

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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Summer is definitely a time to celebrate wetlands..

Hello!

As I write this, We are winding down after the Lakes Hub World Wetland weekend of events, starting with a trip around the Mulgundawa Saltfield on Friday, a Saturday Breakfast with the Birds at Long Point and concluding with the unveiling of the CLLMM Photo contest entrants (and winners) at the Meningie Lakes Hub on Saturday.

For the Lakes Hub, sustainable use, maximising biodiversity values and management of wetlands is really what we are about. It was great to see so many shared our enthusiasm. There were fifteen people at the Saltfield tour, thirteen at the breakfast and over forty at one point during the launch.

The photos entered into the completion will be displayed at the Meningie Lakes Hub until the 4th of March, giving you all a chance to come and look at them for yourself.

Over the next month, we are hoping to start holding wider public discussions about the potential for a Drought Ready Communities Plan or Program for the Lakes and Coorong Ramsar site., so keep your eyes peeled, or send me an email to register your interest (faith@lakeshub.com).

We got very few responses to the Annual bulletin survey, so we have extended the period to the end of February. Please [click here](#) to participate.

Faith Coleman

Overall winner of CLLMM Photo competition

A Victor Harbor High School Student took off the Overall Prize for the CLLMM Photo Competition, with his photo 'Coorong's Soul'.

More photos and links further into this bulletin.



Coorong and Lakes photo competition winners announced

(Source: DEWNR media release, 02/02/2016)

With more than 180 entries, judges had their work cut out selecting winners of the inaugural Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR) Coorong and Lakes Photo Competition.

Announced on World Wetlands Day on the 2nd of February, the photo competition celebrates the Coorong and Lakes Alexandrina and Albert region as an internationally recognised Ramsar wetland, as seen through the eyes of the community.

World Wetlands Day marks the anniversary of the signing of the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Convention) in Ramsar, Iran, on 2 February 1971, and aims to raise public awareness of wetland values and benefits while promoting the conservation and wise use of wetlands.

DEWNR spokesperson Jason Higham thanked everyone who entered the competition.

"We are pleased to have received such a diverse range of photos illustrating why the site is so special," Mr Higham said.

"The photo competition and World Wetlands Day provides an opportunity to raise awareness and promote the value of wetlands to the community, public and visitors to the region.

"As one of Australia's most important inland wetlands for both waterbirds and international shorebirds, the Coorong and Lakes Ramsar Wetland is also home to a number of significant plants and animals including rare orchids, migratory birds and fish species."

Winners take home some great prizes, and winning photos will be featured in a publication which describes the site's important ecological and social values.

The Coorong and Lakes Alexandrina and Albert Ecological Character Description will provide a benchmark against which the site should be managed in the long-term.

"The photos we have received show how the region has changed and is being restored to health since the end of the Millennium Drought," Mr Higham said.

The winning entries will be on display at the Meningie Lakes Hub from February 6 until March 5 and also online at: <http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/coorong-lakes-photo-comp>

Overall winner: 'Coorong's Soul' by Brayden Mann from Victor Harbor

Category winners:

Our wetland: 'At One with Nature' by Sally Grundy from Goolwa.

Wetland habitat and landscapes: 'Divisible by Three' by Patrick Boylan from Mount Gambier

Wetland flora and fauna: 'Black Winged Stilts' by Beth Nixon from McCracken

Threats including pests and weeds: 'The Wetlands Desert' by Michelle Forte from Brompton

Wetland through time: 'Wreck of the PS Albion' by Beth Nixon from McCracken

DEWNR has also produced a video to coincide with World Wetlands Day which illustrates why the Coorong, Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth is so important to members of the local community; available online: <https://youtu.be/Y5kJF5-ID5s>

The Coorong, Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth Recovery Project is funded by the Australian Government and the South Australian Government's Murray Futures initiative.

Meningie Lakes Hub on the Move!

The Lakes Hub at Meningie has moved, to join the Coorong-Tatiara LAP and the Coorong Council in the newly renamed Meningie Information Hub.



Long Term Intervention Monitoring Reports

Source: Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder Media Release 5th of February.

A series of monitoring and evaluation reports have been released that analyse the impacts of environmental water during 2014-15, as part of a \$30 million investment in monitoring and evaluation (the Long Term Intervention Monitoring Project) across the Murray-Darling Basin over five years (to 2020).

These latest scientific reports – the first of a five-year programme – indicate that Commonwealth environmental water use during 2014-15 has contributed to an abundance of native fish, birds, frogs, positive signs of healthy waterways and productive environments.

Click on this [link](#) to view a media release and a summary of outcomes for your information.

Please note that the Meningie Lakes Hub has a new address and phone number, .

