

Number 220
20th April 2015

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Hello!

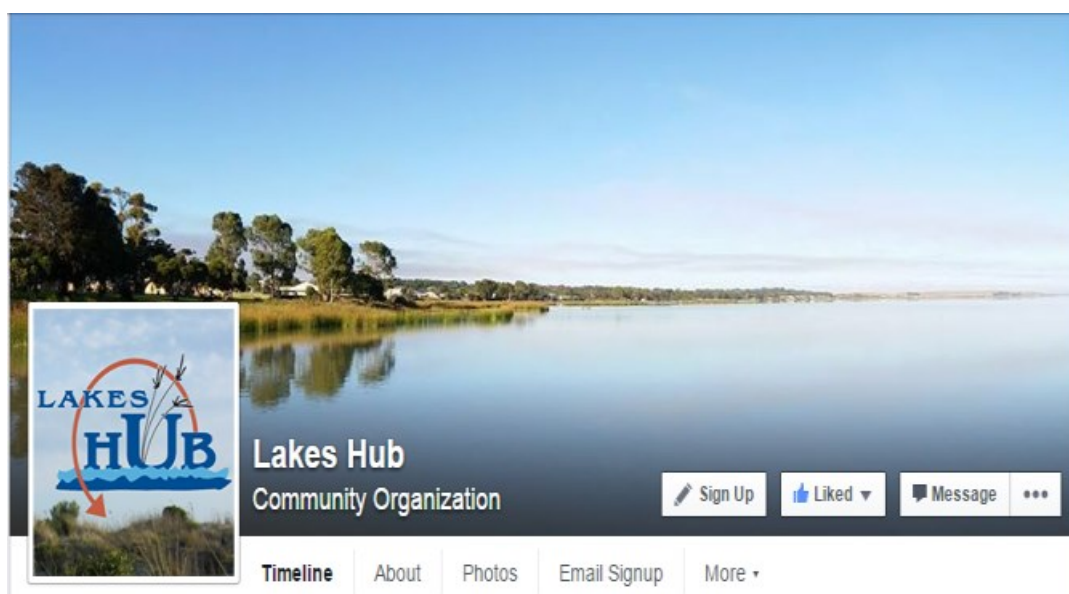
Better late than never... Apologies for this bulletin being a week overdue. We had got a little carried away with funding applications and some amazing events, including two days spent promoting the Lakes and Coorong area in Rundle Mall, the amazingly well attended OPAL event on the Milang foreshore (with estimates of 350 attendees) and an Saltmarsh Restoration Forum, which I presented in Adelaide, in one of my other roles.

I am hoping to provide you with some photos and descriptions of these in future weeks, but thought I would get this edition out to you, as is, to encourage all of you to attend the feral cat workshop, being held at the Lakes Hub at Meningie next week.

We also have upcoming Talking Heads in progress with regard to Dredging the Murray Mouth (9th of May, 2-4PM at the Clayton Hall), which I will send out a flyer for, as soon as we have the speakers all settled... Promises to be an informative event.

As we transition from a weekly to fortnightly bulletin, with a monthly edition likely in the new financial year, our daily updates to the Lakes Hub Facebook page is becoming increasingly useful to folk... Click the image below to be taken to it.

Faith Coleman





Feral Cat Talk

Join us for a talk on Feral Cats ,foxes and a range of best practice options for management of these species by the director of Environmental ecology
Eric Onderstal.

Where: Meningie Hub,79 Princes Highway
Meningie.

When:28th April 2015 7-9pm

For bookings please contact Lakes Hub Meningie.

Ph: 08 8575 1830





River Lakes and Coorong Action Group Inc



Photo by: Carl Curtain (ABC)

Murray Mouth Dredging Community Information Session

9th of May

2-4 PM (Refreshments at 1:45 PM)

Clayton Bay Community Hall, Cnr Alexandrina Dr and Grand View Dr,
Clayton Bay

RSVPs : 08 85370808 or info@lakeshub.com



SARMS Regional Development and Innovation Fund

(Source: DEWNR media release)

The Federally-funded \$265 million South Australian River Murray Sustainability Program (SARMS) investment continues to flow into River Murray communities with the next rounds opening for the Regional Development and Innovation Fund (RDIF).

