

Number 224
30 June 2015

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

Faith Coleman
Interim Lakes Hub Coordinator

Andrew Dawes
Lakes Hub – Info. & Admin. Officer
Meningie

Jo Scott
Admin Milang

GWLAP
Office 8537 0807
www.gwlap.org.au

Will Miles
GWLAP - Projects Manager Lower Lakes
and Coorong Projects

Regina Durbridge
GWLAP - Monitoring & Evaluation Project
Officer

Leah Hunter
GWLAP - Revegetation Planner/
Coordinator

Kerri Bartley
GWLAP - 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

End of financial year approaches...

Hello!

A huge thank-you to all those who have been providing me with Fur Seal observations over the last week. I really appreciate it and hope that you will continue to do so.

As the end of financial year approaches, this is the ideal time to thank all of you for your assistance and commitment to the beautiful environment that is the Lakes and Coorong Ramsar site.

The Lakes Hub has been fortunate enough to have secured (subject to a few formalities) continued funding through the Coorong, Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth Project, to assist DEWNR with distribution of government information to the local community, as well as listening to community concerns and making sure these are provided to the appropriate agency staff.

With the winding down of the CLLMM program, the funding to the Lakes Hub will be reduced to around 67% of its previous level. While sad, this is the ideal time for the Lakes Hub program to relook at how it can best serve the community and focus the resources the broader community provide us (including your volunteer time) on broader aspects of sustainable management of this unique area, which we call home.

To help us adjust to this change in finances, this bulletin will become a monthly publication and you will see reductions in our staffing and office facilities over the next year.

While we will be looking to all levels of government for future funding or in-kind support, this is also the time for the community to demonstrate their ownership of the program, showing support by helping write articles for the Bulletin, volunteering in the Hub communication centres, helping organise events or other in-kind assistance.

It is community support, that will ensure our community has a well-informed voice on all matters relating to the sustainable use and conservation of the Lakes and Coorong.

Please give me a call (0419 823 286) or pop into Milang or Meningie, if you would like to be involved or have any queries.

Faith Coleman



We all Stand on Sacred Ground:
Learn, Respect & Celebrate

5-11 JULY 2015

FRIDAY, 3 JULY

2015 NAIDOC FAMILY DAY

GRANITE ISLAND • VICTOR HARBOR

10am - 2pm

- Live Entertainment and Music
- Dance Performances
- Sumo Suits and Kondoli
- Children's Art and Craft Corner
- Face Painting
- **FREE** Lunch (Soup and BBQ)

Event Program:

10am	Welcome to Country and Flag Raising, Warland Reserve
10.30am	Community NAIDOC March from Warland Reserve to Granite Island (Horse Tram available)
11am	Live entertainment
12noon	Free lunch (Soup and BBQ)
2pm	Event concludes

**Blue Light
Disco** **\$5
entry**

Port Elliot Primary School Gym - Friday, 3 July 2015

7 to 11 year olds from 6.30pm to 8pm

12 to 17 year olds from 8.30pm to 10.30pm

MAJOR SPONSORS



SUPPORTERS





Native Bee Talk

Join us for a talk on the wonderful world of Native Bees
With speaker; Dr. Katja Hogendoorn from the University of
Adelaide. Learn about our diverse native Bees, including
the Blue Banded Bees; the relationship between bees
and bushland flora; and find out how to look after these
fascinating and essential pollinators.

Wednesday 8th July at 6.30pm

The Ace Space The Milang Old
School House.