Lakes Hub Meningie

49 Princes Hwy

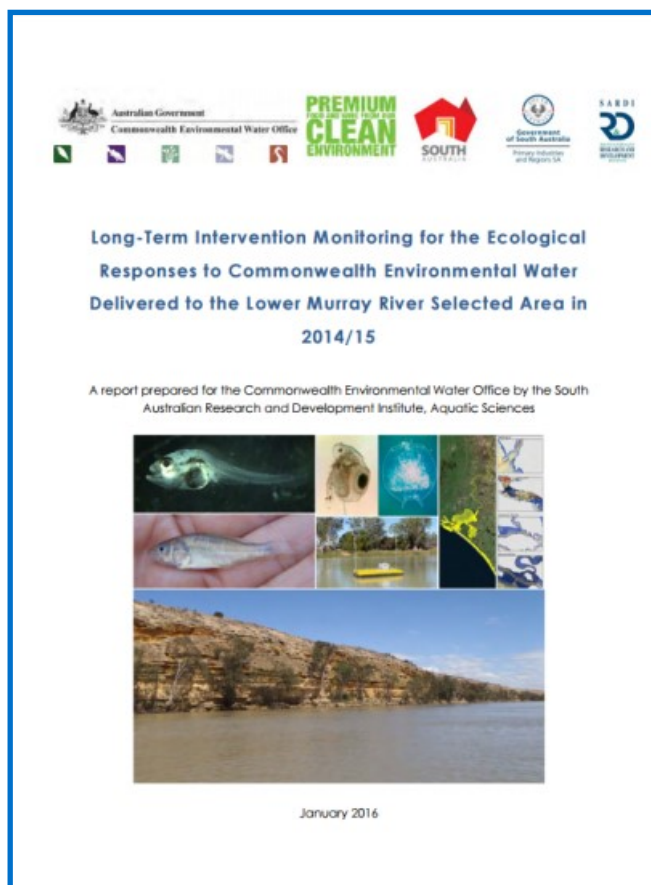
Contact details as below;

Phone direct line

Andrew's Mobile 0427751488

Email meningie@lakeshub.com

Old Number 0885751830 now diverts to Andrew's mobile.



Mulgundawa WWD

Fifteen people attended the world wetlands day event at Mulgundawa salt works on Friday 5th of February.

Paul and Ron gave us an overview of the aerial photo and explained the process of separating the different minerals from the water which is pumped from underground.



The works uses approximately 20 Megalitres of water per day and produces around 65,000 tonne of salt per annum.

One of the pictures below shows a native oyster and scallop shell which were retrieved when drilling a bore on site.



The salt produced is an industrial grade salt and is used commercially with a valued customer being Thomas Foods who use the salt to pack skins for export.



Mulgundawa Saltfield Tour (Cont)

Go to our [Facebook site](#) for videos and more photos.

Australian
SALTWORKS

Mulgundawa
SALT 





Breakfast with the Birds, Long Point

Go to our [Facebook site](#) for videos and more photos.



Coorong and Lower Lakes

Photographic Competition Exhibition at Meningie Hub.





Southern Bell frog

(*Litoria raniformis*)



The Southern Bell frog is also known as the Growling grass frog, Golden Bell frog or Warty Swamp frog. The females grow up to 10cm in length, while males only to 6cm. Colouration varies from gold to a brilliant green, the armpits and groin are a turquoise blue, with bumpy skin and a line down the back.

One of the few frog species active by day, this species also likes to bask in the sun. Male frogs have a distinctive growling call, which sounds a bit like a motorbike changing gears. This species numbers have been in decline for the past 20 years.

This frog is one of South Australia's most endangered frog species.

As part of the Coorong, Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth (CLLMM) Recovery Project, community members are monitoring frog populations in the Lower Lakes region. If you think you have seen a Southern Bell frog or would like to find out more about monitoring frog populations, please contact;

regina.durbridge@gwlap.org.au

Ph: 8537 0808 Mob: 0427 364 551



Distribution of *Litoria raniformis*



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



© Southern Bell frog - Tracey Reeves



**Goolwa Regatta Yacht Club
Milang Regatta Club
presents the**



LAKE ALEXANDRINA CLASSIC

GOOLWA TO MILANG RACE

The Organising Authority is the Goolwa Regatta Yacht Club Inc. (GRYC), Goolwa, Australia.

Saturday 13th of February 2016

Tolderol Game Reserve Wetlands Bird & Water Quality monitoring



White-winged black tern at Tolderol, Photo by Martin Stokes

You are invited to attend Bird & Water Quality Monitoring with
Natural Resources SA MDB staff on
Friday 12th February 2016
from 8:00am

Please RSVP to Regina Durbridge 0427 364 551
Or email regina.durbridge@gwlap.org.au



Natural Resources
SA Murray-Darling Basin



Birds SA



gwlap
GOULBURN-WENTWORTH LOWER LAKES AND PORT PHILLIP

Video-Birdlife in the Lower Lakes, Coorong, Murray Mouth 2015

Have you see the video Regina put together on the Environmental watering of the Lower Lakes, Coorong and Murray Mouth (LLCMM) Icon site in 2015

It is a beautiful snapshot of species that were breeding at the site last year. It goes for about 6.5 minutes and includes footage of baby birds.

