

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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Hi!

Welcome to my first Lakes Hub Bulletin (with Megan along side me to make sure it all goes according to plan).

This has been a big week for Meningie, with the inspections for the National Keep Australia Beautiful program being held on the 24th to 25th of November (more detail latter in the Bulletin). Earlier this month, there were fauna surveys conducted out on the Nurrung Peninsula along the Lake Albert shoreline.

Citizen science programs relating to birds and turtles are starting to gain some traction, with the bird portal now being accessible (see latter article).

On a Hubs matter, the Meningie and Milang Hubs are planning to be closed over Christmas, from the 20th of December until the 5th of January.

We are also trialling releasing Bulletins on a fortnightly basis, rather than weekly, to allow us more time to accumulate articles.

All the best,

Faith Coleman

Random Aussies at the Raukkan Community Nursery

The Raukkan Community Nursery had some unexpected visitors earlier this year. Check out the footage at: www.youtube.com/watch?v=8ZnSvHCarHE.



Meningie Keep Australia Beautiful Inspections (Article by Robynne Barrett)

After being awarded the KESAB Sustainable communities Overall winner, Meningie is in the running for a National Keep Australian Beautiful Tidy Towns Award. As the national finalist for South Australia, Meningie will join winners from every state and territory in Australia in the running towards being named Australia's tidiest town.

In addition to the overall award, the national program contains the category awards which are listed below:

- Community Action and Partnerships
- Dame Phyllis Frost Litter prevention
- Resource Recovery and Waste management
- Environmental protection and innovation
- Energy innovation
- Water conservation
- Heritage and culture
- Young legends



The Lakes Hub at Meningie prepared the national submission, addressing these categories. Andrew Dawes from the Hub then developed an itinerary for the National judge to tour Meningie which included a showcase of all the categories and brought the community together highlighting all the projects from the town.

Jill Grant (Tidy Towns Judge) has worked for over 20 years on strategy and sustainability issues with government and non-government organisations. She spent the 24th and 25th November in Meningie and surrounds, eating at the Meningie Hotel, visiting council projects, such as the CWMS, walked the pelican path, visited Coorong Cottage Industries and the Lakes Hub. Other projects such as the Town Entrance, Flip Flop, and Lake Albert Golf were all inspected. A BBQ tea was held at the Meningie Bowling Club.

The dinner proceedings included Indigenous songs (Rita and Michael Lindsay), plus presentations on the Coorong country maps and the "Tour to Cure".

The judges were taken out by the Southern Fisherman's Association to demonstrate sustainable fishing in the Coorong, The Meningie Sailing Club and local volunteer community members cooked up a terrific breakfast prior to visiting the Meningie Museum, Lake Albert Caravan Park, Lions Walking Trail, Melaleuca Orana, 2nd time Round and Meningie Area School.

The National awards ceremony will take place in Sheffield, Tasmania on 26th and 27th February and with every hope Meningie will do well and (win!!!)

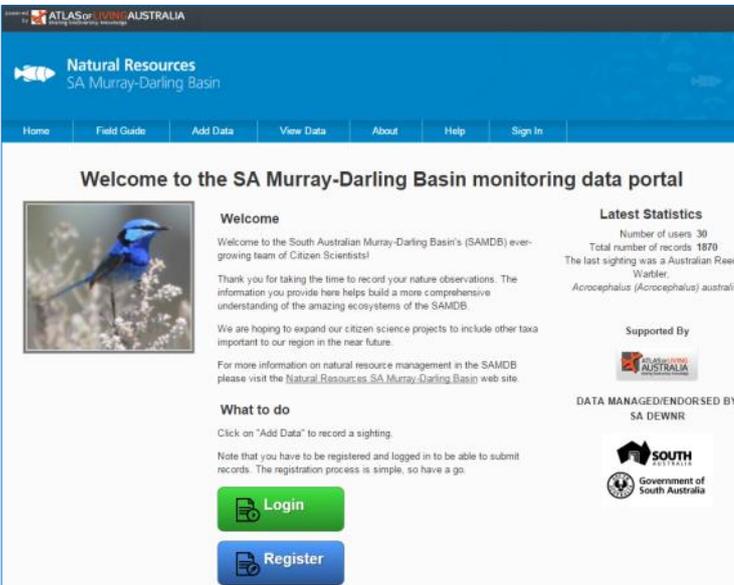


Photo: Shane Studwick

Citizen Science Bird Monitoring

Birds are an important indicator of biodiversity health. Many people like to record the birds they see in their garden or on a regular walk and all this data is a valuable resource which is not often captured.