For bookings call The Hub;85370808



Government of South Australia

Department of Environment,
Water and Natural Resources



Family Fun in JULY



Mon, July 6	Tues, July 7	Wed, July 8	Thurs, July 9	Fri, July 10	Sat, July 11	Sun, July 12
TINTINARA FAMILY FUN DAY OUT FREE TO ATTEND Apex Park, Dukes Hwy, 11am – 1pm Pack a picnic lunch and have loads of fun with the Imagination Playground and Giant Games. Register to the Community Centre 8572 3513 Supported By: Taillem Bend Community Centre & OPAL	TINTINARA SPRAY PAINT WORKSHOP FREE TO ATTEND Tintinara Hall, 11am – 4.30pm A spray paint artist is coming to town! You will be in charge of designing and spray painting the council youth trailer. Suitable for ages 8-18 years. Bring your lunch along. Limited numbers for the session so get in quick! Register to Emily on 1300 785 277	TENNIS CLINIC @ TAILLEM \$10 per person, 9am – 12pm Taillem Bend Tennis Courts Join us for a mix of fun, technical and physical activities that cater for players of all standards between the ages of 5-18 years. Register to Hayley on 0418 217 356	COONALPYN FAMILY FUN DAY OUT FREE TO ATTEND Hoopinator, 11am – 1pm Pack a picnic lunch and have loads of fun with the Imagination Playground and Giant Games. Register to the Community Centre 8572 3513 Supported By: Taillem Bend Community Centre & OPAL	ART YOU CAN EAT! FREE TO ATTEND Coorong Civic Centre, Taillem Bend, 1pm-3pm Spend the afternoon with some of the coolest council staff to create your own fruit art masterpiece. Also tour the new Coorong Civic Centre and Art Gallery. All ages welcome. Register to Emily 1300 785 277	OLD TAILLEM TOWN TOUR 9am start for tour Cost: \$30 for one adult (\$50 for two adults) with any number of their own children. \$10 Under 15, \$18 Student Over 16. Step back in time with a guided walk through Australia's Largest Pioneer Village. Bookings not required.	HAVE A PICNIC AT THE PANGARINDA BOTANIC GARDEN Pangarinda Drive, Wellington East Visit one of the areas best kept secrets; lucky for you winter is one of the best times to visit Pangarinda! Download the bird watching guide from the council website.
TENNIS CLINIC @ TAILLEM \$10 Per Person, 9am – 12pm Taillem Bend Tennis Courts Join us for a mix of fun, technical and physical activities that cater for players of all standards between the ages of 5-18 years. Register to Hayley on 0418 217 356	GONE FISHING AT MENINGIE JETTY Lions Park or Sailing Club Jetty Dig out the old fishing rod from the shed and challenge the family to a friendly fishing comp. Who will end up having the bragging rights of 'best' fisherman? Don't forget to pack a healthy picnic.	TAILLEM INFO STATION GUIDED MUSEUM TOUR FREE TO ATTEND Railway Station, Taillem Bend The museum features displays of rail memorabilia and the original working signal box. 9am – 4pm Open 7 days a week	BOOTCAMP AT MENINGIE \$5 per person 12.30pm – 1.30pm, Meningie School Gymnasium Grab your friends and have some fun with Neil from Pump Fitness. A session that offers a new dimension to exercise. All ages welcome. Register to Emily on 1300 785 277	LAKE INDAWARRA TINTINARA Located on the western side of the Tintinara township. A walking trail surrounds the lake and is a pleasant short walk. A perfect spot for a picnic and a paddle in your kayak. Hidden here is another geocache!	NATURE PLAY PASSPORTS Pick up your passport from your local Coorong Council office or Visitor Info Outlet. Nature Play SA has released the very cool 'Passport to an amazing childhood' - there are stacks of missions for kids to complete.	PLANT A VEGGIE PATCH Spend some time outdoors in the back yard planting your very own vegetable garden. Here are some vegetables that are great to plant this time of year: Beetroot, Broccoli, Cabbage, Peas, Radish, Rhubarb, Parsnip.
MONINGIE FAMILY FUN DAY OUT FREE TO ATTEND Lions Jubilee Park, 11am – 1pm Pack a picnic lunch and have loads of fun with the Imagination Playground and Giant Games. Register to the Community Centre 8572 3513 Supported By: Taillem Bend Community Centre & OPAL	CRAFTERNOON AT THE COONALPYN HUB FREE TO ATTEND 1.30pm – 4.00pm Suitable for ages 5 years and above. Children under the age of 12 require a guardian. Minimum numbers required for the session. Register to Kristy on 8571 1018 Supported By: Communities for Children.	TENNIS CLINIC @ TAILLEM \$10 Per Person, 9am – 12pm Taillem Bend Tennis Courts Join us for a mix of fun, technical and physical activities that cater for players of all standards between the ages of 5-18 years. Register to Hayley on 0418 217 356	BOOTCAMP AT TAILLEM \$5 PER PERSON 4.30pm- 5.30pm, Taillem Bend Town Hall Grab your friends and have some fun with Neil from Pump Fitness. A session that offers a new dimension to exercise. All ages welcome. Register to Emily on 1300 785 277	TAILLEM BEND FAMILY FUN DAY OUT FREE TO ATTEND Train Park, 11am – 1pm Pack a picnic lunch and have loads of fun with the Imagination Playground and Giant Games. Register to the Community Centre 8572 3513 Supported By: Taillem Bend Community Centre & OPAL	GEOCACHING ADVENTURE Borrow a geocaching kit from your local library & head out on an adventure. The kit includes a GPS unit & a list of family friendly caches to get you started. Local geocaching maps are available from your nearest Coorong Council office.	TINTINARA HEART OF THE PARKS - SIGNAL BOX ROOM Dukes Highway, Tintinara Visit the one stop shop for homemade good and crafts. Not to mention the recent launch of the Signal Room, where you can relive the old railway history. Visit 7 days a week, 10am – 4.30pm
TENNIS CLINIC @ TAILLEM \$10 Per Person, 9am – 12pm Taillem Bend Tennis Courts Join us for a mix of fun, technical and physical activities that cater for players of all standards between the ages of 5-18 years. Register to Hayley on 0418 217 356	LAKES BIRD WALK FREE TO ATTEND 1.30 – 3pm, Lakes Hub, Meningie Join CTLAP & the Lakes Hub to explore the lively bird life around the beautiful foreshore of Meningie, followed by a small talk at the Hub. Bring the whole family. Register to Emily on 1300 785 277	TAILLEM INFO STATION GUIDED MUSEUM TOUR FREE TO ATTEND Railway Station, Taillem Bend The museum features displays of rail memorabilia and the original working signal box. 9am – 4pm Open 7 days a week	DISCOVER BOOTHBY ROCKS IN TINTINARA Head out for a family picnic and bushwalk through the Mount Boothby Conservation Park. Access via Culburra Woods Well Road. Check out the granite rocks that soar a huge 129m high!	POINT MALCOLM LIGHTHOUSE A great idea for an afternoon drive. Located near Narrung, it's Australia's only inland lighthouse. Read about the history of the site and hidden at Point Malcolm is a geocache.	NATURE PLAY PASSPORTS Pick up your passport from your local Coorong Council office or Visitor Info Outlet. Nature Play SA has released the very cool 'Passport to an amazing childhood' - there are stacks of missions for kids to complete.	42 MILE CROSSING, COORONG Go camping at the Coorong's 42 Mile Crossing, located not far from Salt Creek. The area has all-year round four wheel drive access to the ocean beach.


