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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Coorong-Tatiara LAP

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Hi!

This bulletin is a full one—The original version was almost forty pages, so we have had to put lots of stuff off for the next one.

New Zealand Long-nosed Fur Seals are starting to return to the Coorong as expected, from the breeding colony now that the breeding season is drawing to a close. As can be seen in the 5th Working Group Communique and community photos, a number of trial barricades have been installed near the Tauwitchere Fishway, to see if they reduce predation of the fish coming through the fishways. The working group will continue to monitor the situation, so stay tuned

There are a number of Mental Health First Aid courses being held across the area, to help community members help each other through this period of drought and other natural resource management challenges.

There have been recent operational changes at the barrages - all fishways are currently open and over the last week there seven bays are open at the Pelican Point end of Tauwitchere barrage.

The Meningie Hub has been busy with visitors to look at the CLLMM photo completion entries, which will be leaving us on the 4th of March, so get in for a look if you have not yet done so.

All the best,

Faith Coleman

Natural Resources SA Murray Darling Basin videos

Videos on natural resources management in the South Australian Murray-Darling Basin region including; water, land, plants and animals, and community. To find out more about Natural Resources SAMDB, click here.

Click on image to view the video on Anne Hartnett, with other community members in videos in the same series.

Tolderol Game Reserve Wetlands Information Day

Sunday 6th March 2016, 11:00am

Tolderol On-ground works update – Kate Mason

2015-16 Bird monitoring results – Gareth Oerman

2016 Hunting season – Mike Greig, DEWNR

BBQ. Lunch

Bird monitoring following lunch

Fish monitoring Monday 7th March from 8:00am

Please RSVP to Regina Durbridge for catering purposes for the BBQ lunch on Sunday

0427 364 551 / regina.durbridge@gwlap.org.au

Please bring a chair, toilet facilities will be provided on the Sunday

Natural Resources SA Murray-Darling Basin

BirdsSA

gwlap

Advocacy in a Time of Adversity

(Source: Jo Curkpatrick, S A Dept of Environment, Water & Natural Resources)

Clem Mason's family has farmed nearly 3000 hectares on the banks of Lake Albert at Narrung, and at Jervois on the Lower Murray for 30yrs

Running 200 dairy cows, 1000 head of sheep and 1600 hectares of crops, Clem Mason felt the bite of the millennium drought. Whist having 2 centre pivot irrigators was valuable, he lost considerable production during this period, as did many of his neighbours.

Rather than the situation making Clem an opponent to going to the environment, Clem is now an advocate.

Clem Mason (© Copyright, Nerida Buckley)

One particular night was a turning point. Whilst dragging his water pipes to the receding lake, Clem noticed a turtle covered by a tube worm infestation, on the exposed lakebed. 'I realised I wasn't in this alone, and that it's up to us as individuals to look after the river and return it to health.'

At this critical point of the drought, the Coorong Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth Recovery Project was instigated. On Clem's property, between 500 & 700mtrs of land has been eroded and washed away. Clem was approached to fence his property to prevent cattle from grazing on the shore.

His involvement in the recovery project has changed his thinking and delivered results for his farm. He has been a valued member of the Project's community advisory panel, providing guidance and advice to the project on work undertaken. His farm, like many across the region, has become a focus for revegetation, fencing, returning native vegetation to the wetlands, and pest plant and animal control under the Recovery Project.

"We've gained land here and the reeds have come back as well – they provide breeding grounds for birds and fish."

"Seeing the birds here proves that we did the right thing for us and the ecology. It's a win-win."

"We never want to be where we were before. If we don't have a sustainable river, we don't have water quality that's good enough to use," Clem adds. "Our job is to keep a healthy river from top to bottom, and that means allowing it to flush."

Now entering its final year, the Recovery Project can celebrate significant achievements. Local people like Clem have helped the SA Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources manage the region through drought.

A pipeline to link into the SA Water network also helped ensure supply.

And Clem says the internationally significant Coorong, Lakes Alexandrina & Albert, RAMSAR wetland is a very important place – being the end of the river system.

"It about how we work with our upstream neighbours – it bigger than the Coorong, and this little patch – it's about keeping the whole of the Basin, healthy and productive."

Free and Flexible Drought Support.

Are you doing it tough after consecutive dry seasons and unpredictable weather?

Centacare is providing free and flexible drought support - with a focus on the wellbeing of children - across the City of Onkaparinga and Alexandrina Council districts.

The drought support aims to help people manage a healthy work/life balance, and the pressures challenging climatic conditions place on relationships, finances, health and parenting.

