

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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MDBfutures

REGIONAL WELLBEING SURVEY

The Lakes Hub is a partner in the 2013 Regional Wellbeing Survey. I have been advised that almost 6,000 people across Australia have taken part in the 2014 Regional Wellbeing Survey – but to ensure that results can be produced for our area, we need a minimum of 100 people to take part!

Do the survey online

The survey is open until 30 November, and we'd greatly appreciate you participating. The information you provide will be shared back with communities and will be invaluable to help us with future planning for the region.

Thanks for taking the time.

Karyn Bradford

The Regional Wellbeing Survey's mission is to support research that improves the wellbeing and quality of life of people living in rural and regional Aust.

Everyone aged 18 or over who takes part in the survey can enter the draw to win one of nine prizes worth a total of \$7,000.

Do the survey online at www.regionalwellbeing.org.au

AWARDS KEEP COMING.

Alex Stone, wonderful editor of the Milang Community News has won the Seniors Card Community Individual Award at the Brand SA Regional Awards.

Congratulations and well deserved Alex.

Alex Stone has played an integral role in showcasing local happenings to the Milang community through the publication of Milang Community News, in which he has been the editor for almost 13 years and produced 150 editions. Along with his wife, he regularly participates in environmental monitoring around the Lakes and the environment and reports on any issues in the monthly magazine, which is sold in local shops and has a circulation of 260 copies.



MENINGIE — SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY OF THE YEAR 2014

After surviving the crippling drought of 2006 – 2010, Meningie has emerged as a strong and vibrant community, and is named the Overall Winner of the 2014 KESAB Sustainable Communities Awards .



David Mosel (Coorong District Council), Cr Sharon Bland, Bronwyn Kirkman (Secretary Meningie Progress Association), Andrew Dawes (Lakes Hub), Marianne Cunneen (Vice President Meningie Progress Association) and Neil MacDonald (CEO Southern Fishermans Association)

All of us at the Lakes Hub would like to congratulate the Meningie Community and District on their job well done which enabled the Township of Meningie to become the overall Winner of the 2014 KESAB Sustainable Communities Award. Meningie received a number of awards including; Overall Winner 2014, Best Medium Town, Mallee Regional Award, Community Commendation Award (Southern Fisherman's Association), Community Action & Partnerships Award and the KESAB Tidy Towns National Finalist Award

Meningie is a town that during the drought of 2006-2010 was in dire straits, the water level in Lake Albert dropped, salinity levels rose and the fishing and dairy industry came to a grinding halt, the local environment declined and the town and the people suffered. Now, the town has emerged from the crippling drought as a strong and vibrant community where the people are proud, the lake is beautiful and the future is promising.

Awards Judge, Alex Hammett, said the community presented such a strong demonstration of a sustainable community that Meningie were the clear winner in 2014.

Sustainable Communities – the old Tidy Towns – is now in its 36th year and remains a focus for hundreds of communities to work together to showcase their town, community and region. Over 150 category entries in 2014 showcased hundreds of thousands of volunteer hours and effort that

is valued at over \$20 million towards environmental sustainability, action and improvement in the community.

The awards recognise and celebrate positive actions taken by communities, schools, businesses and councils across regional SA to protect and enhance their town and community environment. The awards have grown from being an anti-litter campaign to encompass initiatives as diverse as preserving heritage, saving water and energy, community action and leadership, embracing health and wellbeing and of course encouraging recycling and reuse of materials.