Like Us On Facebook



Community Revegetation Project Update

The Goolwa to Wellington Local Action Planning Association (GWLAP) community revegetation project is undertaken as part of a grant from the CLLMM Project.

They have already planted 118,182 plants. Planting began in late May and they are already over half way toward their target of 230,000 plants.

This year the project has involved fifty-four community groups, including sports clubs, schools, youth groups, Rotary, disability and Landcare organisations.

Community plantings have benefited from assistance with planting by the Commonwealth Government Green Army teams, hosted by the GWLAP and Alexandrina Council, who have worked along side the community volunteers.

The planting has taken place in over fifty sites throughout the CLMM region, from the Southern Lagoon of the Coorong (near Salt Creek), around Lakes Albert and Alexandrina, upto the tributaries and on Hindmarsh Island.

Two thousand plants were planted in the Milang Common on the 25th June, by EFS Primary Milang students, teachers and parents, with help from The Alexandrina Council's Green Army.

Kerry Bartley from the GWLAP says she is very excited about the standard of planting so far, and says the level of enthusiasm and commitment from the groups has been brilliant.

Join Riverspace

The Riverspace website has gone from strength to strength since its launch last year, with over 1,000 hits per month and an active social media and advertising campaign currently underway. To encourage organisations, community groups and individuals to tell their watery story on Riverspace, they are currently offering to upload content for free. For more information, click on the link below.

[Follow the link to find out more](#)

What is the best amount of riparian vegetation?

The Ecological Management and Restoration Journal published this article in January 2015, where researchers reviewed studies, reports and guidelines to see if there is an ideal width of vegetated riparian area to provide good environmental outcomes, including improved water quality for rivers, creeks and wetlands.

[Follow the link to find out more](#)



2015 Premier's NRM Awards

Source: Media Release 17 June 2015)

The 2015 Premier's NRM Awards and SA Landcare Awards recognise the South Australian volunteers who generously donate their time, knowledge, resources and expertise to conserve and improve the State's natural resources. These countless volunteer hours benefit all South Australians, enhancing and enriching our community.

These awards provide an excellent opportunity to congratulate and applaud the commitment of volunteers and recognise their achievements in protecting South Australia's natural resources.

If that sounds like you or someone you know, nominate their outstanding efforts for the recognition they deserve.

2015 Premier's Natural Resources Management Award categories are:

- Partnership Project
- Community Engagement
- Big Picture
- Aboriginal Leadership (male and female)
- Rising Stars (male and female)
- Service to Natural Resources Management
- NRM Research or Innovation

Further details on the Premier's NRM Awards categories, application details and criteria are available in the [brochure](#).

[Download the entry form.](#)

Applications close 5 July 2015, at the same time as the State Landcare Awards (see below).



South East Flows Restoration Project

Project update June 2015

This update provides an overview of South East Flows Restoration Project (SEFRP) status as at June 2015. Delivery comprises the following elements and functions.

Design and Survey

Design involves progressing a preliminary design to a higher level detailed design that meets required construction, operational and safety standards. Developing the SEFRP detail design involves the collective work of engineers, ecologists, landholders and traditional owners to ensure that the final design meets operational requirements and project objectives. It involves on ground survey and modelling to refine physical and flow aspects of the alignment.

Progress towards refining the flowpath from Blackford Drain offtake to south of Henry Creek Road has involved engineering survey and input of each landholder on the alignment. This work will assist in progressing the detailed design.

Modelling investigations for design north of Henry Creek Road are scheduled for completion in July 2015.

Environmental Program

This involves conducting survey work required to inform project approvals which include the *Environment, Protection and Biodiversity Act (1999)* referral regarding matters of national environmental significance and the *Native Vegetation Act (1991)* assessment regarding native vegetation clearance.