You can watch it here; <http://www.gwlap.org.au/video-environmental-watering-of-the-lower-lakes-coorong-and-murray-mouth-2015/>

World Wetlands Day

Since we will be celebrating World Wetlands day on the 2nd February 2016. I thought it appropriate to post this video. Even though it was done in 2012 by the Australian Government it gives a good overview of the purpose and benefits of wetlands.



Click on Image or paste this link into your browser window :-

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eotxzebGLQw>

Video Goolwa to Wellington Local Action Planning Association

Produced by Regina Durbridge



Click on Image or paste this link into your browser window :-

<https://vimeo.com/148213911>

Meningie Oval Playground Support Group (MOPSGroup)
presents the

Meningie Art & Photographic Exhibition



'Meningie, River, Lakes and Coorong'

Held in conjunction with the Meningie 150 Year celebrations.

26 March to 1 May 2016

Official closing and winners announced

3pm on Sunday 1st May

with nibbles and drinks & SILENT AUCTION.

At The Chambers Gallery, 14 Princes Highway, Meningie.

*To celebrate Meningie, Lakes Albert and Alexandrina,
the Coorong and Murray River.*

*The **water, landscape and wildlife**, the **people**,
buildings and **culture** has much to inspire
the artist and photographer!*

Winners by peoples choice.

Entry — Gold coin donation

www.meningie150years.webs.com Marianne Cunneen 0437 320 779

"When one door closes another opens, but we often stare so long at the one that has closed that we don't see the one that has opened."



*What Man Does To One Of The Most Beautiful Gifts
Of Nature — The River*

PIRSA media release—Murray Cod catch and release begins 1 January

Recreational fishers are being reminded to familiarise themselves with the correct procedures for handling Murray Cod, as the catch and release season gets underway on New Year's Day.

The Murray Cod fishery will open on January 1, 2016, allowing fishers to catch and release the popular species until July 31.

PIRSA Regional Operations Manager, Randel Donovan, said the catch and release program provides ongoing protection for this iconic fish.

"The Murray Cod is a vital species for the ecology of the river system so adhering to restrictions is extremely important for recreational fishers and the River Murray community," Mr Donovan said.

"It is illegal to lift any size Murray Cod out of the water in South Australia, so during the catch and release season fishers must carefully extract or release the hook while the fish is still submerged in the water.

"While we encourage recreational fishers to enjoy the catch and release season, we ask them to make sure they understand and comply with the rules to ensure that everyone plays their part in protecting this prized species into the future."

Failure to comply with the rules and regulations, including lifting the Murray Cod out of the water, which can be detrimental to the fish health, can result in hefty on-the-spot fines or a maximum penalty of \$10,000 if prosecuted.

The following handling techniques are recommended:

- Avoid using light lines and playing the fish to exhaustion
- Use barbless hooks or barbless trebles on lures
- Use a knotless landing net to support the fish in the water
- Cut the line outside the mouth for deep



hooked fish and don't try to remove the hook

- If using a fish grip, don't hold the fish vertically in the water.

Under the current Murray Cod management arrangement, it is also illegal to target or take Murray Cod from any section of the Chowilla floodplain all year round.

Anyone who spots suspicious illegal fishing activity can report it to the 24 hour Fish watch number 1800 065 522 or through the free SA Recreational Fishing Guide smartphone app, which can be downloaded from www.pir.sa.gov.au/recfishingapp

2016 South Australian Recreational Fishing Grants Programme

Applications now open

Community grants for up to \$50,000 (GST exclusive) are being offered by the State Government to help boost recreational fishing in South Australia.

Applications are sought from councils, fishing clubs, businesses and other incorporated bodies. It is expected that successful projects will be announced by mid-2016.

The South Australian Recreational Fishing Grants will invest in projects that could include, but are not limited to:

1. Increasing recreational fishing participation and skills through family fun days or training days.
2. Improving recreational fishing access and safety (paths, board walks, fishing platforms).
3. Improving recreational fishing infrastructure such as cooking stations, fish cleaning stations, seating, barbeque areas, and
4. Enhancing sustainable recreational fishing opportunities and experiences (such as through fish habitat restoration or stock enhancement).

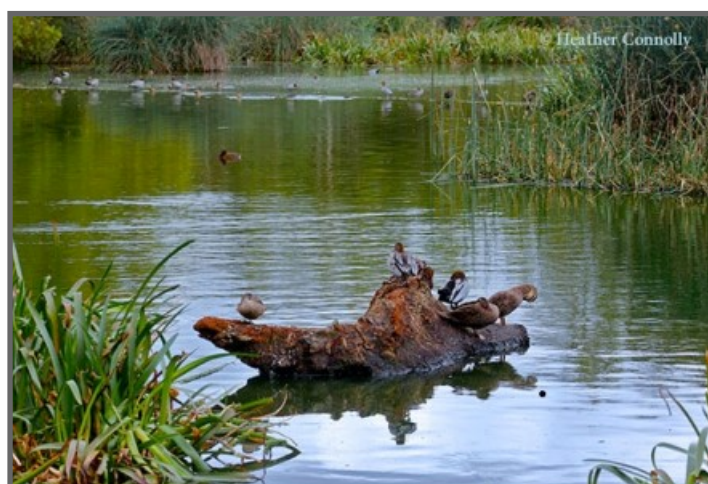
Applications will close at **midnight on Monday 14 March 2016**. Late applications will not be accepted.