Drought Assistance Counsellors Bernie Lawless and Kathy Flavel are now available for outreach appointments and can provide support face-to-face in the home, workplace or other local venue, and via telephone and Skype.

Kathy is also available for appointments at the following locations each week:

Monday, midday–4pm – The Open Door, 1 Collingwood Rd, Goolwa

Tuesday, 9am-5pm – Kangarilla Primary School, McLaren Flat Rd, Kangarilla

Thursday, midday-3.30pm – Strathalbyn Neighbourhood Centre, 1 High St, Strathalbyn.

Funded by the Australian Government's Drought Assistance Program, the support includes:

- Face-to face counselling for families, individuals and couples
- Home visits and outreach services
- Parenting advice, education and skill development
- Linking and referrals to other services, in particular programs provided by the Australian Government to support farming families and farm businesses in hardship
- Early intervention to prevent crisis

``This support is about building resilience in the community,'' Kathy said.

``Challenging conditions on the land can have far-reaching effects, even for those who may not necessarily identify as being impacted by the drought.

``Upskilling families with strategies to cope with stress and support each other, and the broader community, is vital.

``It's important people know there's help at hand now to prevent crisis in the future.''

To schedule an appointment, please phone Drought Assistance counsellors Kathy Flavel 82156700 and Bernie Lawless 8557 9050.

Volunteer Training Grants through Office For Volunteers, SA Govt. are open now.

Applications open Monday 15th February 2016 and close 5pm Friday 18 March 2016

The Office for Volunteers Volunteer Training Grants program helps communities in South Australia deliver training to support their local volunteers and volunteer managers.

Grants are awarded to South Australian volunteer resource centres, councils, suitably qualified training providers and not-for-profit incorporated community organisations. This funding helps them deliver training for volunteers and volunteer managers, increase their skills and experience and help meet the needs of local communities and services.

Click here for more information.

Fleurieu Birdwatcher's

On Friday 11th March Guest speaker for the Flueurieu Birdwatcher's Meeting is Karleah Berris from Kangaroo Island to inform us about the successful Glossy Black-Cockatoo Recovery program. The Meeting commences at 7.30pm and guest speaker expected to start 30 mins later after our general business and conclude about 9.30 pm following supper. The venue is in the new Church Hall crn. Crocker and Cadell Street [opposite The Goolwa Medical Centre.]

All welcome. Any enquiries Phone 85550634

Long-nosed fur seals in the Coorong and Lower Lakes

(Source: Working Group Communique No. 5)

The fifth meeting of the working group was held on Friday, 29th January 2016 with representatives from :

- Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR): Sandy Pitcher as Chair, Michael Garrod, Brenton Grear, Matthew Ward, Nick McIntyre and Renate Velzeboer.
- Primary Industries and Regions SA (PIRSA): Alice Fistr
- SA Research and Development Institute (SARDI): Gavin Begg
- Southern Fishermen's Association (SFA): Merilyn Nobes
- SA Murray-Darling Basin NRM Board: Deana Mildren
- Coorong District Council (CDC): Neville Jaensch
- Conservation Council of SA (CCSA): James Brook and
- South Australian Museum (SAM): Peter Shaughnessy

The Ngarrindjeri Regional Authority (NRA), the South Australian Tourism Commission and the Alexandrina Council were an apology for this meeting.

A community Open day was held on the 10th December 2015 from 2-7pm at the Meningie, Lakes Hub at Meningie. Twenty-seven community members attended, shared information and joined the conversation on the non-lethal actions taken or proposed by the South Australian government to mitigate the impact of the long-nosed fur seal (LNFS) in the Coorong and lower lakes.

Feedback from the working groups members, including the Mayor of the Coorong District Council, was the Community Open Day was a positive and useful step in engaging the community. There was discussion regarding holding another community Open day in the surrounding and potentially affected areas.

DEWNR provided an update on the LNFS distribution and abundance in the Northern lagoon of the Coorong. The number of LNFS' counted was 0 in December 2015 and 14 in January 2016. Although members were still low, there appears to be an upward tread. Numbers are expected to increase further over the coming months when the LNFS' are expected to return from the breeding colony.

- SARDI and DEWNR provided an update on the Fishers Research and Development Corporation funded research project on alternative strategies for managing seal-fisher interactions in the Lakes and Coorong fishery. Industry have designed and constructed fyke net and are currently discussing with SARDI a new design haul net. Preliminary testing of the fyke net is underway to determine its efficacy in catching fish.

