



Weekly Bulletin

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.

Number 213

12 December 2014

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

Megan Collins / Faith Coleman

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.

GW LAP

Office 8537 0807
www.gwlap.org.au

Will Miles

GW LAP - Projects Manager Lower Lakes
and Coorong Projects

Regina Durbridge

GW LAP - Monitoring & Evaluation Project
Officer

Aaron Cheesman

GW LAP - Revegetation Planner/
Coordinator -shared position

Kerri Bartley

GW LAP - Community Revegetation
Program Project Officer

Coorong-Tatiara LAP

Jonathan Starks

CTLAP - Revegetation Works Coordinator
Meningie 0419 049 208

Samantha Blight

CTLAP - Implementation Officer Meningie
0447 900001

Hi All!

With children starting school holidays and Christmas just a couple of weeks away, everyone is rushing around, cleaning up and getting ready for the festive season. This will be our last newsletter before the Christmas Break, with the next newsletter due out on the 9th of January.

This summer is shaping up to be hot, so it is important not to forget our native animals over the holidays. Low, flat pottery dishes make excellent water bowls for small lizards, including Sleepy Lizards and Bluetongues. Lots of shrubbery, nectar-producing flowers and retaining seedheads on plants are also important to provide a sanctuary for native animals.

The summer holidays are an ideal time to get out and about. I drove past the site of the "Tough Mudder" event on my way into Milang this morning, which is for those that like this extreme, but there are plenty of walks and events over summer for those that like a more sedate interaction with nature.

Have a safe and enjoyable break. See you all in the new year!

Faith Coleman

Tolderol Game Reserve Video

Uploaded by Jacqui Wilson

Tolderol Game Reserve was created in 1970 to form a refuge for water-fowl for feeding and protection. The wetland provides critical drought refuge for large groups of migratory waders.

Tolderol has historically recorded over 125 bird species. No environmental watering or wetland management had taken place since the Millennium drought.

In November, Tolderol received its first environmental watering in eight years, as part of the 2014 Natural Resources SA Environmental watering trials. The birds have already started returning, as shown in the pictures within this video!



Dredging to start at the Murray Mouth

On the 5th of December, it was announced that dredging will start at the Murray Mouth to remove sand build-up. This work is considered vital to ensure the mouth remains open, keeping ecosystems in the Coorong healthy, as well as maintaining connectivity between the river, Coorong and Southern Ocean.

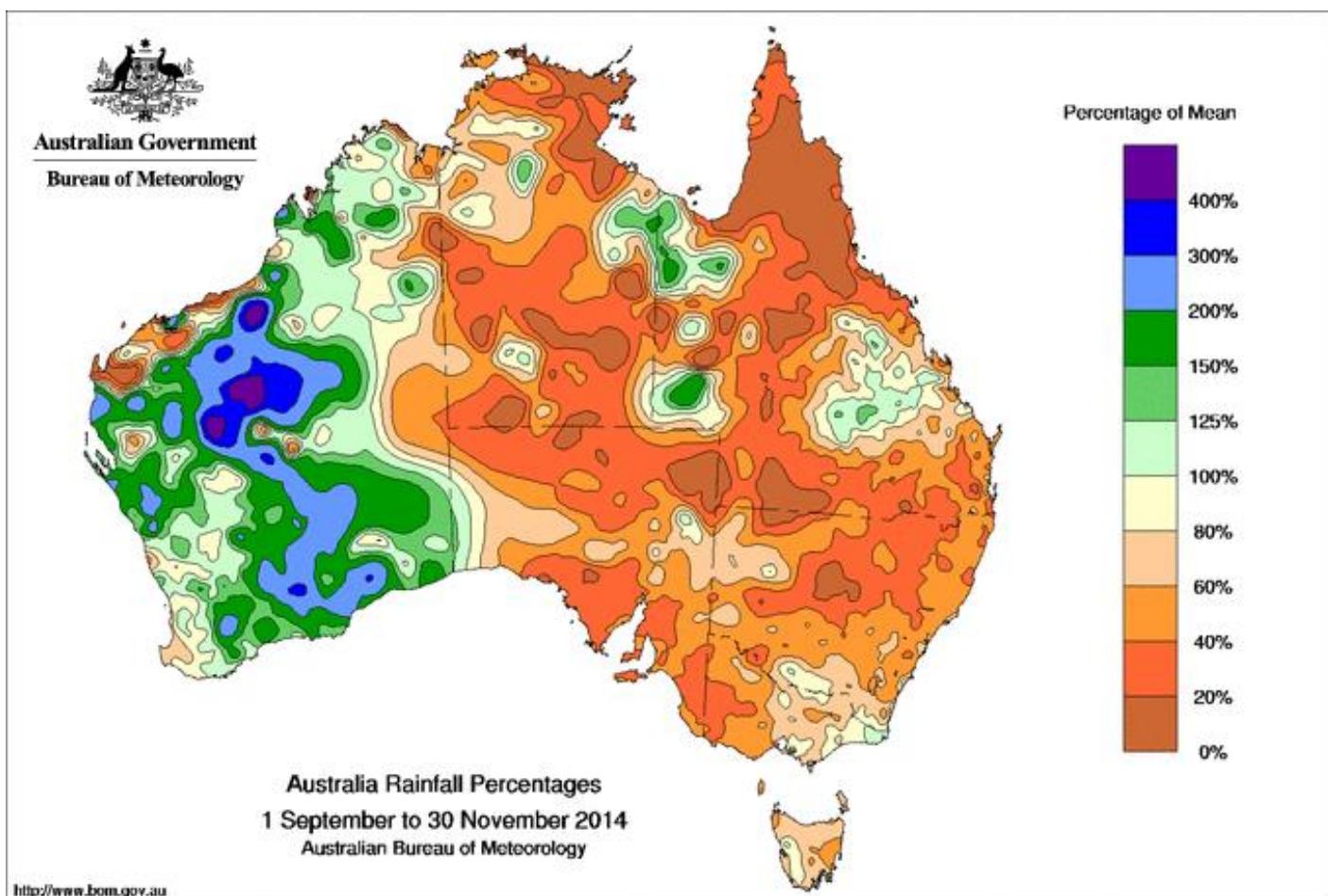
According to the Commonwealth media release, Senator Birmingham stated that;