Fleurieu Birdwatchers

Is an informal group of amateur birdwatchers who share a fascinating hobby. The group was formed in January 1995. Membership is open to all regardless of age. <http://fleurieubirdwatchers.org/>

Join us on the Saturday 13 February
Laratinga wetlands

Mt Barker



YITPI FOUNDATION FORUM

Teaching, Learning and Sharing Aboriginal Knowledge

**Anpernirrentye – the relatedness
between people, plants and all things**
and

**Learning from elders where
country is the classroom**

3.30 pm Wednesday 24th February

Charles Hawker Conference Centre*
Waite Campus, University of Adelaide

Speakers

Veronica Perrurle Dobson AM

Senior Arrernte woman, Alice Springs

Dr Fiona Walsh, ethnoecologist

CSIRO Land and Water, Alice Springs

Followed by discussion

Convenor / further enquiries Dr Maarten Ryder
maarten.ryder@adelaide.edu.au Tel 0409 696 360

**** To reserve your place, please register with the convenor by email**

This forum is generously supported by a grant from the Yitpi Foundation

*See ref D2 on map <http://www.adelaide.edu.au/campuses/maps/current/waite.pdf>

Teucrium racemosum

Common name Grey Germander

Small woody perennial herb with dull green foliage and

large pure white flowers that attract a variety of native bees and butterflies.

Growing to about a 50 cm tall, this member of the mint family grows in open woodlands and grasslands, usually in clay soils where there is a bit of water runoff.

Flowers freely in spring and summer, loves the sun, and spreads from its suckering root system, it can easily make its home in a garden setting

Photo Jill Dennis



Bush Walking

River Bend Heritage Trail, Tailem Bend and Wellington

Region: Murray River, Lakes & Coorong

Distance: 25km, 7-8 hours

A loop trail along Australia's mighty Murray River, between Tailem Bend and Wellington. Walk through conservation parks and levee banks, taking in historic sites, an arboretum, cemetery and river wildlife.

A loop trail along Australia's mighty Murray River, between Tailem Bend and Wellington, South Australia. This walking trail includes many sites of interest: › historic Jervois and its buildings of yesteryear › historic dairy properties on the Jervois to Wellington Road › levee bank of the Jervois Irrigation lands › Murrundi Reserve with opportunity to view the river wildlife › East Wellington Pan-garinda arboretum › historic East Wellington cemetery › Mowantjie-Willauwar Conservation Park

Olearia lanuginosa

Common Name Woolly daisy-bush.

Compact rigid shrub to 1.5 m high; stems erect, branched, woody

Fl. white Flowering time: Oct - Feb

Drought tolerant plant with silvery grey foliage that appears spiky, but is soft to touch..

Distribution: In mallee and heath communities on sandy soils.

Photo Jill Dennis





You are invited to a free
informative and interactive
Natural Resources Management
Sustainable Ag Forum

with a focus on
**our changing seasons –
do we need to adapt?**

at the
**Browns Well Football Clubrooms
Paruna**

on
Friday 12 February 2016

1.30pm

Free BBQ tea to be provided
following the forum

RSVP by 7 February for catering
purposes

to **Helane Norman**

Ph: 8578 1493 or E: helane.norman@sa.gov.au

or **Lew Westbrook**

Ph: 8584 7811 or E: lrpgwestbrook@gmail.com

Australasian Bittern (*Botaurus poiciloptilus*)

The Australasian Bittern is a heavy-set, partially nocturnal heron with upperparts that are patterned dark brown, buff and black, and underparts that are streaked brown and buff. The eyebrow and throat are pale, and the side of the neck is dark brown. The bill is brown and the legs are greenish. The Australasian Bittern is also called the Australian Bittern or the Brown Bittern. Australasian Bitterns specialise in living in dense beds of reeds and rushes, where they are surprisingly difficult to see, as they are particularly well camouflaged among reeds. Added to this, when alarmed, they stand still with neck stretched upwards and bill pointing skywards. Sometimes they even sway in the breeze, in time with the surrounding reeds. This makes them blend remarkably well into the surrounding vege-



Photo ABC

The Australasian bittern, affectionately named Robbie by locals, has turned up for a second time at Pick Swamp, near Mount Gambier, after flying from the New South Wales Riverina. Conservation groups turned to crowd-funding to raise \$50,000 to buy satellite transmitters, allowing them to track where the bitterns went once the rice harvest season ended. .