The Environmental Program also includes ecosystem monitoring at representative locations within wetlands en route to the Coorong. These sites include wetlands on the Taratap and Tilley Swamp flats and Morella Basin. It also involves ecosystem monitoring in the Coorong to assist understanding of how the Coorong responds to water flows and water quality (including salinity), resulting from the SEFRP.

Survey for Flora, Fauna and Native Vegetation survey commenced in June 2015.

Cultural Heritage Program

This involves conducting a cultural heritage survey as part of the design process to identify occurrence of Aboriginal cultural heritage sites (sites, objects or burials) along and adjacent to the proposed construction works. The survey will be conducted within the proposed construction area, as well as at defined laydown, borrow pit and access areas.

Aboriginal cultural heritage cannot be disturbed without authorisation under section 23 of the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1988*.

Cultural heritage monitoring will complement the construction phase of the SEFRP to ensure that heritage sites identified are managed in a culturally appropriate manner.



Government of
South Australia



Natural Resources
South East

The Ngarrindjeri Regional Authority and the South East Aboriginal Focus Group (through a partnership with Burramies Aboriginal Corporation) will conduct cultural heritage survey of alignment.

Land Acquisition

Land for the project will be acquired by agreement or by compulsory acquisition in accordance with the *Land Acquisition Act 1969*. It is preferred to acquire land by agreement.

This process will commence once detailed design has progressed.

Community Engagement

The SEFRP Communications and Community Engagement Strategy is led by Natural Resources South East. Key objectives focus on broad community engagement, landholder engagement, traditional owner engagement and community representation governance within the project delivery.

To assist project communications, a project page has been established on the Natural Resources South East website. It includes a series of factsheets which will evolve at various stages of the Project. Published topics are SEFRP Project overview, cultural heritage survey, ecological survey, wetland monitoring, land survey and engineering survey.

Static information displays are located at Kingston District Council (Kingston), SEWCD Board office (Millicent), Coorong National Park office (Noonameena) and Lakes Community Hub (Meningie).

Meetings of the Project Steering Committee continue. A Design and Environment Advisory Group has been established and will support the Project Steering Committee.

Program Management

Project management continues to be facilitated through lead of Natural Resources South East within the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources.

Construction Delivery

Scheduled to commence in 2016.

Completions and Integration

Scheduled to commence in 2017.

For more information

Natural Resources South East
South East Flows Restoration Project

P (08) 8755 1630

E louise.mcintosh@sa.gov.au

<http://www.naturalresources.sa.gov.au/southeast/projects/se-flows>

The Project is part of the Murray Futures Coorong, Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth Recovery Project. Funding is jointly provided by the Australian Government and the South Australian Government.



Australian Government



Government of
South Australia



Natural Resources
South East

Fresh Water Mussels

Freshwater mussels are natural water filters, cleaning the water by removing particulates, algae and zoo-plankton. They also promote nutrient cycling and remove heavy metals, pesticides and a variety of other pollutants from water, making them useful as biological monitors but much less attractive as something for us to eat.



Their larvae, known as "Glochidia", attach to certain species of freshwater fishes and undergo metamorphosis to emerge as juvenile mussels. This distributes new recruits over much greater distances than an adult mussel could ever hope to move.

Australia is one of the driest and most isolated places on the planet. It comes as no surprise then that, what the country lacks in richness of freshwater mussel species, it makes up for in uniqueness.

Australia has at least 18 species in a single family, found only in Australasia and South America. Several species are at risk and two qualify for conservation listing.

Efforts have been made to bring the plight of the freshwater mussel to the attention of conservation bodies. Species such as the Glenelg River Mussel (*Hyridella glenelgensis*) have been recently listed as "Critically Endangered" under the Victorian Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988 and the Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act).

In the mid-1990s, Carter's Freshwater Mussel (*Westralunio carteri*) in south-western Western Australia was listed as "Vulnerable" on the IUCN Red List and recognised as a "Priority 4" species (a species in need of monitoring) by the WA Department of Environment and Conservation

and, more recently, nominated for listing under EPBC criteria following a four-year study at Murdoch University.

Already, mussels have disappeared from many streams in eastern Australia due to loss of catchment vegetation in association with agricultural development. The habitats in many streams have become degraded from channel erosion and sedimentation. Increased nutrient loads in runoff, loss of shading vegetation and invasive water plants like *Salvinia molesta* and water hyacinth (*Eichhornia spp.*) have badly affected mussels in some parts of Australia.

It is likely that a number of others are vulnerable, however they have not yet been formally listed. Often a species fails to qualify for listing because we don't have the necessary data to assess it against conservation criteria.

Where published data is lacking, we often need to scrutinise museum collections for historic records of species and re-visit those sites to detect declines.

Habitat rehabilitation, species recovery plans and follow-up monitoring are critical to allow sensitive species such as freshwater mussels to flourish. Community-based conservation science programs and cost-shared, not-for-profit conservation initiatives appear to be the most recommend solutions.

