is expressed through Creation stories about Yarlular-Ruwe (Sea Country), which reveal the significance of the relationship between the country and the people, both practically and spiritually.



Pelicans (Pelecanus conspicillatus) at Goolwa Channel in the Coorong and Lakes Alexandrina and Albert Ramsar Site (© Copyright, Russell Samson)



Bird watching is a popular activity in the Coorong and Lakes Alexandrina and Albert Ramsar Site (© Copyright, Paul Wainwright)



The Coorong and Lakes Alexandrina and Albert Ramsar site is located near Victor Harbor on the south coast of South Australia (© Copyright, Department of the Environment)

Nature Spot by Kerri Bartley GWLAP Project Officer

I wanted to share some news about a visit to Watkins Revegetation Site on the Tookayer-ta today. Greg Dalton from Creation Care noticed some *Arthropodium strictum* (chocolate lillies) appearing amongst the reveg whilst conducting post planting maintenance on the site. We chose to use a grass selective herbicide on this site to control the veldt grass (which poses the main threat via nutrient and moisture competition to the newly planted seedlings) but won't harm the broadleaf plants.

So in the slashed and sprayed areas it has allowed some natural regeneration of native plants to appear and is a wonderful sight to see!

I also spied some milkmaids (*Burchardia umbellata*) and a patch of small rice flower (*Pimelea humilis*).

PS The newly planted revegetation is also looking well established and leaping above the guards.

Happy Days!

Kerri Bartley
Revegetation Project Officer



Oleria Axillaris



Milkmaids Fusillades in sprayed site at Watkins



Pimelea Humilis



A pair of Red Rumped Parrots at Watkins

LAUNCH OF MR. LANDSEER'S FLOATING DOCK AT MILANG.

Southern Argus (Port Elliot, SA : 1866 - 1954) Friday 19 September 1873 p 2 Article

LAUNCH OF MR. LANDSEER'S FLOATING DOCK AT MILANG.

The launch of Mr. A. H. Landseer's floating dock at Milang took place about mid-day on Thursday. The clerk of the weather, that most important personage, must have been in an excellent humour, for the weather was propitious in the extreme—a great contrast to the gusts of wind alternating with heavy downpours of rain, which have prevailed so much of late. The attendance of spectators to witness the interesting ceremony was, as might have been expected, very large, and those assembled gave vent to their exuberance of spirit by several lusty English cheers on the dock launching off into the Lake. The tide being low, however, it did not quite quit the way, but it was expected to float at about 6 o'clock this (Friday) morning.

The building of the structure was commenced some six months ago, and the whole of the work has been most successfully carried out by Mr. Thomas Smith. The dimensions of the dock are 144 feet long by 40 feet wide; depth, 9 feet, with planking of 3-inch red gum. The floor timbers 8 x 8 inches, and the keelson 12 x 8. The total weight of the structure is about 350 tons, and it has a carrying power equal to 1,000 tons. The total cost is estimated at about £1,500, which speaks volumes for the enterprising spirit of Mr. Landseer, more especially when it must be taken into consideration that it is, we believe, the largest floating dock ever built in the Southern Hemisphere. There is a large one at King George's Sound, which works well, but it is not of such dimensions as the one just completed at Milang. It is expected to be of immense value and a great convenience to river steamboat owners for the purpose of cleaning and repairing their vessels.

History spot continued

As extracted from the Advertiser 3 years ago December 14, 2011 12:30AM

The structure was originally built as a floating Dock by AH Landseer at Milang in 1873. As the waters of Lake Alexandrina were too shallow the river-boat Captain William Randal bought it and took it to Mannum as a permanent dry dock. It appears that it was the only surviving dock of this type in Australia and possibly in the world from that period.

"It was the one of a few timber floating docks to have been built in Australia and at the time it was the only dry dock on the inland river system," quoted by Ms Burton of the Flinders University Master in Maritime Archaeology unit. *"This dock has definitive historical value within the river trade and the states heritage"*.