Fencing along lake side of access road

Coorong fence on lake side

Continued:

DEWNR and SARDI with assistance from two experts from Tasmania held a training day on the 27th November 2015 at Meningie to induct fishers on the handling and use of seal crackers to deter seals.

Industry, SARDI and DEWNR decided that further field trials in determining the effectiveness of alternate fishing gears and seal crackers will be postponed until LNFS have increased substantially.

SARDI provided an update on the LNFS movement of a sub-adult male that was deployed with a satellite tracker at Kingscote, Kangaroo Island, on 9 October 2015. The LNFS travelled more than 1,000 km south and has recently hauled out on King Island near Tasmania (see picture).

DEWNR provided an update on the monitoring of a breeding colony of the Australia pelican in the Coorong to observe breeding success and if LNFS' interact with pelicans. More pictures have been downloaded from the wildlife monitoring cameras in December 2015. All pictures analyzed to date by a community member and DEWNR staff have shown that there have not been any interactions with the pelicans at the breeding colony.

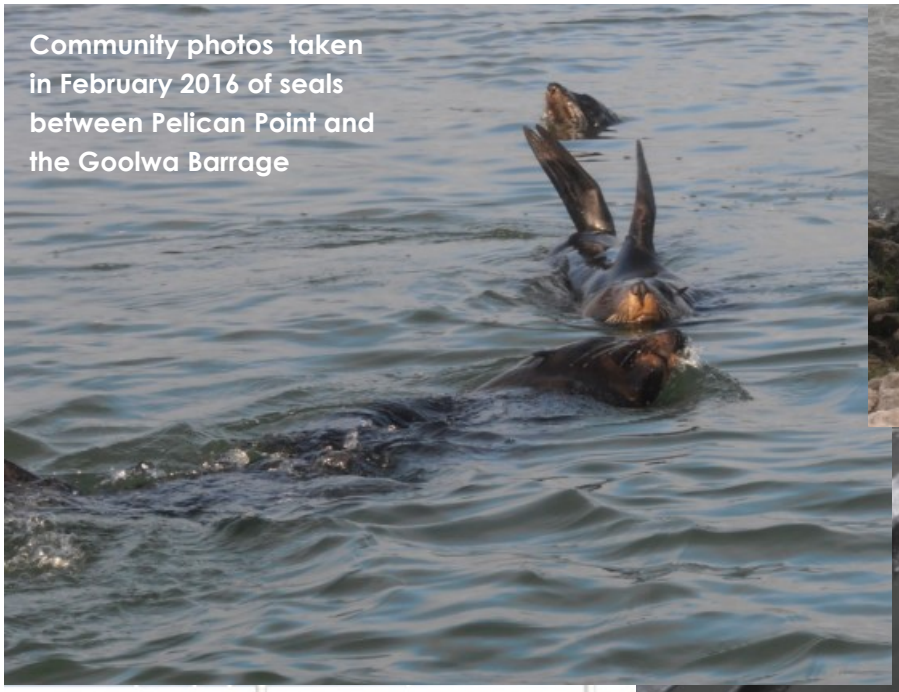
The wildlife monitoring cameras have been removed because the breeding event has naturally wound up.

PIRSA is investigating options following an industry request to be considered for financial relief for the next financial year.

Frequently asked questions, an options for the community to realize a question and the previous Communiques from LNFS working group can be found on the DEWNR website:

www.environment.sa.gov.au/seals.

The next meeting of the LNFS working group is scheduled for the 3rd March 2016.


Community photos taken in February 2016 of seals between Pelican Point and the Goolwa Barrage

Overall Winner – Our Wetland

Coorong's Sole
Brayden Mann – **Victor Harbor**

Photo description: The Coorong holds an abundant pelican population, which thrives in their natural environment. The peaceful, calm and majestic nature of a pelican embodies the precious ecosystem that is the Coorong. When the pelicans are flourishing, so is the Coorong.

"Having a Shack on the Coorong has meant that I have been able to grow up in the extraordinary ecosystem. So far in my 17 years of living I have seen the Coorong in its best state, and its worst. I remember the times of harrowing drought, extremely high salinity levels and devastatingly low salinity levels. I have seen native species and introduced ones come and go, from birds to Mulloway and now Carp to Seals. I have witnessed sand dunes move from summer to summer and vegetation spread over entire areas. I have seen the Murray Mouth open and close more times than some of the barrages do. After all I have seen, I can be certain of one thing; that the Coorong will never be completely safe to thrive as the incredible ecosystem it is. It will always face threats, living and non-living. There will be years where the wildlife are thriving and other years where they will be disappearing. This is why this photography competition is so important. The Coorong changes year to year, and through photography we can capture the good times. The good times when the wildlife is abundant, the Murry Mouth is flowing and the ecosystem is alive. These photos won't just be excellent as tourism resources, but they will serve as a timeless reminder of what we need to fight to preserve. Even photographs of the bad times will be just as influential. The bad times when the water has dried up, the wildlife is dead and the Murray Mouth has closed over should be photographed and displayed to motivate people to help save and preserve this truly unique and beautiful ecosystem. The Coorong must be helped, and even a photography competition is a great contribution to doing so. We can help protect it now, but we cannot save it later. Initiatives like this one are the reason we will never let the Coorong get beyond the point of no repair, so people long into the future will be able to enjoy this astonishing ecosystem just as we have fortunately be able to."