Because most threatened species exist on private land. In some districts, landowners have banded together to protect long sections of stream. This strategy has worked well in some areas, but needs to be led by expert scientists, governments, industry and a community working together.

In the Lakes, our freshwater mussel, the Balonne Freshwater Mussel (*Velesunio ambiguous*) was significantly impacted by the drought, salinity and acid sulfate soils, but we will hopefully have more about that in the next bulletin...



Mussels are natural water filters but poor water quality and salinity are reducing their numbers. Photo by Matt Klumpp

Blanchetown Celebrates a Century

On Friday June 5th Blanchetown celebrated a hundred years since the start of Lock 1 construction.



Approximately 600 people watched as Minister Ian Hunter and Author Helen Stagg unveiled a commemorative plaque acknowledging the historic event.

Helen had recently written a book called "Harnessing the River Murray" which detailed the history of lock construction from 1915 to 1935 explaining how the families working on the locks became known as "the great working class".

The historic PS Marion brought a large number of dignitaries up the river from Mannum including Mayor Burgess before docking in the chamber at Lock 1.

The Chair of the Murray Darling Basin Authority Mr Neil Andrew was on hand along with Dr Rhondda Dickson the MDBA CEO.



Neil spoke to the gathering explaining how the locks were playing a significant role in today's primary production.

Federal Member Tony Pasin, South Australian MP Adrian Pederick, South Australian MP Tim Whetstone and Sandy Pitcher, Chief Executive Officer of DEWNR also attended the event.

Original Wetland Inspired Art And Photography On Sale

Selected prize winning works from the WetlandCare Australia Photography and Art Prize 2008-2012 are for sale in their online shop.

Now you can own an original wetland-inspired artwork or photograph, and because WetlandCare are a not-for-profit organisation, funds raised by the sale will go directly into on-ground works to protect, promote and restore wetlands.

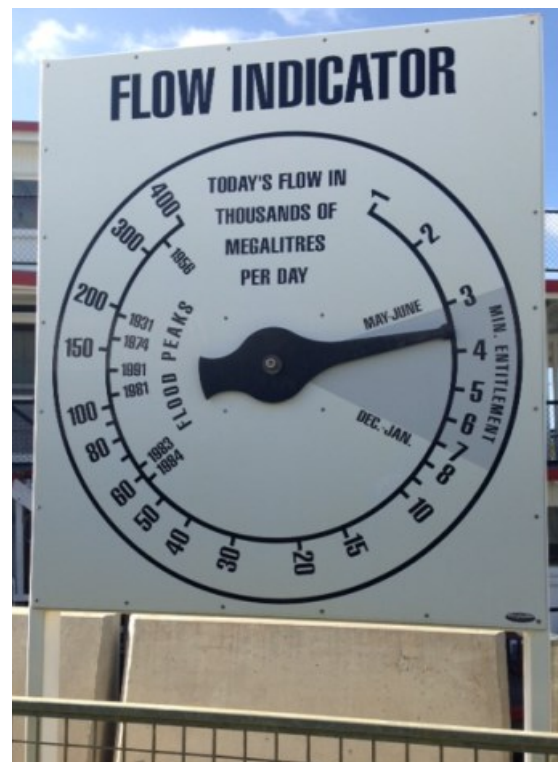
[Click here to find out more](#)

From wetlands to wasteland: it's not just oceans that can turn acidic

Around 2007–2009, at the end of the Millennium Drought, large areas of the lower Murray–Darling Basin in South Australia had slowly turned from fertile, irrigated farmland and ecologically diverse wetlands into dried out wastelands of cracked soil and mud.

This article by Kath Kovac discusses the issues of acid sulfate soils in the wetlands of the Lower Murray-Darling Basin.

[Follow the link to find out more](#)



Inhabit—A Permaculture Perspective

Click on the image below to view a preview of the video “Inhabit—A Permaculture Perspective”. If we have an impact on the planet, wouldn't it be great if it be a positive one. Inhabit aims to showcase permaculture projects and show how they can regenerate the landscape.



Feral Scan App

Help map feral animal populations across Australia—Click the image for more information.



Today's Most Important Environmental Issues?....

(Source: Sara, MomtasticWebEcoist [link to original article](#))

Sometimes, it is hard to prioritise in the environmental sphere. Therefore, it was with a mixture of trepidation and curiosity that I opened up this article proclaiming to address the top ten environmental issues facing the world... Would the issues I think are important even feature? Have a look and tell me what you think of Sara's prioritisation. Also go have a read of her full article (using the link above) as she has heaps of examples of what individuals can do to help address these issues.

Climate Change

Global warming has been concerning scientists for decades. From the melting polar ice caps to extreme weather and threatened ecosystems, the impacts are increasingly obvious.

Energy

Renewable energy. Energy independence. Petroleum. Biofuels. Coal. Fracking. Nuclear. Even Paris Hilton has something to say about energy. Energy is second only to climate change in significance, but the picture isn't as clear as one might think.