The Dock was used for 57 years in which it slipped at least half of all the paddle steamers on the Murray-Darling river system. A larger one was then built a Morgan, the Dock is on the South Australian State heritage Register and the Register of the National Estate.

[Click here](#) for more on the article



Ramsar Forum

Please see some below information that might be of interest to you and your networks.

Ramsar Forum, 12 November, Sydney – WetlandCare Australia is hosting a Ramsar Forum alongside the World Parks Congress next month. Christopher Briggs, Secretary General of the Ramsar Secretariat is head-lining the forum. The event is free and open to all those with an interest in conservation and wise use of wetlands. Further information can be found in the attached flyer and registration form, or online: <http://www.wetlandcare.com.au/index.php/our-work/current-projects/australian-wetland-alliance/world-parks-congress-2014/>.



The flyer features a background image of a wetland landscape with water and reeds under a blue sky. The title 'Ramsar Forum' is prominently displayed in large white letters. Below the title, the text reads 'The Ramsar Convention for wise use of wetlands Australian perspectives A World Park Congress Parallel Event'. Logos for IUCN, World Parks Congress 2014, and Ramsar are included. The event details specify the date and time: '8.45 am – 1 pm Wednesday 12 November 2014 Aquatic Centre, Olympic Boulevard, Sydney Olympic Park'. A photograph of Christopher Briggs is shown next to his name and title. The flyer lists the purpose of the forum, key note speaker details, and who should attend. At the bottom, logos for the Society of Wetland Scientists, Australian Wetland Network, WetlandCare Australia, and Sydney Olympic Park are displayed.

Ramsar Forum

**The Ramsar Convention
for wise use of wetlands**
Australian perspectives
A World Park Congress Parallel Event

8.45 am – 1 pm Wednesday 12 November 2014
Aquatic Centre, Olympic Boulevard, Sydney Olympic Park

Event Details
The purpose of this Forum is to:

- promote better understanding about implementation of the Ramsar Convention at global, national and regional levels
- understand key issues and conservation strategies to manage wetlands
- facilitate communication between stakeholders for the conservation and wise use of wetlands in Australia

The forum will feature presentations from scientists, government and non-government representatives. The outcomes of the Oceania Wetland Futures workshop will be presented, along with case-studies. There will be a moderated discussion regarding key issues facing wetlands in Australia.

Who should attend?
Wetland managers, scientists, community & non-government representatives, strategic planners and governance, field workers.

Key Note Speaker
Christopher Briggs
Secretary General, Ramsar Convention
Christopher Briggs was appointed Secretary General to the Ramsar Convention in April 2013. His involvement in wetlands began while he was working for county wildlife trusts in England, after completing his doctorate in Marine Biology and a BSc degree in Zoology.

Christopher has had a long career in sustainable development with a focus on water and land management, climate change, biosecurity, biodiversity and ecosystem services. He joined the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in 1999 as Coordinator of the Eastern Europe and Central Asia environment team to manage projects in Biodiversity and International Waters. In 2001, he joined the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to help build capacity in developing countries on genetically modified organisms.

☛ For program and registration details see overleaf

 Society of Wetland Scientists  Australian Wetland Network  wetlandcare  Sydney Olympic Park

To download the program click [here](#)

National Recycling week Kesab Tour



National Recycling Week Event

"Beyond The Kerb" recycling tour

- When: Friday November 7th
- Time: 8.30am Bus departs Milang Lakes Hub
- 4.30pm return approx.

◦ **FREE EVENT**

Community event sponsored by the Lakes Hub

'Beyond the Kerb' tours provide an opportunity for residents to find out where their recyclables organics and waste materials go after collection from the kerb.

Here are some comments from residents who attended a recent tour:

"I was amazed to learn what a multi-million dollar business recycling is!

"A most informative day. If more people knew what we know, perhaps they would recycle more, and more carefully. Each site had very knowledgeable guides and showed a very keen interest in their job."