Awards Judge Alex Hammett, said the judging process over many months in 2014 showed that many regional towns were still "doing it tough", but more than ever knew the value of attracting passing travellers to their towns. "Towns that are off the main highway know they have just a few seconds to attract passing motorists by the look and style of their town, so it must be attractive and welcoming. Trends in social media networking like Facebook are now coming into play as travellers broadcast quickly if they had a good time or a good meal in a local town. Our grey nomads are good communicators and when they meet at the next caravan park they will spread a positive word about places that are worth visiting. Word of mouth is crucial for regional South Australian tourism." "This year I have seen a lot of towns who are really being proactive in the way they are attracting travellers, but also putting a lot of effort in ensuring that their towns are providing for their residents, or future residents. Many towns are investing in walking trails with interpretive signage, as well as facilities that encourage people to get outdoors more like shade areas with BBQ's, outdoor fitness equipment and many playgrounds and parks are moving to the nature play style, all of which appeals to both tourists and residents alike". Regional awards were presented to winning towns and communities representing all corners of the State in South Australia's longest serving and largest community environmental ongoing initiative.

Following on from the very successful KESAB awards ceremony, Meningie is now a Finalist in the National Tidy Towns competition. This means that there will be another Inspection which is to take place on November 24th and 25th.



Jacqui Wilson GWLAP, Regina Durbridge GWLAP, Robynne Barrett Meningie Lakes Hub, Jill Dennis Shoreline Community Nursery Milang, Andrew Dawes Lakes Hub Meningie, Carole Richardson Community Nurseries Network Coordinator.

KESAB UPDATE



As everyone would be aware Meningie and District recently won the “Overall Winner” of the South Australian KESAB Sustainable Communities Competition.

This success was as a result of the Lakes Hub organising a submission to KESAB.

Within the submission there were ten categories with a total of 22 projects as follows;

- * Appearance, Amenities and Facilities-Town Entrance Sign, Flip Flop Enclosure and Picnic Table
- * Community Action and Partnerships-Tour De Cure, Coorong Country Map, Meningie Lakes Hub, Meningie Fore Shore Habitat Restoration Project and Coorong Birdman
- * Environmental Sustainability-CWMS Coorong District Council
- * Health and Wellbeing-Orana Melaleuca, Friends of the Coorong Walking Group, Meningie Lions Nature walk, Meningie Netball Club Healthy Breakfast (OPAL), The Lakelander, Meningie Oval Playground Support Group, Coorong Cottage Industries
- * Heritage and Culture- Meningie Cemetery, Cheese Factory Museum
- * Leadership and Youth Activities-Community Planting
- * Litter Prevention, Waste Management and Resource Recovery-Clean up Australia Day (Men. Lions, FOC, MPA)
- * Natural Environment Conservation- Noonameena Community Native Garden
- * Recyclers Award-Second Time Around
- * Commendation Award-Southern Fisherman’s Association

Now that we have become the “Overall Winner” for South Australia the Meningie and District are now entered in the Keep Australia Beautiful National Tidy Towns Competition. Judging for this competition will take place on the 24th and 25th of November. A working bee is scheduled for 9.00am 18th November meeting at the Meningie Lakes Hub.

The National awards will be presented at Sheffield in Tasmania on the 26th & 27th of February 2015.

For further information please contact Andrew Dawes or Robynne Barrett 08 85751830

WHAT'S MAKING NEWS?

Murray flows to fluctuate with spring e-water 21st Oct.

Communities along the River Murray between Echuca and Sunraysia are reminded to consider adjusting their activities as river levels start to vary this week until December 2014.

The changes are occurring as water enters the Murray from the Goulburn River following the release of two environmental water pulses from Lake Eildon.

The first pulse has begun to enter the River Murray at Echuca and is expected to peak early next week. As the water moves along the river, levels will rise and remain higher for three to four weeks, before receding.

Choke trade restricted 28th Oct

From 5.00pm today, Tuesday 28 October 2014, trade from above the Barmah Choke to below the choke will be restricted to protect delivery of downstream water entitlements.

Trade downstream can only occur if upstream trade of the same or greater net volume has already occurred.

Entitlement holders downstream of the choke can continue to trade allocations upstream. This will create more opportunities for downstream trading through the choke.

MDBA River Management executive director David Dreverman said the restriction was to prevent water trades from making additional demands on the channel capacity at the choke.