Waste

The world has largely gotten accustomed to a throwaway lifestyle, but that's neither healthy nor sustainable. Waterways are choked with trash and modernized nations ship their undesirable leftovers to the developing world.

Fortunately, people are becoming aware of the consequences of "fast consumption" and many are finding ways to reuse or generate less waste.

Water

Fresh water is in short supply. Our global reserves of drinkable water are a fraction of 1% and 1 in 5 humans do not have access to potable water.

There are many potential solutions, some promising, others challenging. Efficient use of water and general water saving measures are here to stay.

Food

The debates of biofuels vs food crops, the impact of feeding grain to cattle, waste from

fast-food outlets and the issue of "food miles" vs large-scale efficiencies and climate suitability.

We would need five earths to support our current population in a Westernised fashion. How are we going to make up the shortfall?

Consumption

This is directly tied to waste. The industrialized world consumes in a way that is not sustainable. And the developing world is rapidly imitating the model.

Land Management

From desertification to polar ice melting to erosion and deforestation, existing land management choices are not serving the planet or its inhabitants very well. There is very little arable land left that is undeveloped. The impact of light or noise pollution extends even further. Maybe, to create a sustainable future, we need to start valuing conservation, meaning, adventure, and self-sufficiency into our everyday lives.

Ecosystems and Endangered Species

The good news is that some species have made a comeback. The bad news is that many more species are now under threat, including indicator species and evolutionarily unique species. (When an indicator species becomes threatened, endangered, or worse, extinct, this means an entire ecosystem faces collapse.) The consequences can have global impact.

New Science and Public Health Issues

From genetic manipulation and cloning to public health issues, pesticide or drug resistance and food and drug contamination, get to know the new, strange, important and most interesting green issues related to genetic science, agribusiness, public health and more can be a real challenge.

There are more issues, but those are the most critical green challenges. It will take a combination of technological developments and lifestyle changes to address these challenges successfully – and that begins with learning, which is perhaps the most important environmental challenge of all.

MANY dairy farmers are moving to more efficient pumping systems as power costs rise, but far fewer are planting trees.

Murray Bridge, SA, dairy farmer Vince Critchley has made environmental gains inside and outside his dairy shed with a Lion Landcare grant.

Mr Critchley considers good paddock trees a necessity, and backed the \$3800 he received from Lion for the job with \$8000 of his own in-kind contributions. The fires that ravaged the Murray Bridge area in late 2013-early 2014 burnt about 6000 hectares near Mr Critchley's farm.

Mr Critchley fought two fires on and near his family's Riverlight Dairies farms, an experience he said "could be best described as life changing".

"I spent days after the fires with front end loaders pushing fallen trees off the roads, trying to put out burning big old trees which burnt for weeks," he said.

"Like all farmers involved I saw and felt things that we never wish to speak of again."

Losses have been felt on many fronts, but Mr Critchley said the sadness over the loss of paddock trees was universal.

"Whether they be for shade for stock or they are seen as part of a sustainable environment for native birds, they are the missed the most," he said.

When he approached Lion for a Landcare grant, his application sought environmental gains from revegetation as well as the energy efficiency from better

SA dairyman's trees a search for balance

ABOUT SUPPORT

THE Lion Landcare grant also helped Riverlight Dairies on another environmental front. Inside the dairy shed, Mr Critchley used \$7000 of a Lion grant, plus a \$1500 in-kind contribution to retrofit a variable speed drive (VSD) on his vacuum pump. Because the VSD changes speed in order to maintain the optimum vacuum, rather than running at full speed all the time, the retrofit cut \$900 to \$1000 a quarter from Mr Critchley's power bill – plus an unexpected \$150 a quarter in savings on oil.

shed equipment.

With Lion's support, Mr Critchley and volunteers from the Eastern Hills Mount Lofty Plains Catchment Group, of which he is a member, planted 6000 trees last year.

Budgets had been "exceptionally tight" since the fires Mr Critchley said, and he doubted nearly as many trees would have been planted without Lion's help.

"All volunteers were told

about my logic behind wanting to revegetate this area and were all impressed to hear of Lion's interest in the environment, and the professional way that the field staff acted in the time after the fires.

"It is a topic for many dairy farm morning tea discussions how cheap milk impacts on the community. I have much pleasure in reminding the volunteers how Lion takes the long-term approach to farming and addresses issues such as the environment and animal welfare. That includes sustainable returns to dairy farmers."

He said the trees were doing very well and volunteers left with a different take on the power of the consumer at the supermarket not only impacted themselves but had a profound effect on everyone involved.

It may be impractical to put a dollar figure on tree planting or quantifying bird habitat or biodiversity, but Mr Critchley's view is they are just as vital to the long-term sustainability of both the farmers and Lion's business into the future.



LEFT: The team of volunteers from the Eastern Hills Mount Lofty Plains Catchment Group goes into action on the Riverlight Dairies paddock.