"Had there been no water recovery towards the Basin Plan, the MDBA had determined that it was likely that dredging would have been required in autumn this year."

With the Basin Plan only partially implemented, the delayed need for dredging is considered a good sign. There have been particularly dry conditions across the basin, particularly the northern portions, which means flows throughout the system have reduced. Sand has started to accumulate inside the mouth, to the point that dredging is now required.

The map below shows the percentage of average rainfall that has occurred throughout spring this year. The Murray Darling Basin has received an average of 55.8mm of rain between the 1st of September and the 30th of November, with is the 10th lowest average rainfall on record. More information can be obtained from www.bom.gov.au/climate/current/season/aus/summary.shtml

The Murray-Darling Basin Ministerial Council has allocated \$4 million for dredging during the remainder of 2014–15.



Friends of Shorebirds South East Events

DOGS BREAKFASTS: Once again we will be conducting Dogs Breakfasts as part of the Coastal Connections Program. If you can help with preparing the Doggie Bags or with the breakfasts, please ring 8738 0014.



Sat. 3rd Jan – Kingston; Sund. 4th Jan – Robe; Sat. 10th Jan – Beachport; Sund 11th Jan – Port MacDonnell.

GEOLOCATOR RETRIEVAL Catching to retrieve geolocators from turnstone may be organised at short notice.

THOMPSON BEACH Catching to deploy satellite transmitters on Bar-tailed Godwit may be organised at short notice.

SHOREBIRDS 2020: Feb: Sun 22nd February. Counting various sites along the lower SE coast and selected inland sites. If you would like to be involved please ring 8738 0014.

WEEKLY OUTINGS

We usually go out each Tuesday.....so that you can be told where and when the activity will be - *ring on landline Monday evening – 8738 0014.*

Latham's Snipe — Role for undergraduate or postgraduate student

How important are urban wetlands for Latham's Snipe? A multi-scale investigation into the patterns of habitat use by Latham's Snipe in south-western Victoria.

Latham's Snipe is a cryptic, migratory shorebird that breeds in Japan and spends its non-breeding season in eastern Australia. For those who are unaware, it also occurs in Milang.

Some of the largest concentrations of snipe in Victoria occur in association with urban wetlands, particularly the Powling Street wetlands. This site will be substantially reduced in size as a result of an impending housing development. This loss of habitat, combined with increased disturbance to roosting and foraging birds, is expected to reduce the suitability of the site for snipe, potentially resulting in a decline of the population.

The objectives of this study are to undertake surveys of Latham's Snipe to determine patterns of habitat use and estimate relative carrying capacity of the site. This will be done in conjunction with a GIS analysis of temporal and spatial wetland changes since snipe monitoring began in the seventies.