The program has been re-designed the RDIF to ensure that the program receives projects in line with Round One, along with smaller innovative ideas, that might be out there.

According to the media release, the RDIF now has a dual focus, with larger value projects over \$500,000 to be funded in Round Two and smaller value projects between \$200,000 and \$500,000 to be funded in Round Three.

Both of RDIF rounds will support industry projects that diversify the River Murray and create jobs.

They also support the investment currently being made through the Irrigation Industry Improvement Program (3IP).

Guidelines and application forms will be available from the PIRSA website in early to mid April.

Information sessions for the RDIF are being held on Monday 20 April at:

Berri Resort Hotel from 10am - 12pm

Murray Bridge Community Club from 3 - 5pm.

Applications close for:

Round Two on Monday 18 May at 5pm ACST

Round Three on Monday 25 May at 5pm ACST.

Successful projects for both rounds are expected to be announced towards the end of September 2015.

To access the Guidelines and application form as well as register for an information session, please call 1300 364 322 or visit www.pir.sa.gov.au/regions/sarms

Culling Feral Cats

As a follow up on a previous article about feral cats we have located an article on ABC Science about the effects of culling feral cats. While the findings of the study may or may not be applicable here, it is definitely food for thought, particularly with the upcoming Feral Cat Management session at Meningie.

The article is from wildlife biologist Billie Lazenby of the [Tasmanian department of primary industries](#). To view the full article click [Here](#)



Thoughts for the Week

We must constantly review the past, determine our present status, and set goals for the future. Without this process there is little chance of reaching one's objectives.

O Leslie Stone

If you keep telling the same small, sad story, you'll live the same small, sad life.

Jean Houston

BIRD IDENTIFICATION & MONITORING WORKSHOPS:

Mt Barker & Hindmarsh Island

Who?

Community members who are interested in bird watching and contributing to a new citizen science online database. The workshops cater for novices through to experienced birders.

Why?

Your participation will assist with monitoring birds and the overall environmental health of the SA Murray-Darling Basin region. The workshops will teach you how to ID different bird species, undertake a survey and contribute meaningful data.

When & Where?

Mt Barker: May 30 & 31

Hindmarsh Island/ Goolwa: June 20 & 21

Saturday 9am-4pm (theory and field trip) – recommended for beginners

Sunday 9am-3pm (field trip) – suitable for beginners who attend Saturday session and others with more experience

How much?

FREE with morning tea & lunch provided. Loan sets of binoculars, ID guides and GPS will be supplied.



Birds

Please confirm to add to help view and submit are available.

Click on the map to set the location of the sighting. You can drag the newly created location around the map to change the coordinates.

Latitude

Longitude

Location accuracy

Location notes

Date

Time started

Time finished

Survey type

Area surveyed

Site ID

Habitat type

Environmental conditions

Temperature

Wind speed

Cloud cover

Humidity

Additional notes

To record a new sighting, click the "Add Sighting" button below. Begin typing the name of the species, for example "Whitehead", in the species input box. As you begin typing, a list of matching species will appear. Select your species from the list. Click the "Add Sighting" button to add more rows to the table to record more species.

Select your species from the list. Click the "Add Sighting" button to add more rows to the table to record more species.

Species	Total seen in	Total seen out	Total flying over	Photo	Wingspan sighting	Details
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Choose File No file chosen

Registration

To register for the workshops or to find out more, phone Sylvia Clarke on 0428 743 487 or (08) 8532 9147 or email sylvia.clarke@sa.gov.au.



Natural Resources
SA Murray-Darling Basin



Government
of South Australia

2015 Landcare Awards

Minister for Agriculture, Barnaby Joyce, is calling on community groups, networks and individuals who participate in community Landcare and Coastcare activities to nominate a Landcare project or "local hero" for the 2015 State and Territory Landcare Awards, which opened this week.