"It's really bringing together farmers, irrigators, bird-watchers, conservationists," ecologist Matt Herring said.

"The idea that intensive agriculture can also support threatened species is fairly novel and unusual."

Habitat: Vegetated wetlands. Often seen feeding in more open areas in water up to 30 cm deep, but rely on the dense cover of reeds, rushes, sedges, rice and other water plants to roost and breed in. Cum-bungi (Bullrush, Typha), Phragmites and Canegrass wetlands are important in NSW Riverina.

Diet: Fish, frogs, yabbies, mice, insects.

Loss of wetland habitat caused by grazing; this has a direct impact on the Australasian Bittern through loss of foraging areas, loss of nesting habitat, reduced abundance of food and increased predation by foxes.

Predator species; the introduced Red Fox is considered a major predator species, particularly eggs, chicks and immature birds before they can fly.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-01-28/crowd-funding-helps-buy-satellite-trackers-to-follow-bitterns/7119810>

http://bird.net.au/bird/?title=Australasian_Bittern

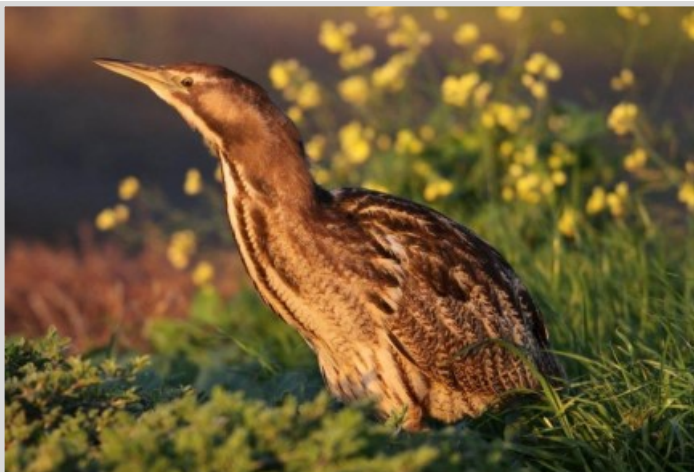


Photo Mark Stanley

tation. It is hardly surprising that the species is seldom recorded.

The Australasian Bittern (listed as vulnerable in S.A.) is found in coastal and sub-coastal areas of south-eastern and south-western mainland Australia, and the eastern marshes of Tasmania. A rare wetlands bittern fitted with a crowd-funded transmitter has been tracked making a return visit to a swamp in South Australia, helping conservationists better understand the endangered bird's movements.

Of the estimated 2,500 bitterns left in the wild, a large breeding population has settled in the rice crops near Griffith in NSW. Drainage of swamps removes the habitat of Australasian Bitterns, but rice fields are also used by the species as habitat.

History—Milang Regatta

This popular annual fixture was conducted on Friday, December 28 in favourable circumstances. The weather was all that could be desired for either competitors in the various sailing events or the big crowd of spectators – lining the jetty and the heights on the shore of the lake. A cool breeze tempered the sun's rays while at the same time swelling the white sails of the craft engaged in the two principle contests for such boats.

The train service to Milang was excellent, and it was well used. The fact that the lake, although a few inches lower than it was a couple of weeks ago is still in record flood, induced many city visitors to make the trip to Milang.

The steamer 'Despatch' brought a load from Goolwa, and other southern watering places, the Narrung and Point Macleay excursions usually run by Messrs W and H Dunk, having, however, to be abandoned owing to the high water at those places submerging the landing places. During the afternoon visitors to Milang were enabled to enjoy hour-long trips on the lake. Messrs Dunk had arranged several excursions with their steamer 'Murray', and the 'Despatch' also catered for the public in a similar way.

The old Stern-wheel 'Victoria', one of the oldest vessels on the Murray – was lent by the firm as flagship, and here the Hon. Secretary (Mr M J O'Shaughnessy), had his office, and the active official staff were stationed. The lunch took place at the Pier hotel, under the chairmanship of the genial and popular President (Mr W P Dunk), Messrs Ritchie and Laffer, M P's were among the guests. All the details were, as usual, most carefully attended to, and despite the absence from the programme of the hydroplane events, hitherto forming a special feature of the proceedings, the 1917 regatta proved to be one of the most enjoyable and successful of the long series of 52 annual fixtures.

There were two good sailing contests, in which a great deal of local interest was taken, and the same, number of motor-boat races, in the



finishes were so close and exciting that the handicappers were well justified. The minor items were got off with commendable smartness, and most were much more liberally patronized than usual. A cork scramble and greasy pole contest attracted far more contestants than usual. A horse swimming match formed a novel item and altogether, the regatta, proved much more pleasurable and interesting than such amusements ordinarily are.

Hence the committee had reason to feel gratified that they had decided not to abandon this year's fixture as some wanted them to do.