The Federation University is seeking an enthusiastic and self-motivated undergraduate or postgraduate student to work on this project. It will involve targeted field surveys, behavioural observations, analyses of Latham's Snipe count data and spatial analysis of changes in wetland availability. Experience with waterbird observation, GIS analyses and ecological modelling are desirable.

Please contact Birgita Hansen (b.hansen@federation.edu.au) for further information.

Native Plant Science Forum

Held at the Murray Bridge Golf Club, 6 May 2014

Links to Vimeo video uploads



Dr. Linda Broadhurst – Research Scientist- CSIRO Plant Industry

Improving the past, present and future of Australian restoration – the role of genetics

Restoration in the Australian landscape- Understanding provenance and genetic diversity

Linda will examine some of the major genetic issues underpinning selecting seed for restoration, review our track record in restoring genetic diversity and discuss how we might use this information to improve restoration. Of major importance in the rebuilding of Australia's degraded vegetation is ensuring that these have the adaptive capacity to cope with the major environmental challenges expected over the coming decades. Linda's research reveals that small plant populations which often characterise highly fragmented landscapes often suffer from inbreeding effects that limit both the quality and quantity of seed available for restoration.

Presentation 1 – Dr. Linda Broadhurst - Part 1 of 2 <https://vimeo.com/112973749>

Presentation 1 – Dr. Linda Broadhurst - Part 2 of 2 <https://vimeo.com/111357128>



Dr. Adam Miller, Research Fellow

Department of Genetics, The University of Melbourne

Adam will demonstrate the limitations of provenance only and the benefits of composite seed sourcing for revegetation and habitat restoration works. His research focuses on mapping genetic diversity at landscape scales across species groups, using this as a framework for identifying genetically diverse communities, and developing guidelines for sourcing and mixing seed. Done in a calculated fashion this offers a practical strategy for maximising health and environmental resilience of augmented or restored populations. These practices also provide potentially valuable conservation tools, acting as evolutionary conduits that can enhance the adaptive potential of populations in surrounding environments through the spill-over of beneficial genes.

Presentation 2 – Dr. Adam Miller <https://vimeo.com/98494106>



Dr. Andrea Kodym

The University of Melbourne

Growing the ungrowable – Keystone species for revegetation through plant tissue culture

Many Australian native plant species are not available for revegetation because of the lack of efficient propagation methods. Among this group of plants are Austral bracken fern (*Dennstaedtiaceae*) and the sedges *Gahnia radula* and *Lepidosperma* spp. (*Cyperaceae*), which are widespread and significant understorey species of various native plant communities.

This presentation will provide an insight into our research on these difficult-to-propagate plants and will show how plant tissue culture can provide an alternative way of propagating plants when nursery based propagation hits its limitations.

Our research also focuses on the propagation of female trees of the dioecious *Allocasuarina luehmannii* (*Casuarinaceae*).

Presentation 3 – Dr. Andrea Kodym <https://vimeo.com/98692307>

Alternatively post a self-addressed postage paid envelope and 4GB memory stick to Goolwa to Wellington Local Action Planning Association, PO BOX 674, STRATHALBYN SA 5255 for a copy of these presentations.

This event was funded through the Goolwa to Wellington Local Action Planning Association Community Revegetation Project as part of the South Australian Government's Murray Futures Program, funded by the Australian Government's Water for the Future Initiative. In conjunction with the Coorong Tatiara Local Action Plan & Coorong District Council.



Australian Government



Government
of South Australia



Goolwa to Wellington Local
Action Planning Association Inc.



COORONG
TATIARA LOCAL
ACTION PLAN

Volunteers—How would you like to be recognised?

DEWNR is undertaking a review of current volunteer recognition initiatives in order to recommend a way forward that will recognise our volunteers in a way they most value.

Follow the links below to two surveys. One designed directly for volunteers, and one for DEWNR staff working with and supporting volunteers. Your feedback would be most valuable to help us make any appropriate changes to the way DEWNR recognises and thanks our volunteers. The surveys close 5pm Friday 12 December 2014.

Survey for Volunteers

www.surveymonkey.com/s/78GKS98

Survey for DEWNR staff working with and supporting volunteers

www.surveymonkey.com/s/X2Z5L9S

RMYC takes main stage at international conference

Seven students from the Lower Murray and Upper Murray River Murray Youth Council (RMYC) presented on the main stage at the 2014 International Kids Teaching Kids Conference in Mandurah, Western Australia, in October.