WIN a share of **\$14,000** in PRIZES

COMMUNITY ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Nominations close:
14th August 2015



Seeking nominations for South Australian individuals, community groups, organisations and businesses making a difference in their local and wider communities.



2015 Categories



Alzheimer's Australia South Australia
Dementia Care Excellence Award



Prime Super
Community Group of the Year Award



Rural Doctors Workforce Agency
Rural Community Health and Wellbeing Award



Carers SA
Carer Achievement Award



Junction Australia
Connecting Communities Award



Hunt & Hunt Lawyers
Community Road Safety Award



Grandeur Press
Sports Award

For enquiries: 08 8132 0753 | sacaa@awardsaustralia.com | www.awardsaustralia.com



South Australian Community Achievement Awards
[Facebook.com/SACAAwards](https://www.facebook.com/SACAAwards)



@SA_CAAwards
#SACAA

NRM Education

Weekly Update



Natural Resources
SA Murray-Darling Basin



NRM Education App of the week

George the Farmer – learn about farming and food production (Ages 1-8)
Lively story narration by ABC presenter Peter Goers or read along mode for all levels of early and emergent readers

Make a magpie sing, Jessie the dog bark or scratch her collar, turn the tractor on to hear a rumbling engine. There is colouring in, a Memory game, Sing-a-long, Early reading training, reading comprehension, and a heap on how various farming practices are undertaken.

It is in the Australian School Curriculum and highlights the important role women play in agriculture.

Get it on the itunes App store. For more information about George the Farmer:

<http://www.georgethefarmer.com.au/>



Natural Resources
South East

Natural Resources South East Community Survey results

In 2014 The South East Natural Resources Management Board commissioned a comprehensive community survey to determine community views on NRM and what the community valued about the region. The survey also sought to discover what the community thought were the threats to NRM in the region and the strengths.

The results will help the SENRM Board in future NRM planning and management, and investment of the NRM Levy and other funding.

A snapshot of the results is now available:

View the [factsheet](#) or [poster](#)

31% said our regional
resources are "essential"
up from 7% in 2009



48% believe groundwater
management is the number priority
that the NRM Levy should be spent on
followed by drainage 43% salinity 42%
and then pest management (38%)

71% said water is the most
important resource in the region
up from 24% in 2009



Funding opportunities to get folk outside...

Community Recreation and Sport Facilities Program

To provide assistance to eligible organisations to plan, establish or improve sport and active recreation facilities that meet the needs of the community in South Australia. Organisations can apply under the each of the following categories:

Category 1 – facility planning

Category 2 – facility development (up to \$200,000)

Category 3 – facility development (requests \$200,001 - \$1,000,000)

Active Club Program

To provide assistance to active recreation and sports clubs with: Programs and equipment (up to \$5,000) Facility requests up to \$20,000 on a \$1 for \$1 basis.

The program has two funding rounds per year, one for programs and equipment requests, the other for programs and equipment, and facility requests.

Sport and Recreation Development and Inclusion Program

To provide assistance to eligible organisations to develop and implement projects that will grow the sport or activity, improve services and/or address barriers to inclusion.



"We are not given a good life or a bad life. We are given a life. It is up to us to make it good or bad."

Strong response to Round II of the Regional Development Fund

(Sourced from media release: Friday 12 June 2015)

The second round of the \$15 million a year Regional Development Fund has attracted 88 Expressions of Interest from across the State.

Round II Expressions of Interest include:

- seven from the Adelaide Hills region;
- sixteen from the Barossa, Light and Lower North;
- Eight from the Eyre and Western region;
- Nineteen from the Limestone Coast;
- Eleven from the Murray Mallee;
- Twelve from Yorke and the Mid North;
- Five from the Far North;
- Four from the Fleurieu and Kangaroo Island; and
- Six from the McLaren Vale Character Preservation District.



Regional Development Minister, Geoff Brock said this followed an equally strong response to the Fund in its first year of operation.

The first round of grants has so far resulted in 41 projects across the State generating investment of more than \$337 million.

The Major Projects Program of the RDF is for grants of between \$200,000 and \$2 million to support major economic projects,

The Community Infrastructure Program is for grants of between \$200,000 and \$1 million to support investment in regional communities to develop their economic infrastructure and grow their capabilities.

The Country Cabinet Fund My Idea program offers \$150,000 annually, \$50,000 for each area hosting a Country Cabinet meeting for community projects nominated by and voted on by the general public.

Farm Board—Adoption Accelerator Program

Research on the profitability of farming businesses in SA reflected the “80/20” rule – farmers spend most of their time on production but it is only 20% of success – business skills are 80%.

The major agribusiness banks regard Farm Boards as critical to success however it is estimated that less than 10% of family farming businesses have a formal management process.

Tony Randall (Natural Resources SAMDB) said the South Australian Murray- Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board has identified that farmers can be assisted to adopt innovative techniques that support ongoing productivity and sustainability.