In the evening a successful entertainment was given in the Institute Hall, under the management of Mr J Morcom, and presided over by Mr Laffer, M P, who also handed over to the winning competitors in the day's proceedings the various prizes. The programme was contributed by the 'Lobethal Harmonia Club, assisted by other musical amateurs.

Edited from article of 'The Register, Adelaide, Monday, December 31, 1917

Link to full article <http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/>



SOILS & TECHNOLOGY INFORMATION FORUM

WE WARMLY WELCOME ALL PRODUCERS IN THE REGION TO COME ALONG TO WICKHAM FLOWER & CO'S SOILS & TECHNOLOGY FORUM, WHERE WELL RENOWNED SPEAKERS WILL DISCUSS TECHNOLOGIES AND FARMING TECHNIQUES SURROUNDING IMPROVEMENT OF SOIL HEALTH AND WATER HOLDING CAPACITY.

WHEN: 11th February, 8:30AM—5PM (BBQ & drinks to follow)

WHERE: Wickham Flower & Co— Industrial Estate, Bordertown SA

TOPICS: Implementing controlled traffic and minimising compaction
Precision seeding
Clay spreading and incorporation methods
Stubble/residue management
Precision Ag equipment demonstrations
Machinery displays and presentations

GUEST SPEAKERS: Andrew Newall—NewAg Consulting, Horsham VIC
Quenten Knight—Precision Agronomics Australia, Esperance WA
Dr Melissa Fraser—New Horizons, PIRSA
Geoff Rethus—Controlled Traffic Cereal & Export Hay Producer
VIC No Till Member, Horsham, VIC

RSVP: 5PM Friday, 5th February
Erin—08 8750 1002
marketing@wickhamflower.com.au

LUNCH PROVIDED



Birding away from the Coorong...

Kati Thanda—Lake Eyre

The birds that live in the Lakes and Coorong don't live here all the time. Recent rains have started to attract some of them away to a popular alternative habitat for Pelicans, Banded Stilts and a range of Coorong favourites.

This article is to provide you with an idea of where our favourite birds are, when they are not here and part of the reason why bird numbers fluctuate as they do.

While we manage the Lakes and Coorong as a bird haven, we also need to recognise that the populations of birds that we have, depend on more than one wetland habitat.

Named after Edward John Eyre, who was the first European to see it in 1840. In 2012 its name was changed to Kati Thanda - Lake Eyre to incorporate its native name. Native title to the area is held by the Arabana people.

Lake Eyre is located approximately 700kms north of Adelaide in South Australia, but the catchment area for the lake extends into the Northern Territory; Queensland; South Australia and also parts of New South Wales. (see Map)



full the lake covers an area of over 10,000 sq kilometres or just over 4,000 sq miles. Most of the time the lake is a salt flat. With the salt crust reaching up to 50cm/20in at its thickest point. The average annual rainfall for the area is 100-150mm or 4-6in per yr.

Because of its location and high evaporation rate, (2500 – 3500mm per annum), the lake rarely fills up. On average the lake will have a 1.5m inundation once every 3 years; a 4 m inundation once a decade and reach capacity several times a century. At present, the deepest part of the lake contains 2m of water (see the latest water levels [here](#))

When it starts to fill up with water the lake is a spectacular sight, especially if you are taking a joy flight over the lake area. The waters can be different colours in different parts of the lake; going from greens, blues & browns to pink; when the water of the lake reaches a certain concentration of salt (near saturation) an algae called *Dunaliella salina*, produces a Beta-carotene pigment which sends the lake pink.



At its deepest Lake Eyre is 15 m or 49ft below sea level. With the shores of the lake being approximately 9mtrs or 30ft below sea level.

The lake is divided into 2 parts; Lake Eyre Nth & Lake Eyre Sth, these two parts are joined by what is known as the Goyder channel. When

When the surface is flat it reflects the sky in such a way that it is hard to tell where the horizon is, and it can seem like sail boats are sailing on the sky.

When water is in the lake it attracts birds from all over Australia and also from some overseas countries. During the floods of 1989-90 it was estimated that 200,000 pelicans came to feed and breed at the lake, approx. 80% of the Pelican population of Australia, as well as Banded Stilts. At present scientists are at a loss as to how birds know when the lake is full, when they may be many hundreds or even thousands of miles away from the lake.

Birdlife International has identified the lake as an Important Bird Area, (IBA), due to the fact that it supports major breeding events of the Australian Pelican; Banded Stilt as well as over 1% of the world population of Red-necked Avocets; Sharp-tailed Sandpipers; Red-necked Stilts; Silver Gulls and Caspian Terns.

Lake Eyre is also on the list of Wetlands of National importance. And is included in the "A Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia."

When dry the lake bed has often been used for other sports, and because of its flatness it has been used a number of times for setting speed records.



The most notable of these being the attempt of Donald Campbell in 1962/63 in his Bluebird Proteus - CN7. His record of 403.1mph/648.73kpm has not been bested in his category (4 wheeled vehicles), though others have gone faster.