[For the Full Media releases](#)

2015 Milang Goolwa Freshwater Classic

Entries are open for The Marina Hindmarsh Island 2015 Milang-Goolwa Freshwater Classic Entries are now open for The Marina Hindmarsh Island 2015 Milang-Goolwa Freshwater Classic.

The race will be held on Sunday 25 January 2015, and promises to be a great spectacle. The 2014 race attracted 200 boats with more than 1000 sailors on the water competing. The Freshwater Classic still holds the record as the largest freshwater yacht race in the southern hemisphere when 584 boats competed in 1986. Thousands of boats have taken part over the years and it took a decade of drought to halt the race, momentarily, from 2007 to 2011

[More info on the Goolwa Regatta Week Website](#)

Bird numbers down in Australia's east as big dry takes its toll

[ABC Online](#)

MARK COLVIN: A scientist leading an aerial survey of Australia's eastern waterbirds says there's been a significant decline in numbers since the boom ...

Lake Albert Scoping Study Community Briefing Session.

Approximately thirty five to forty people attended a second briefing session of the Lake Albert Scoping Study held for stakeholders and interested parties at the Meningie Bowling Club on Wednesday 29th October.

Presentations on the Study were given by DEWNR representatives who were on hand to answer the many questions fielded by community members, both at this session and the previous one held at Meningie on the 17th September.

Specialist Modeller Dr Matt Gibbs, who worked on the modelling throughout the Study, was able to provide some technical advice to the meeting.

The session was chaired by the Scoping Study's Community Reference Group Chairman, Neil Shillabeer. The Chairman explained that while this would be the last of the community briefing sessions held to directly deal with the Lake Albert Scoping Study, there will be opportunities for the community to have input into the development of future management strategies relating to low flow, high salinity and variable lake level periods for Lake Albert.

The Chairman also congratulated and commended the Meningie and District Community on recently winning no less than six of the Kesab Sustainable Community Awards, the pinnacle of which was to become the overall winner of the "2014 Kesab Sustainable Communities Award".

The meeting agreed that it was the Government's response to the Study that was of the greatest concern to the community, not the Study itself. As a result of these concerns the following recommendations for conveyance to Minister Ian Hunter were put forward:

- * **The meeting rejects the response to the Lake Albert Scoping Study by the Government and request that further investigations into the impacts on the Coorong of a connector be undertaken.**

- * **Request the Department to identify current and projected targets for priority actions relating to water and salinity level management targets for Lake Albert.**

- * **Reject the methodology used in the cost benefit analysis. Request the working papers and documents relating to the cost benefit analysis, connector design and calculations for a channel, pipeline and reset pumping are provided.**

For further information Contact:

Nerida Buckley (DEWNR) ph (08) 820 49453

nerida.buckley@sa.gov.au

Neil Shillabeer (CRG) ph 0427 475 455 liberton@bigpond.com

Nature spot.....

Aerial survey of waterbird communities of the Living Murray Icon sites

The annual aerial survey of TLM Icon Sites has been happening this week from 6th to 8th of November (Thurs to Saturday this week) – there will be small planes flying low (~100ft) over key wetlands surveying waterbird communities.

Aerial surveys of waterbirds are used to identify high conservation wetlands as well as estimate species' abundance and monitor changes in wetland condition over large temporal and spatial scales. In November 2007 an aerial waterbird survey of The Living Murray (TLM) Icon Wetland Sites was successfully completed, the first survey of all Icon sites at one time. Previous waterbird surveys had been icon site specific using ground based assessments. [Click below for more info:](#)

Strathalbyn Naturalist Club Meeting

When: 21st November at 8pm

Where: Strathalbyn Natural Resource Centre

Interested in Wildlife!

Learn about our Local Frogs

Regina Durbridge from the GWLAP will give a presentation on local frogs and have most of the local species for you to see.

After the information session at 9.15pm the group will drive to Mosquito Creek at Langhorne Creek and do a frog survey.