“By working with farmers to adopt sound management techniques we believe we will see agronomic, economic and environmental benefits,” Mr Randall said

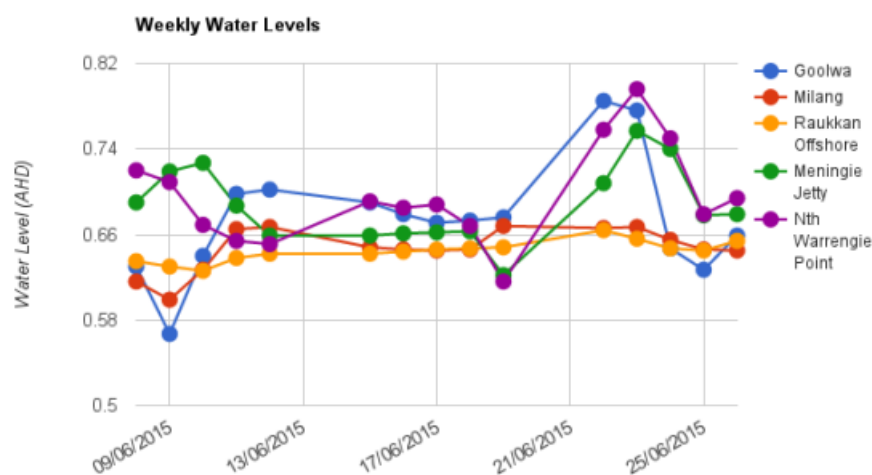
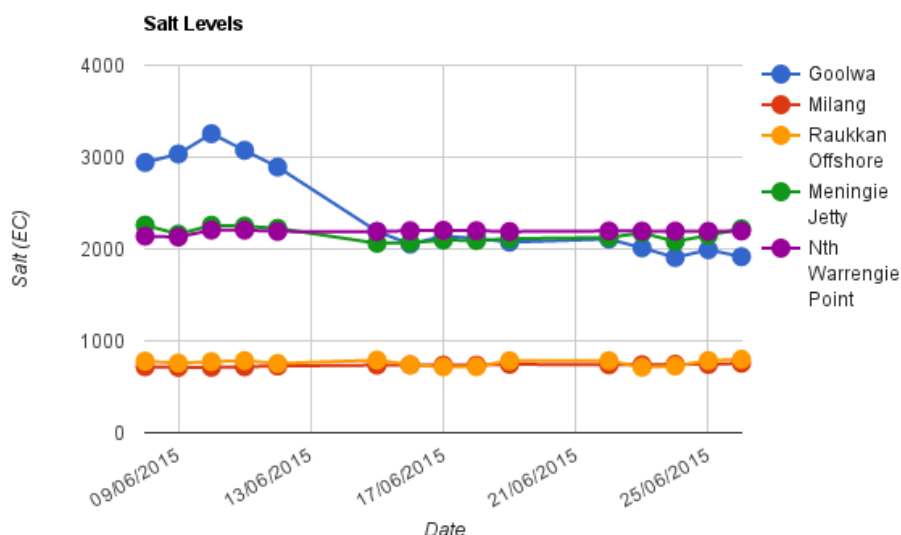
RBS are running a new program on behalf of the SAMDB NRM to assist local family farm businesses to setup their own farm advisory board.

The groups will meet monthly from June to March to assist each business to setup an advisory board. The program will include advice from farmers who have pioneered the establishment of a Farm Board and will speak on key success factors.

Register your SA Murrayland and Riverland Farm. Similar programs to this one can cost \$5,000 to \$15,000 per participant and often require regular travel to the city or interstate. For participants in this program, the only cost is their time and local travel.

[Click here](#) for more information.

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 is released in the last week of each month. We are always looking for Coorong and Lower Lakes events and articles of interest. Contributions must reach the Lakes Hub Coordinator (info@lakeshub.com) a week prior to Bulletin release.

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.

	June
27	
28	Stipiturus Conservation Park, Swamp Fest Planting Day NABO Community Grants close Farmland not Gasland film screening. Mylor.
29	
30	Compost for Soils Microscope Workshop. Waite Institute. 8:45 AM—1:30 PM
	July
1	
2	
3	Registrations of Interest for KESAB video, photo or presentation competition due.
4	Goolwa Wharf Market
5	Entries for Landcare Awards due Port Elliot Market
6	
7	Strathalbyn Introductory Bush Regeneration Workshop Milang Community Garden Trading Table 8:30AM—10:30AM
8	Native Bee Talk, Milang 6:30 PM
9	
10	
11	
12	
13	
14	
15	
16	
17	Close of Low flow competition (Natural Resources SA MDB)
18	Goolwa Wharf Market Climate CoLab Regional Plans due 18th July
19	Port Elliot Market
20	
21	Grasslands Society Annual Conference 21-23 July
22	Grasslands Society Annual Conference 21-23 July Milang Community Garden Trading Table 8:30AM—10:30AM

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.