To encourage community members to record bird sightings, a bird monitoring portal to the Atlas of Living Australia was placed on the Natural Resources SA Murray-Darling Basin (SAMDB) website.



More than 30 interested community participants have been trained in bird identification and survey by Peter Waanders and Helga Kieskamp from Southern Birding Services. This training was in the form of workshops, based at Berri. Participants visited various mallee and wetland habitats around Berri, where some of the local favourite birds such as the red-capped robin, splendid fairy-wren and whistling kite were sighted.

The participants are using their new knowledge and skills to collect and enter data via the portal, for use by Natural Resources SAMDB. One person has already logging over 300 records and another recording a sighting of a rare white-bellied sea-eagle.

Based upon the success of the Berri workshops, further training sessions will planned for the future. For more information on future workshops or the community bird monitoring program contact Renata Rix, at the Natural Resources office in Mount Barker on phone 8391 7500, or by emailing: Renata.rix@sa.gov.au

Information about the bird monitoring program can be found on the Natural Resources SAMDB website at: <http://www.naturalresources.sa.gov.au/samurraydarlingbasin/get-involved/community-monitoring/bird-monitoring>

The bird monitoring portal can be found at <http://root.ala.org.au/bdrs-core/mdnrm/home.htm>

Sea Eagle (Steve Stewart)



River Murray Road Shows

Want to know more about projects and programs on the River Murray?

Please join us at the River Roadshow to get your questions answered.

We're providing a one stop shop for the community to find out more about River Murray projects and programs run by Natural Resources South Australia Murray Darling Basin and the Department of Environment Water and Natural Resources.

Lower Murray events (including free BBQs) will be held on:

- **10 December:** River Murray Road Show in Murray Bridge between 12.30pm to 3.30pm, Imperial Football Club, Adelaide Road, Murray Bridge
- **11 December:** River Murray Road Show in Goolwa between 12.30pm to 3.30pm, Signal Point Gallery, The Wharf, Goolwa.

Projects and programs that will be available to answer any questions include the Lakes Hubs, Local Action Plans, Coorong, Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth Projects, Living Murray, Murray Mouth Dredging and many more.

More details are available from: www.naturalresources.sa.gov.au/samurraydarlingbasin/get-involved/events/river-roadshow

For more information, please contact please contact Ali Perkins on (08) 8124 4882 or Noriko Wynn on (08) 8391 7505.

There's still time to take part in the 2014 Regional Wellbeing Survey

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 Australia. To achieve this, we need to hear the views of all people living in rural and regional Australia.

Our 2014 survey is still open, but to be eligible to enter our prize draw, you need to complete the survey by 30 November (the survey as a whole remains open until December 14). Please consider participating, and forward this email to others who might be interested in the survey. Everyone aged 18 or over who takes part in the survey by November 30 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

Call 1800 981 499 if you'd like us to post you a paper survey, or for help with the survey.

This year, you can choose to do a short, regular or long version of the survey. People who choose to do a longer survey receive additional entries into the prize draw.

Your participation helps us produce data your community can use, as we produce results for every community from which we receive more than 100 responses.

Survey prizes: Winners receive their choice of a Coles-Myer, WISH, IGA or Flight Centre gift card, to the following values – 1st prize \$2,000; 2nd and 3rd prizes \$1,000; 6 runner-up prizes \$500. Click here to see the prize draw terms and conditions.

Aerial survey of waterbird communities of the Murray Darling Basin

Aerial surveys of waterbirds can be 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.

In 2008, aerial waterbird surveys were performed in spring to coincide with separately funded programs including the Eastern Australian Waterbird Survey and The National Waterbird Survey. In 2013, reporting of Murray Icon Sites (MI) (2007-2012) and Hydrological Indicator Sites (HIS) (2010-2012) were combined under the single title of Targeted Wetlands Sites.