Last time Regina came we had a great night

Turtles need your help

November is Turtle Month and residents and visitors in the South Australian Murray-Darling Basin are being asked to have their smartphones at the ready, to take part in a major research project into turtle decline.



The collaborative research project, between the University of Western Sydney and the University of Sydney with support from Natural Resources South Australian Murray-Darling Basin (SAMDB), is investigating the decline of turtles living in the River Murray.

Natural Resources SAMDB Project Officer Hannah Spronk said turtles are an integral part of the river ecosystem, but research is showing turtle populations upstream in Victoria have declined by up to 90 per cent since the 1970s. It is thought the main cause for the turtle population decline is predation by foxes, amongst other things. "Only small numbers of young turtles are surviving to adulthood in the River Murray system, with foxes preying on both turtle nests and more recently on female turtles during nesting," Ms Spronk said. "Earlier this year the smartphone app **TurtleSAT** was launched as a way for the community to become local scientists. We can be involved in protecting turtles by downloading the app to record their sightings. Ms Spronk said the app collects a range of data about turtles such as date, location, and species as well as the opportunity to submit a photo with your recorded sighting.

Data received from the TurtleSAT app is providing valuable information to scientists Ricky Spencer from the University of Western Sydney and Mike Thompson of Sydney University, and will help answer questions such as where turtles live, how far they travel and different reasons for decline in numbers from region to region.

"Turtles begin nesting in November, so SAMDB locals and visitors out and about near the water are asked to keep a look out for any turtle signs including nests, eggs, live or dead turtles," Ms Spronk said. Submitting a photo along with data will help the research program to develop management solutions. The free TurtleSAT app is downloadable for smartphones from the Apple App Store, Google Play or the Windows store.

The [TurtleSAT website](#) also has a portal for recording observations, as well as further information on turtle identification and maps of previous sightings.



For further information on the research project, or if you are interested in becoming involved in monitoring turtles, nests and activity, please contact Hannah Spronk at the Natural Resources Centre Berri 08 8580 1800.

Barossa Probus Club Visits Lake Albert

Last week Peter Clark from the Barossa Valley Probus Club introduced approximately 20 members to the Lakes Hub at Meningie. Lakes Hub staff gave an overview of the Lakes and Coorong and the impact of the Millennium drought. A guided tour of the interpretative Pelican Path was included with detailed discussion regarding the local communities' collaboration with the planning, planting and maintenance of the local native plantings which are now becoming well established.

From the Lakes Hub the Probus Club visitors proceeded around Lake Albert with many members keen to look at the Point Malcolm Lighthouse, here we set them the challenge to find the historic cave.

Many favourable comments were received about Meningie and its surrounds such as how the new Pelican Path enhanced the natural environment and added to the beauty of the lake. "The birdlife is so accessible along the Path", was mentioned and how clean the lake frontage looked.



The Barossa Probus Club enjoying their walk along the path with Andrew as a guide.

Wilderness School visiting again! At Meningie Lakes Hub

The Lakes Hub at Meningie paid host again for two more visits from Wilderness School who are once again camped at their newly acquired campsite "Crawford". The Hub was fortunate to procure Sam Blight and Johnathon Starks from LAP who took three sessions out to the Narrung Wetlands. On 16th October. Sam has excess information on the Sustainability and environmental issues in the wetlands and Johnathon an authority on birdlife in the wetlands. We were so fortunate to have them educate the students in such a professional and amicable manner. Favourable comments such as "listening to the bird noises was fun" and "concise information was given and we had the ability to ask lots questions."

The second visit was with Reggie Durbridge our frog expert from GWLAP. On Thursday the 6th November. What an amazing presentation. She held the 24 students and four teachers captivated with her broad knowledge of frogs and allowed the girls to handle the frogs and explained so much about the endangered species such as the Bell Frog. The Hub at Meningie was filled to the maximum but a terrific morning all round.



Looking through binoculars at Narrung Pier.



Reggie giving her presentation and left a student handling one of the frogs.

History spot.....