Meningie's 150th Celebrations

2016 is 150 years since Meningie was surveyed and the first town allotments were sold. Below is a bit of history about the town as published in Peter Doolette's book the "**Coorong Gazetteer**", (which is available at Meningie Lakes Hub).

Located 150km from Adelaide on the eastern shore of Lake Albert, Meningie is the major town in the Coorong region. The name derives from the aboriginal word - *meinanggun*; meaning 'place of mud'

In 1843 the South Australia Company took out Lake Albert country for sheep and cattle runs. Thomas Giles was sent out in charge of the sheep and after experiencing difficulty in moving the sheep across the river Murray in an improvised punt, he established a head station at **Bonney's Wells** and out-stations in the areas of what are now **Meningie**, **Point Malcolm** and **Warringee**. The first occupation licenses were issued to The South Australian Company in 1844.

From March to June 1866 William Farquhar surveyed the township of Meningie, which he originally spelt phonetically as 'Ninningie', and on the 23rd August 1866 the first blocks of land were offered for sale. 41 were sold. Farming sections were surveyed in the following year.

A Post office opened in 1867 and was a stopping point for the overland mail which arrived by mail steamer which, in the absence of a jetty, had to anchor in the lake and passengers had to wade ashore. The first mail trip was by the steamer "Telegraph" in January 1869.

Ebenezer Ward, in his description of the south east district, described the mail trip across the lakes from Milang to Meningie as, "one of the greatest improvements of all that have been introduced in the overland mail service." (not least because of the 'attentive' steward, overrunning with very welcome suggestions about hot coffee and grilled kidneys). His trip which took about 5 hours, occurred just before the construction of the jetty, as he noted that the business of disembarking passengers and

mail at Meningie is accomplished - in the absence of a jetty - in a somewhat primitive fashion.

Ward wrote disparagingly about the siting of the town, noting that with the usual fatality of official action, a bungle seems to have been made in fixing the site of the town, and the settlers there, or some of them, complain bitterly of the error. Where the town has been placed the water is shallow at the landing place, but at some little distance away, much deeper water can be obtained closer to shore, and here it is supposed the jetty will have to be erected. There would thus be a gap between the landing place and the town, which ought even now be avoided, if that is possible.

A jetty was constructed later in that year commencing in August 1867 and completed in October the same year. There were in all 6 jetties in Lake Albert; at Meningie, Warrentie, Campbell Park, Dodd's Lullawa, Lake Albert station, and at the Narrows. The Meningie jetty was closed in 1936. Also in 1867 the Meningie Hotel began operation with William Hitchcock as publican, Ward noted the existence of 2 accommodation houses.

In 1869 a provisional school was opened along with an electric telegraph station in 1873, (following the closure of the station at Magrath Flat), and a post office in 1875, although a postmaster had been in residence from 1867. A Police station, staffed by trooper Samuel Alfred Glendinning, opened in 1878 closed 1894, due to staff retrenchments, and reopened in 1906.



Meningie Hotel and Motor Garage approx. 1925
Photo State Library

Willows

There are no native Willows in Australia.

Willows were originally introduced into Australia from Europe, Asia, North America and South America for a variety of purposes, such as stream stabilisation, shelter, basket making cricket bat production and their use as ornamental plants.

Willows are now regarded as one of Australia's most serious riparian and wetland weeds. They currently infest thousands of kilometres of waterways across south-east Australia and cause substantial social, economic and environmental impacts.

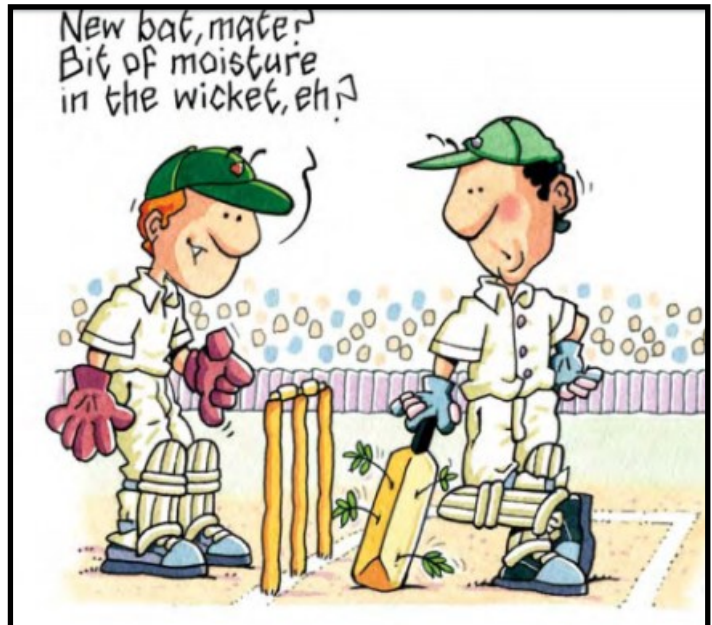
The planting of willows was extensive from the 1950s to 1970s as an erosion control measure to negate the effects of streamside vegetation loss and clearing in catchments. Although willows appear to provide temporary stability to the river bank, over time they cause increased erosion and flooding and can completely alter the course of the river.