The Aerial Survey of waterbird communities of the Murray Darling Basin aims to:

Undertake annual aerial waterbird surveys of 39 Wetland Sites (for example Barmah-Millewa; Gunbower-Koondrook-Pericoota; Hattah Lakes, Chowilla-Lindsay-Wallpolla; Lower Lakes-Coorong-Murray Mouth; River Murray Channel) in spring to coincide with the annual Eastern Australian Waterbird Survey

Undertake the surveys at a scale to inform on water birds on water bodies and wetlands

Report on waterbird survey at the icon site and with reference to the current years Eastern Australian Waterbird Survey

The project is funded by Murray-Darling Basin Authority.

www.ecosystem.unsw.edu.au/content/rivers-and-wetlands/waterbirds/murray-icon-wetland-survey

PIRSA consults on the Lakes and Coorong fisheries management plan

Interested stakeholders and the community are encouraged to have their say on a Draft Management Plan for the South Australian Commercial Lakes and Coorong Fishery.

Releasing the draft plan today for public consultation, Director of PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy, Sean Sloan, said it would provide a new five-year framework for the management of the \$7.2 million commercial fishery.

"The aim of the plan is to establish a framework to protect, manage use and develop the aquatic resource in the Lakes and Coorong region in a manner that is consistent with the principles of ecologically sustainable development," Mr Sloan said.

"It describes the characteristics of the fishery, details the rules for the harvesting of the various species associated with the fishery, allocation of the resources that support the fishery and outlines stock assessment, monitoring, compliance and regulatory arrangements."

Mr Sloan said the Lakes and Coorong Fishery is a unique fishery in the State, being a small scale, community based, multi-species, multi-method fishery that operates within a highly modified and very dynamic environment.

"As one of only two South Australian fisheries to obtain the highly sought independent sustainability accreditation from the Marine Stewardship Council, it is recognised internationally for its sustainability," he said.



Clockwise from top left: 1) Small-mouthed Hardyhead, Murray Hardyhead, 2) Murray Cod (J. Higham), 3) Black Bream and 4) Mulloway (P. Jennings)

"The fishery contributes to the socio-economic well-being of regional coastal communities in the Lakes and Coorong area and harbors significant cultural and spiritual significance for the Ngarrindjeri people. It is therefore important that all the aquatic resources in this fishery are managed in a way to ensure its current and future sustainability."

The consultation period is open until Wednesday 4 February 2015. A copy of the draft plan, supporting documents and response form can be found at: www.fisheriescouncil.sa.gov.au.

Nature Spot—Raukkan Biodiversity Surveys

The Raukkan Working on Country (WOC) and Aboriginal Learning on Country (ALOC) teams have been busy this year, setting up a large-scale biodiversity survey across the Narrung Peninsula which targeted reptiles, mammals and birds. To provide some idea of the scale, it included two separate weeks of monitoring, using 120 Elliot traps, 48 pit traps with nets, eight cat traps and three motion sensitive cameras.



An Echidna, found missing with the trap lines in March
(Photos Daniel Moore)



Pygopod (Legless Lizard) trapped in November 2014.

The survey included sites in Block K, Gum Park, Princes Scrub, Kartoo Scrub, and a number of areas along the Lake Alexandrina shoreline. Most of these sites were previously surveyed using the same methods in the 1980s and 1990s so data from the project will provide an indication of how the area's biodiversity has changed over time.

Re-establishing these sites, as permanent survey sites will enable the WOC and ALOC teams to better monitor and evaluate the effect of their feral animal control, weed control, revegetation and fencing activities.

Two weeks of surveying have been completed, with one in March and one in November.

The program is a partnership between Ngopamuldi Aboriginal Corporation, Natural Resources SAMDB, TAFE SA Aboriginal Access Centre, Biosecurity SA and Greening Australia SA. The project is supported through funding from the Australian Government.

For more information, contact:

Chris Koolmatie, Aboriginal Partnerships
Project Officer, Natural Resources SAMDB, on (08) 8580 1800.



One of three Western Pygmy Possums, trapped in November.

The Nature Glenelg Trust's Summer 2014/15 edition of the cross-border (SE SA/SW VIC) has just been released. Although most the events are a long way from the Coorong and Lower Lakes, some are at Keith, Kingston, Beachport and Robe.