With funding support from the Department of Premier and Cabinet a replica Arvo engine has been installed in the Meningie Memorial Park. The engine is protected in an encasement which reflects the shape of a Nissen hut and was manufactured by Matt and Tim Eckert of Malinong. This display marks the ANZAC commemoration and provides information to people about the tragic events of the Avro Aronson in 1942. Behind the replica engine is a beautiful silhouette of the engine in its glory which lighting will eventually bring it to life.

ON June 3rd -1942- Four RAAF personnel were killed whilst on a training exercise in defence of our country. They were the crew of RAAF Avro Anson No. W2370, which crashed into Lake Albert on a training flight. All of the personnel were from No 6. Service Flying Training School based at Mallalla. The crew lost their way in the darkness and after circling the town of Meningie and Lake for some time finally crashed into the Lake.



Another recent installation in the park is a gift from the Royal Australian Navy of an anchor. Commander Alan Williams ADC, RAN made contact with DEWNR and Senior Maritime Officer, Mr Amer Khan to obtain the anchor from the State Heritage maritime artefact store. It is a beautifully re-stored piece of nautical history which has been erected next to the Arvo Engine.



MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID COURSE

To be held at:

Goodwood	13 and 14 th of November
Mount Gambier	Saturday 22 nd and 29 th of November
Murray Bridge	24 th and 25 th of November

The course cost of \$170 includes certificate of completion, manual, & morning and afternoon tea.

For further information or to express your interest please contact:

Joan Oldfield – Accredited Mental Health First Aid Instructor

Email: joan4training@hotmail.com

Mobile: 0409 678 580

Climate Change and our future weather

What is driving Climate change, and how will it impact on Communities, Agriculture, Biodiversity & Infrastructure.

How can we adapt to manage changes in Climate?

Presenters

Darren Ray, Senior Meteorologist and Manager SA Climate Change Section, Bureau of Meteorology and

Greg Lundstrom, Senior Project Officer Climate & Energy, Natural Resources SA Murray Darling Basin Natural Resources

**When: Thursday November 13th 2014
7.30—9.30pm**

Where: St Andrews Hall, Alfred Place, Strathalbyn
Supper provided

RSVP to liz.schofield@gwlap.org.au
0427802138



COOLWA TO WELLINGTON LOCAL
ACTION PLANNING ASSOCIATION INC

NATIONAL RECYCLING WEEK

10th—16th November

In November 1996, Planet Ark founded National Recycling Week to bring a national focus to the environmental benefits of recycling. Now in its 19th year, this established and highly regarded annual campaign continues to educate and stimulate behaviour change, by:

- Promoting kerbside, industrial and community recycling initiatives
- Giving people the tools to minimise waste and manage material resources responsibly at home, work and school.

This Recycle Right Quiz on the Planet Ark website gave me something to smile about in the choice of answers but I also learn something new. Give it a try.

[Go to the quiz](#)

All Steamed Up at Mannum

Stationary Engines, Black Smiths & Mannum Fresh Water Classic Boat Festival
Celebrating the 20th Anniversary of the recommissioning of the PS Marion
Saturday 15th & Sunday 16th November 2014



Blacksmith Shop, PS Marion, Shearer Steam Car, John Key Beam Steam Engine

Family Fun Weekend - River Festival **at Mannum - Celebrating 160 Years**

On the banks of the Murray River at Arnold Park & the Mannum Dock Museum at Mannum
Saturday & Sunday - 9:30am - 4:00pm each day

Largest display of Blacksmith demonstrations in SA • Australia's first Steam Car on display
Live Music with the SA Detachment of the Royal Australian Navy Band on Saturday
and the Backwater Band on Sunday

Diesel & Steam Vintage / Historical / Rare Engines in operation
Fairy Light Boat Parade, Murray River Cruises

Mannum Freshwater Classic from Arnold Park to Caloote, Saturday 2:00 - 4:00pm

Boat Concourse D'Elegance • Classic Cars on display • Wooden & Classic Boats on display