Willows are poor habitat for hollow-dependent mammals and birds, and snap-dependent fish. Many native fish rely on in-stream snags for habitat. Bare banks beneath willows provide little to no protection for frogs, water rats, snakes and lizards. The mat-forming roots of willows can smother and fill all available rock crevices, thereby destroying critical habitats for endangered aquatic animals, such as frogs. Along wider rivers, willows can completely dominate the river bank and block entry to the river.

Willows have a short flowering season, no fruit or large seed production and very few insects means that

- ♦ Very little food is available to birds, spiders, insects, mammals or fish.
- ♦ Willow flowers are only known to provide nectar for introduced honey bees

Willows consume more water than native eucalyptus when their roots extend into the waterways - most of this water is used in



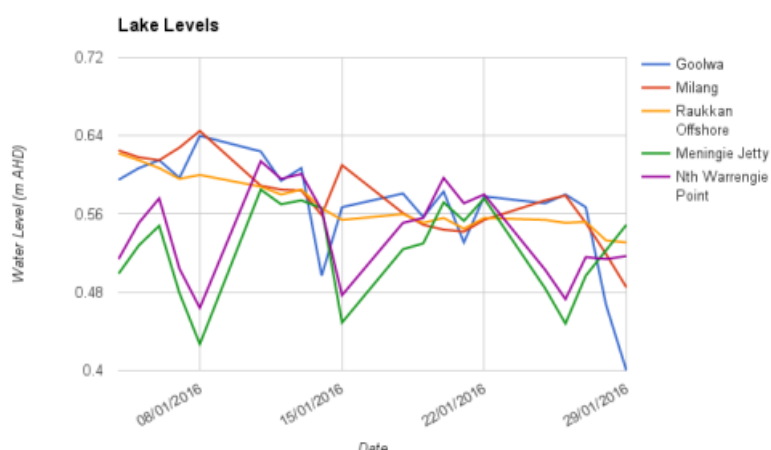
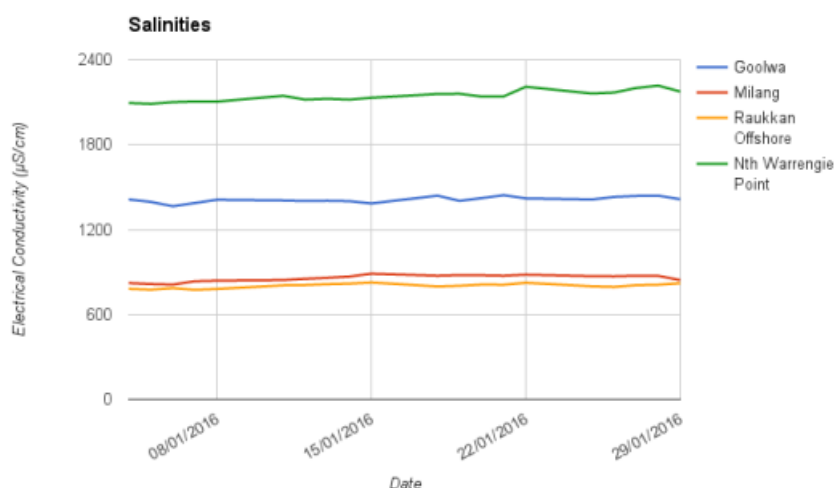
summer, when water is most scarce to farmers and animals.

Willows affect everybody who depends on our water ways e.g.

- Everyone who drinks water - as willows affect the quality and quantity of our water supplies
- Flora and fauna - many of our unique animals and plants depend on healthy waterways and riverbanks for survival.
- Irrigators - willows can reduce flows, use precious water and restrict access.
- Recreational users - willows reduce safety and access to waterways for many recreational users. http://www.weeds.org.au/WoNS/willows/docs/Willows_Sect1.pdf



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:

Contributions to the Bulletin

The Bulletin comes out on the fourth Friday 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) by the start of business, the Tuesday (3rd Tuesday) prior to 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.

	February
8	
9	
10	
11	
12	Sustainable Ag Forum Paruna Browns Well Football club rooms
13	Return boat race Goolwa to Milang Freshwater Classic
14	
15	Port Elliot Market
16	
17	Milang Community Garden Trading Table—9-10:30AM
18	
19	
20	
21	
22	
23	
24	Teaching Sharing Learning Aboriginal Knowledge Waite Campus
25	
26	Loxton Madi Gras February 26 to February 28
27	
28	
29	Nutrition and Milling workshop Murray Bridge Community Club, Sturt Reserve,
	March
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	Mannum Agricultural Show 2016
6	

Disclaimer

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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.