Tour Itinerary

- 8.30— Depart Milang Lakes Hub
- 10.30— Arrive Wingfield Interpretive Centre
- 10.43— Adelaide Resource Recovery
- 11.15— Transpacific Industries
- 11.43— Visy Recycling
- 12.15 Lunch and DVDs at Wingfield Interpretive Centre
- 1.05— Jeffries Green Organics
- 1.35 Jeffries Buckland Park compost soil and Mulch
- 2.30— depart tour



Bring packed lunch and water bottle! Bookings essential to Lakes Hub Milang: 85 370506 Meningie: 85 751830

Or Email info@lakeshub.com



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.



The article below highlights the commitment and passion of community volunteers in the CLLMM region. Taken from the Hindmarsh Island Landcare Groups Spring Newsletter, to read the full newsletter [click here to download](#)

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Our Jenny - life member of HILG



Before Jill presented Jenny with her Life Membership certificate at the AGM, Angela had a few words to say about Jenny's contribution to our landcare group ...

"There are several uncommon species to be found on Hindmarsh Island. I'd like to tell you about one particular rare and special specimen which is of great importance to our Landcare group. The name of this special specimen is ... Jenny !

Jenny has given so much time to Landcare, for years working quietly and patiently behind the scenes. She has devoted a huge amount of time over the years learning where to find particular plants, how and when to collect their seed, and experimenting with methods of propagating "difficult" plants. Her knowledge has enabled us to grow and begin to re-establish some of the less common species on the Island.

Jenny has not only done this work for years, but has carefully recorded her methods, shared them with others across the Nursery network, and passed on her knowledge and skills to interested members of our landcare group.

Jenny realises that it is not enough to gather knowledge but that it is important to share and pass it on - which she generously does. When I was managing the Nursery it was Jenny who kept me up to speed about what seeds had to be nicked, scarified, minced, thermally shocked, abraded, leached. But most of all smoked!... it's a rare seed that escapes Jenny's "smoke treatment"! I have learned so much from Jenny over the years and her mentoring has motivated me to keep learning more about plants in general and especially seed collecting and plant propagation.

Jenny is also an active member of the Field Naturalists and Fleurieu Bird Watchers groups, and is a long term Bush-carer of Walter Newell Reserve on Ferguson Road. Earlier this she was awarded Life membership of Trees ForLife, for her 20-year contribution.

Jenny, we feel it's time to publicly acknowledge your contribution by making you a life member ... that means, of course, that you'll have to stay with us forever !!"



2014

Pro Ag Consulting Presents:

PROFITABLE SHEEP PRODUCTION

Riverton Football Club - Tuesday 14 October

Keith Football Club - Wednesday 15 October

LIFE TIME EWE & WOOL PRODUCTION ECONOMICS



PROGRAM

8.30	Registration	
9.00	Show me the money – ewe nutrition profiles	John Young
10.00	Case study	local sheep producer
10.30	Morning tea	
11.00	The value of pregnancy scanning?	John Young
11.45	Impact of increasing reproductive rate	John Young
12.30	Lunch	
1.15	Making more from sheep with less work	Dr Greg Johnsson
2.00	Simple on-farm income generating strategies	Dr Greg Johnsson
2.45	Afternoon tea	
3.15	Why the top 25% sheep farmers make 500% more profit annually & the gap is increasing!	Dr Greg Johnsson
4.00	Close	

Cost \$30 per person

If you want lunch & smoko please RSVP by Friday 10/10/14 to:
info@proagvet.com
or text 0418 808045

In the news

ABC Rural Deb O Callaghan

Wakool Shire says irrigation water cuts cost 500 local jobs

A small shire on the Murray River in New South Wales says it can now prove jobs were lost when irrigation water entitlements left the region.

The Wakool Shire commissioned an assessment which shows a halving in water entitlements over the last ten years led to almost 500 local jobs being lost.

Mayor Neil Gorey says the reduction in water availability, as well as drought and the swallowing up of smaller farms, has crippled his community.

"We need compensation now, to be able to work with local communities and come up with alternatives, whether it's new technology, new enterprises, but we need to turn it around. It's going to take many years."

Wakool Shire will apply for part of the NSW Government's \$32.5 million funding package designed to counter the negative effects of the Murray-Darling Basin Plan.