To nominate for the 2015 State and Territory Landcare Awards or more information visit www.landcareonline.com.au

Entries for the 2015 State and Territory Landcare Awards are open until the 31st of May, 2015 in South Australia.

Celebrating a silver milestone this year, the Awards have been running for 25 years and celebrate the many achievements of Landcare across a number of diverse areas, including sustainable farming, Coastcare, Junior Landcare, Indigenous land management, and more.

With nine national categories to choose from there is certain to be one to fit any kind of Landcare project or local hero, and all winners at a state and territory level will proceed as finalists to the 2016 National Landcare Awards in 2016.

The State & Territory Landcare Awards are supported by Landcare Australia through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Programme.

2015 State & Territory Landcare Awards Categories

- Australian Government Individual Landcarer
- Australian Government Landcare Facilitator or Coordinator
- Australian Government Innovation in Sustainable Farm Practices
- Australian Government Partnerships with Landcare
- Coastcare Award
- Junior Landcare Team
- Young Landcare Leader
- Indigenous Land Management
- Landcare Community Group

Get to Know Your National Parks

Have you always wanted to get closer to nature, but didn't know where to start?

Come to a national park discovery day and see what you've been missing! Enjoy great activities like mountain biking, guided walks with Friends of Parks volunteers, cycling or kayaking with a ranger, geocaching, educational activities, sausage sizzles, giveaways and much more. For more information click [here](#).

The upcoming ones are all out-side of the Coorong and Lakes region, but they are worth a day trip, if you have other things to do in the area.

These include:

Belair National Park 10am - 3pm Sunday 3 May

Para Wirra Recreation Park 10am - 3pm Sunday 3 May

Cobbler Creek Recreation Park 25th birthday celebration. 10am - 3pm Sunday 31 May



Basin Plan annual report

(Source MDBA media release 13 April 2015)

Major milestones of the Basin Plan have been met and good progress has been made on important components of water reform, according to an annual report released today.

[Read more](#)

For more information, contact the MDBA Media Office at media@mdba.gov.au or 02 62790141. Follow the MDBA on twitter: @MD_Basin_Auth. Join the discussion on the [MDBA blog](#).

Pocket Notes and Cuff Links

Global Warming; A Conversation



Sydney could end up with a warmer climate like Brisbane (Andrea Ferrera/Flickr, CCby-NC-SA)

In this article Leanne Webb, Penny Whetton and Tim Bedin provide an idea of the possible effects of global warming in Australia. The article is the first in a series by CSIRO on climate change and mentions a tool where you can see what the effects of climate change may be in your area or town.

To read the full article , click [here](#)

FOOD, WATER AND WETLANDS

www.ramsar.org



Natural Resources South East News

People Places and Landscapes Photo Competition

Calling all social snappers and photography pros, the Natural Resources South East photo competition returns for 2015.

The theme "People, Places and Landscapes" invites all photography enthusiasts to get the camera out and snap those scenes, places, animals and events that showcase the region's natural features.



Sustainable Communities Coordinator Alison Boomsma said the inaugural competition launched in 2014 was very popular and is returning again with more entrants encouraged.

"We are excited to hold the 2015 competition after an overwhelming response received last year.

"There are two categories open and junior and we encourage all residents in the South East to be as

creative and as imaginative as they want in capturing those corners of the region that are important to them", she said.

"We will hold gallery shows around the region later in the year to display the best entries, will share images on our newly launched Twitter and Instagram profiles and will launch a Natural Resources South East calendar in 2016 featuring the top entrants. "

Open division first prize includes a multi parks National Parks Pass, a photo processing voucher and 12 month subscription to Australian Photography + Digital magazine, total value \$280.

Junior division first prize includes a photo processing voucher and 12 month subscription to Australian Geographic, total prize value \$150.

Entries close at close of business on Tuesday 30 June 2015 and there is no limit on the number per entrant.