The RMYC presentation on the first night of the conference focused on the Congolli (*Pseudaphritis urvillii*), a fish that almost became extinct in the Coorong and Lower Lakes during the recent drought.

The students highlighted the impacts of over-allocation of water and the importance of monitoring. At the conclusion of the performance, Lower Murray RMYC chairperson Rose Cullen challenged the audience to find out what is in their local area and to get involved in monitoring.

Conference attendees were given a congolli jigsaw puzzle as a metaphor for monitoring—all pieces of the puzzle are needed to complete the picture.

The Education/Events Officer for Kids Teaching, Kids Leah Bradford said, everyone raved about the RMYC performance – it was such a great way to set the scene for the rest of the conference! The RMYC students attended workshops presented by other students on topics including native fish, aquifers, healthy soils, cultural dance and saving stranded dolphins.

Eastern Fleurieu School Strathalbyn Campus Year 11 student Shaun Stitt said the Kids Teaching Kids conference was an amazing experience and opportunity.

“Getting to meet like-minded peers from around the country and being able to discuss various issues, as well as laugh and enjoy ourselves was especially rewarding. “The workshops and project day also created a great atmosphere and bonds within each group,” he said.

The RMYC is a youth voice group facilitated by the NRM Education team and is open to secondary students in the SA Murray-Darling Basin region who have an interest in the environment and sustainability.

Nature Spot

As spring draws to a close, I will miss the country drives, looking for wildflowers, with my two young boys, who keep me company on my ramblings. These drives are usually accompanied by frequent stops, to allow pairs (or more) of Sleepy Lizards to cross the roads. My youngest, Oliver's keen eyes are often the first to spot them, chiming out "Move over, Dopey" to hurry them on their way.

While often taken for granted, this unique Australian Lizard often lives for 20-50 years. Over this time, they tend to mate for life (although the males are not necessarily monogamous) and they have live young.

Unlike many species, the females (up to 900g) are larger than the males (600-700g). They love browsing on the flowers of Paterson's Curse (Salvation Jane).

Shingle backs have a diet that may include insects, baby birds, carrion and vegetation. "They eat all sorts of things, but basically most live food is too fast for them so 95 percent of their diet is flowers and berries and things like that" Mike explains.

These fascinating animals are attracted to roadsides due to the extra moisture that collects in this area.

Babies are born live (not in an egg) and weigh about 100g. They take three years or so to reach full size. Around the Mount Mary area, research suggests that only 16% reach their first birthday, but annual adult survival is about 80 – 90 percent.

A shingle-back's year is a short one. It has only a few months to feed and mate before summer's heat kills the vegetation it eats and makes life in the open unbearable.

Shingle-backs are the only lizards known to exhibit fidelity and during the short period of activity males must find their partner of the previous year and then mate with and defend her. The rest of the year is spent sheltering, often down an abandoned rabbit burrow.

Based on an article by **Frances Stopford**.

For more information, check out;

[www.walkaboutreptiles.com.au/
csbluetonguelizards.html](http://www.walkaboutreptiles.com.au/csbluetonguelizards.html)



Photo: Will Miles. GWLAP.

Consultation starts on the Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary

Based on a media release by Minister Hunter

Although outside the region, it is great to progress on the proposed Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary.

Minister Hunter has asked that Adelaide's birdwatchers, nature lovers, schools and community groups band together to assist with designing and developing the [Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary](#). While the area being investigated at the moment is undeveloped coastal land, previously under salt extraction mining leases, future stages will include some of the area currently being managed by Ridley, as the mothballed Dry Creek Saltfield.

Mr Hunter opened a stakeholder forum on the 5th of December, by asking interested parties to take the lead in the co-design of a management plan for the sanctuary.

"The Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary is an important initiative on many levels," Mr Hunter said.

"It will encompass more than 60 km of the northern Adelaide coast between Barker Inlet and Parham. Each year at the peak of the migration season, the mudflats, mangroves and saltmarsh support an estimated 27,000 migratory shorebirds with 12 species occurring in internationally significant numbers.

"This sanctuary will be a world class facility of international importance, and the Government wants to ensure it accommodates a diverse range of uses in parallel with the conservation of shorebird habitats."

"The Government has committed \$1.7 million over the next four years to establish and manage the International Bird Sanctuary, and we want to make sure that the views of all community interests are included in the final management plan.