Ones of particular interest include kid-friendly Coastal Connections activities during the January school holidays, dog's breakfasts looking at the issues facing beach-nesting birds and a BirdLife Australia camp-out near Keith.

Details can be found on their website, using the following hyperlink: <http://natureglenelg.org.au/cross-border-environmental-events-calendar/>

Tolderol Wetland Community Bird Monitoring

You are invited to attend Bird Monitoring with Natural Resources—SA Murray-Darling Basin staff at Tolderol Wetland, as part of the environmental watering trial.

Meeting at the Tolderol Game Reserve Entrance Gate on;
Friday 28th November 2014, 9:00am
Thursday 11th December 2014, 9:00am

Staff will be on hand to explain monitoring method, bring your binoculars/scope or come along to scribe.

Places are limited. Please RSVP to Regina Durbridge
0427 364 551 or email regina.durbridge@gwlap.org.au



Government of South Australia
Department of Environment,
Water and Natural Resources



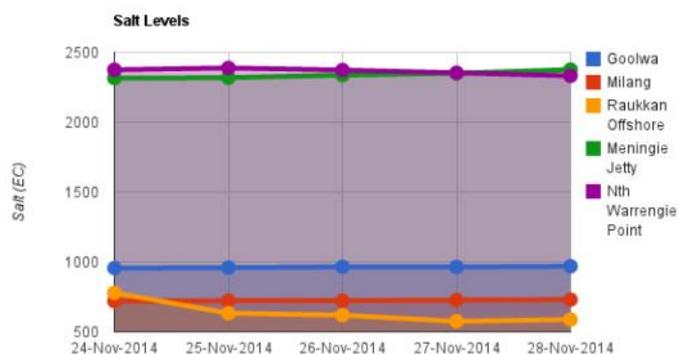
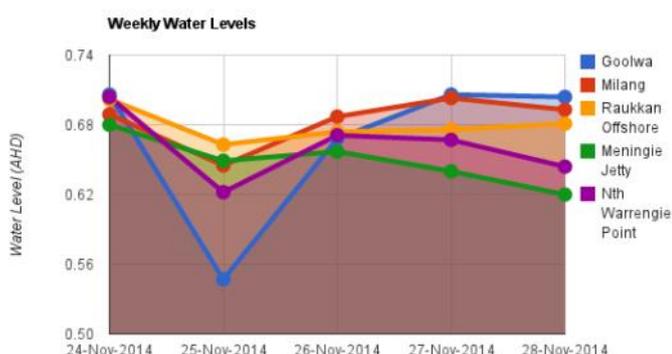
On the Level

Lake Levels (AHD)

Date	Goolwa	Milang	Raukkan Offshore	Meningie Jetty	Nth Warrengie Point
24-Nov	0.706	0.689	0.702	0.68	0.704
25-Nov	0.547	0.645	0.663	0.649	0.622
26-Nov	0.668	0.687	0.674	0.657	0.671
27-Nov	0.706	0.703	0.676	0.64	0.667
28-Nov	0.704	0.693	0.681	0.62	0.644
Average	0.666	0.683	0.679	0.649	3.308

Salt Levels 0.6662

Date	Goolwa	Milang	Raukkan Offshore	Meningie Jetty	Nth Warrengie Point
24-Nov	956	719	779	2315	2375
25-Nov	959	723	633	2318	2388
26-Nov	965	723	619	2337	2373
27-Nov	964	727	575	2350	2353
28-Nov	969	730	588	2376	2332
Average	963	724	3194	2339	2364



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.

	December
4	Signal Point Riverine Environment Group Inc AGM. 7:30PM. Goolwa Museum.
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	River Murray Road Show. Murray Bridge. 12.30pm to 3.30pm
11	River Murray Road Show. Goolwa. 12.30pm to 3.30pm CLLMM Community Advisory Panel. Langhorne Creek Tolderol Wetland Community Bird Monitoring. 9am
12	
13	
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16	
17	
18	
19	
20	
21	
22	Lakes Hub Milang Office closed reopens on 5th January 2015
23	
24	
25	Christmas Day

Disclaimer

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