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 |



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

CPR Course

Do you need to update your CPR skills?

This **Provide CPR** course covers the latest techniques to save the life of an unresponsive person using the latest adult & baby manikins. Delivered by an experienced trainer, certificate HLTAID 001 will be issued on completion.

Thursday 13th November

12pm-3pm

Cost: \$60

ACE Space

Milang Community Centre

24 Daranda Tce, Milang

Bookings Essential



Bookings: Milang Community Centre

Ph: 8537 0687

or email reception@moshcc.com.au



On the Level

Lake Levels (AHD)

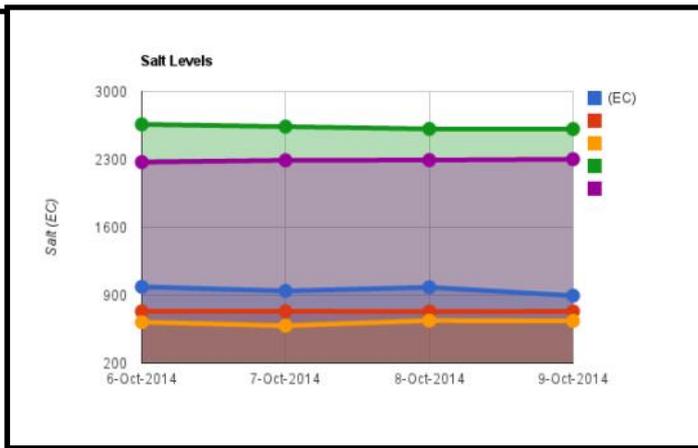
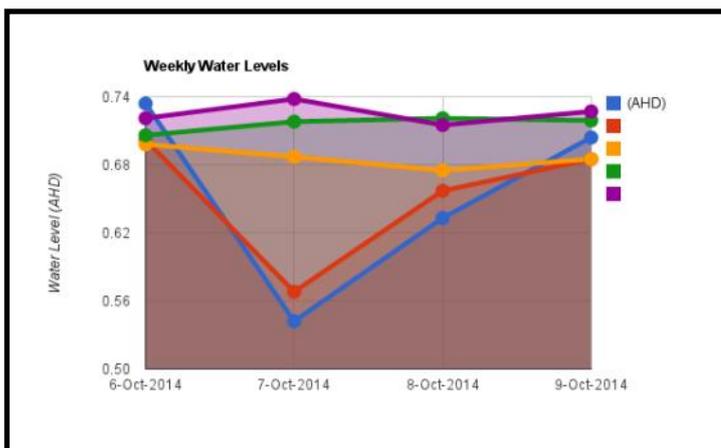
Date	Goolwa	Milang	Raukkan Offshore	Meningie Jetty	Nth Warrengie Point
6-Oct	0.734	0.702	0.698	0.706	0.721
7-Oct	0.542	0.568	0.687	0.718	0.738
8-Oct	0.633	0.657	0.675	0.721	0.715
9-Oct	0.704	0.685	0.685	0.719	0.727
10-Oct	0.744	0.691	0.688	0.716	0.746
Average	0.671	0.661	0.687	0.716	0.729

Salt Levels (EC)

Date	Goolwa	Milang	Raukkan Offshore	Meningie Jetty	Nth Warrengie Point
6-Oct	986	733	622	2661	2272
7-Oct	944	733	585	2638	2291
8-Oct	981	732	638	2614	2293
9-Oct	895	733	635	2613	2302
10-Oct	898	735	636	2604	2307
Average	941	733	623	2626	2293

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
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, Coonalpyn
19	National Water week 19-25 October www.awa.asn.au
20	Aussie Back Yard Bird Count.....www.aussiebirdcount.org.au
21	
22	
23	National water week Forum: Water for future. Adelaide University
24	
25	
26	

Disclaimer

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In addition, the existence of a link to another site or resource does not constitute a recommendation or endorsement of that site or resource. The Lakes Hub does not accept responsibility or liability for any information at any of the sites linked to from this Bulletin.