Entries can be emailed to dewnr.naturalresourcesSE@sa.gov.au, mailed to Natural Resources South East, PO Box 1046, Mount Gambier SA 5290, or dropped in at Reception at 11 Helen Street, Mount Gambier or 61 Anzac Terrace, Keith.

Only electronic copies of JPEG format pictures will be accepted and the maximum size for an emailed photo is 4 MB.

Please check the full terms and conditions by clicking the photo competition link at www.naturalresources.sa.gov.au/southeast



A SEAL GOES BUSH



A South Australian cattleman found himself mustering a seal on his property on Mundoo Island, near the mouth of the Murray River, on Tuesday. Mr Peter Grundy and his horse, Peanuts, found the seal in a paddock nearly a mile from The Coorong.

The seal, an old bull, which look exhausted, had apparently been thrown out of its colony on the Pages Islands near Kangaroo Island. When Mr Grundy again checked the paddock on Wednesday morning the seal had disappeared.

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.

If you feel a link description, site, piece of advice or anything else mentioned here is inappropriate, do [let me know](#) and I will endeavour to correct it where necessary.

Media Release: Coorong fish hedge their bets for survival

Posted on [March 26, 2015](#) by [Environment Institute](#)



Image source: www.itsnature.org



Analysis of the ear bones of the River Murray estuarine fish black bream has revealed how these fish 'hedge their bets' for population survival.

Published in the journal [Biology Letters](#), University of Adelaide research has shown that within this single species of fish there are some individuals which migrate to different parts of the Coorong in South Australia, and some that generally stay in the one location. Black bream are important for recreational and commercial fishing.

"When we consider animal migration, we tend to think of large seasonal migrations of species like the humpback whale or the Arctic tern. We don't often think of migratory behaviour that varies within populations," says [Professor Bronwyn Gillanders](#), from the University's [School of Biological Sciences](#) and [Environment Institute](#).

"But it appears that within the black bream Coorong population there is a 'bet-hedging strategy' that allows the fish to survive and persist in the Coorong over good times and bad.

"Migration to another area may be more favourable under drought conditions when the water becomes more saline and, conversely, when there is lots of fresh water coming in and there is lots of food readily available, it would be more beneficial for the fish to stay in the location. This probably helps to make the species more resistant to both climate and human-related change."

The researchers used the ear bones of fish collected throughout the estuary to construct their findings. Fish ear bones provide much information through analysis of the trace elements they contain and the width of their growth rings.

"Like tree growth rings, the ear bones reveal the age of the fish and growth periods which correlate with the growth of the fish itself," says Professor Gillanders. "When we measure the width of the growth increments, we can trace back to see how fast the fish was growing at a particular time and year.

"The bones can also tell us whether the fish is migratory or 'resident' by mapping the ratios of barium against calcium. The higher levels of barium indicate when the fish was in fresher water."

Professor Gillanders found that 62% of the fish were resident and 38% were migratory. Models were used to investigate differences in annual growth between the two groups and construct a growth time series.

"Throughout the late 1990s and early 2000s resident fish had increased growth compared with migrant fish but this changed around 2005 when growth of migrant fish increases," says Professor Gillanders. "This is likely to be a result of the deteriorating conditions in the Coorong and reflects the ability of the migratory fish to find more favourable conditions and source more food."

This research was in collaboration with the South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI).