20th Anniversary of the Recommissioning of the PS Marion Captain's Dinner

Live Entertainment • Food Stalls & Crafts • Trade Expo Stalls

Free shuttle bus to Mary Ann Reserve & Mannum Dock Museum. Free parking at Mannum Football Oval

Event Entry fee - Adult \$5.00, 14 to 17 years \$3.00, Children under 14 years free
(includes entry to the Mannum Dock Museum)

Short Cruises on the PS Marion - Adult \$15.00, 4 to 14 years \$7.50, Children under 4 years free
10:30am 12:00pm 1:30pm 3:00pm

PS Marion Dinner - Mannum Rowing Club - Saturday 15th November

\$25.00 with live entertainment - Bookings Essential

Correct at time of printing 10/10/14



Mannum Dock Museum of River History

6 Randell Street MANNUM SA 5238 T: (08) 8569 2733

F: (08) 8569 2383 • E: museum@psmarion.com • www.psmarion.com

Lake Levels (AHD)

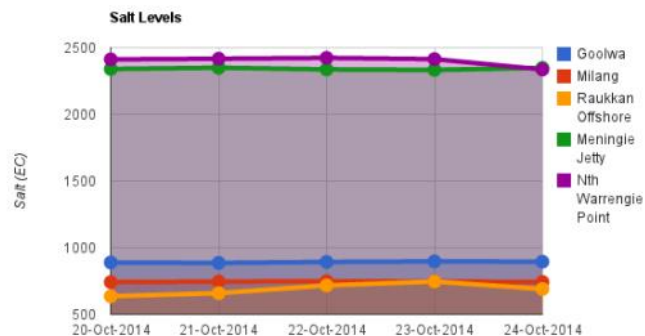
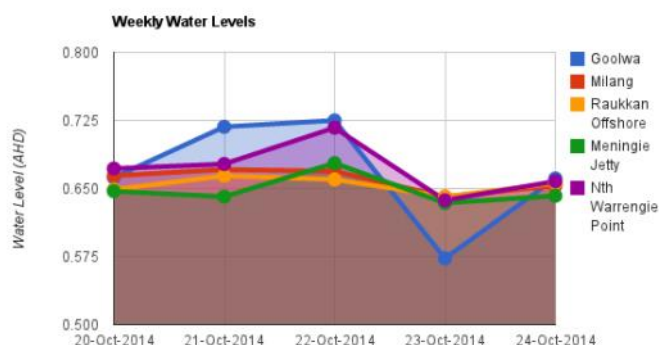
Date	Goolwa	Milang	Raukkan Offshore	Meningie Jetty	Nth Warrengie Point
27-Oct	0.637	0.655	0.649	0.673	0.676
28-Oct	0.455	0.616	0.621	0.683	0.626
29-Oct	0.576	0.613	0.635	0.678	0.671
30-Oct	0.662	0.647	0.646	0.655	0.687
31-Oct	0.68	0.653	0.651	0.65	0.683
Average	0.602	0.637	0.640	0.668	0.669

Salt Levels (EC)

Date	Goolwa	Milang	Raukkan Offshore	Meningie Jetty	Nth Warrengie Point
27-Oct	890	741	671	2369	2391
28-Oct	1245	731	672	2348	2410
29-Oct	1336	736	681	2357	2342
30-Oct	1351	735	689	2368	2287
31-Oct	1204	735	691	2392	2376
Average	1205	736	681	2367	2361

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.

	November
8	National Recycling Week
9	
10	
11	International Week of Science and Peace
12	
13	CLIMATE CHANGE and our FUTURE Weather 7.30 pm Hosted by GWLAP
14	
15	All Steamed Up at Mannum
16	All Steamed Up at Mannum
17	
18	
19	
20	
21	World Fisheries Day Strath Naturalist Meeting—Frogs with Regina Durbridge *8pm
22	
23	
24	
25	

Disclaimer

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