A diversity of community members were at the forum, demonstrating many decades of knowledge and commitment to the site. Several of the participants were behind an attempt to Ramsar list the site almost 20 years ago



Coorong Cottage Industries Books and Toys Display through the Ages

By Robynne Barrett

The members of Coorong Cottage Industries have been hard at work once again in putting together a display of old toys and books. This is the final display to celebrate the 125 years the Hall has been built and has been a terrific commemoration of the event. How intriguing to see the different types of toys though the ages and how things have changed. Many were handmade and often with very primitive tools such as a pocket knife or a chisel. The War years or Depression also made a significant difference in the appearance, often quite simple depending what material was available. The books were interesting; some were quite colourful when some were minimalistic. I'm amazed what people have still stored away in their closets but certainly glad they can be found again and displayed for everyone to enjoy.



Toy plane made with a tomahawk Chisel and a pocket knife.



MENINGIE MARKET

Sunday 4th January, 2015



10am - 3pm



Lions Jubilee Park, Princes Hwy, Meningie

Come along and have a look at some of the outstanding Arts, Crafts and Produce that the Meningie Community has to offer.

A Fun day out for the whole family.

For more information or to book a stall site contact:

Emma Swan – meningieprogress@hotmail.com or 0417 809 469

or Kirsty Bagshaw 0428 751 250

FOOD &
DRINKS

A Proud Initiative of:

Meningie
PROGRESS
Association



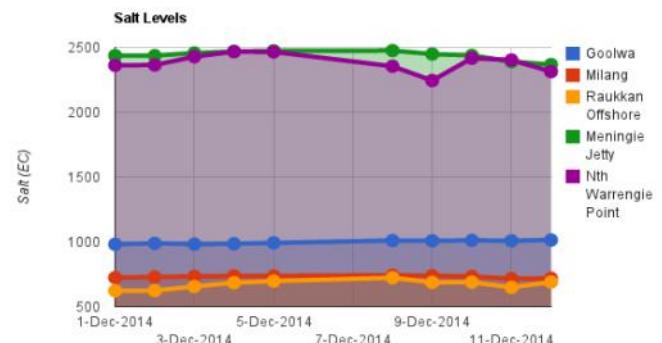
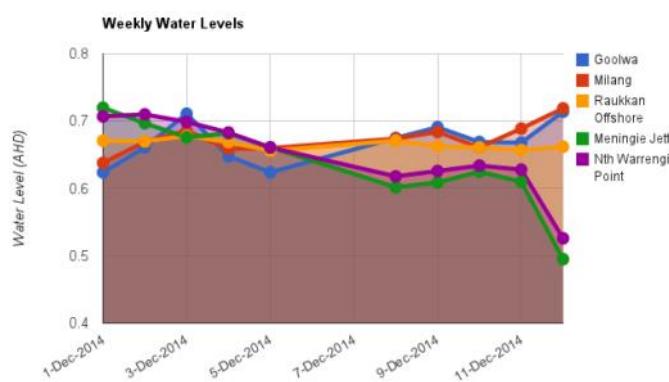
On the Level

Lake Levels (AHD)

Date	Goolwa	Milang	Raukkan Offshore	Meningie Jetty	Nth Warrengie Point
8-Dec	0.675	0.674	0.671	0.602	0.618
9-Dec	0.691	0.684	0.663	0.609	0.626
10-Dec	0.669	0.661	0.661	0.625	0.634
11-Dec	0.668	0.689	0.657	0.61	0.628
12-Dec	0.714	0.719	0.662	0.495	0.526
Average	0.683	0.685	0.663	0.588	0.606

Salt Levels

Date	Goolwa	Milang	Raukkan Offshore	Meningie Jetty	Nth Warrengie Point
8-Dec	1010	742	723	2475	2354
9-Dec	1008	738	687	2448	2244
10-Dec	1011	733	689	2438	2416
11-Dec	1008	716	649	2390	2402
12-Dec	1014	719	690	2367	2313
Average	1010	730	688	2424	2346



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](#).

[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>

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.

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	
20	
21	
22	Lakes Hub Milang Office closed reopens on 5th January 2015
23	Lakes Hub Milang Office closed
24	Lakes Hub Milang Office closed
25	Christmas Day
26	Boxing Day
27	
28	
29	Lakes Hub Milang and Meningie closed
30	Lakes Hub Milang and Meningie closed
31	Lakes Hub Milang and Meningie closed
January	
1	New Years Day
2	Lakes Hub Milang and Meningie closed
3	
4	
5	Lakes Hubs open
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	
11	
12	
13	
14	

Disclaimer

All the links and articles in this Bulletin are provided as a courtesy to recipients. While I try and keep these links and articles as up-to-date as possible, I can't guarantee their accuracy, adequacy, timeliness, or completeness.

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.