Kayaking at Currency Creek



Photo courtesy of Mark Winall

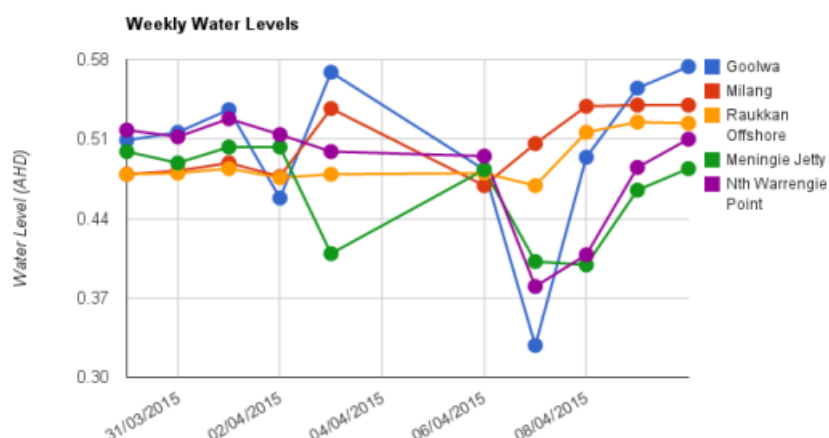
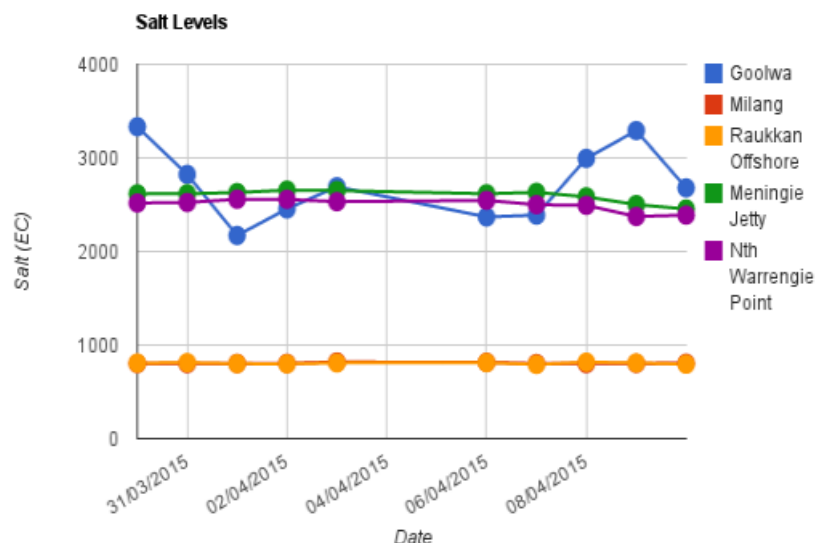
You never know who you may meet when you kayak at Currency Creek, the locals are friendly , visitors to the area can be assured of a friendly wave & hello.

ART@GOOLWA

Art @ Goolwa's newest exhibition titled "Scent of Rain" will be opening on Saturday 2nd May at 4.00 pm and will be officially launched by ABC radio personality Peter Goers, OAM. This exhibition will showcase the talents of 23 artist members of this special gallery. A diverse range of artworks will be exhibited from paintings, drawings, jewellery, photography, ceramics, fabric art, wood work, leatherwork, glassware and more.



On the Level



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.

Electronic versions of these charts are available from the Lakes Hub [website](#).

A spreadsheet of data is available on request from the Lakes Hub Coordinator.

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](#),

[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

For the latest River Murray Flow Report and Water Resources Update - 16th November 2012 visit: <http://www.waterconnect.sa.gov.au>

Contributions to the Bulletin

The Bulletin comes out on the second and fourth Friday of each month. We are always looking for Coorong and Lower Lakes events and articles of interest. Contributions must reach the Lakes

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.

	April
25	
26	Anzac Day
27	
28	Feral Cat talk—Meningie Hub; 7– 9pm; for bookings ring 85751769
29	
30	
1	
2	Art @ Goolwa's "Scent of Rain" exhibit opening, 4.00 pm
	May
3	Port Elliot Market Getting to know your National Park events—Belair and Para Wirra
4	
5	Milang Community Garden Trading Table—9-10:30AM
6	
7	
8	
9	Clayton Bay Dredging Information Session 2-4PM. Clayton Hall.
10	
11	
12	
13	
14	
15	
16	
17	Port Elliot Market
18	Regional Development and Innovation Fund Round 2 closes
19	Milang Community Garden Trading Table—9-10:30AM
20	
21	
22	
23	