Photo competition winners

Wetland through time

Wreck of the PS Albion

Beth Nixon - McCracken

This photograph of the wreck of the 'PS Albion' was taken at Goolwa North on 8 May 2010 during the drought years. It lies alongside the riverbank near Veenstra's Slipway. Since the water has returned to the Murray River and the level has risen it is again submerged and cannot be seen.

As a keen photographer I spend many hours down stream from the Goolwa Barrage capturing images of wildlife and, in particular, birds. When I heard about the Coorong and Lakes Photo Competition I thought that it was potentially a great way to share my photos with others. The competition description stated: 'One of the aims of the competition is that all winning photos will feature in the updated Coorong and Lakes Alexandrina and Albert Ecological Character Description.' That was a great incentive to enter and hopefully to show others the beauty of the region.

Wetland Flora and Fauna

Black winged stilts
Beth Nixon – McCracken

These Black-winged Stilts were close to the bank of the Murray River down stream from the Goolwa Barrage

Photo competition winners

Our Wetland

At one with nature

Sally Grundy - Mundoo Island

This photo captures the essence of the iconic value of the Coorong: pelicans getting about their business whilst kayakers paddle past.

" I am lucky to live and work in one of Australia's most beautiful and unique environments – the Lower Lakes and Coorong.

We have many international tourists and their reaction to our environment is testament to how special the Lower Lakes and Coorong are.
The natural environment in which I live and work is my photographic inspiration as my canvas changes daily."

Threats including pests and weeds

The Wetlands Desert
Michelle Forte – Brompton

Wetland threats come in all shapes and sizes… and temperatures.

I love capturing nature – at its best and its worst. On the day I went out to capture photos for the competition, it was amazing to see that on one side of the road was this beautiful body of water, surrounded by so much greenery and wildlife, whilst on the other side of the road – it was almost desert-like. The harsh conditions of Australia show no mercy. I guess that's what I love and hate about it!

Photo competition winner

Wetland Habitat and Landscapes

'Divisible By Three'
Patrick Boylan – Mount Gambier

The landscape contrasts through colourful riparian salt loving halophytes adjacent to a barren saltpan with low level clouds, a view synonymous to the Coorong during dry times

I submitted 'Divisible By Three' as I am fascinated by the bright and variable colours of halophytes, the salt tolerant plants that fringe the riparian zone of the Coorong salt pans. These hardy little plants provide an ecotone between the saline environment of the dried lake pan and the outside perimeter of the riparian zone. Very often these little plants are overlooked as a part of the ecology of the harsh and ever changing saline environment of the Coorong and lower lakes. The colourful contrast of halophytes, salt and sky was an attractive photographic composition across the limnological continuum.

Rain, Hail or shine…

(Source - Nature Play SA; link - https://nature playsa.org.au/2357-2/)

Each month Nature Play SA in partnership with the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR) honours one of South Australia's National Parks, with February seeing us celebrate Murray River National Park.

Murray River National Park is situated in the Riverland and comprises three separate areas: Katarapko, Lyrup Flats and Bulyong Island, which cover more than 13,000 hectares of native vegetation, wetlands, flood plains and of course the mighty river.

When headed to the Riverland it's best to be prepared to camp on the river or stay in a caravan park, which is what we decided to do. Of course there are also other options, but camping certainly offers a great nature play experience! You have the option of pitching a tent with communal facilities or staying in a cabin with your own facilities.

Some basics for a first time Riverland trip include insect repellent, sunscreen, broad brim hat, torch, life-jacket, picnic rug, an esky, a road

map (or GPS), some easy snacks and of course camping gear if you choose to camp. It's also important to note there are restrictions with taking fruit and vegetables into the Riverland, so it's best to review the guidelines before you go and perhaps do as we did and grab your groceries when you arrive – there are major supermarkets in the big townships, including Berri and Renmark, and fresh produce stalls along the way.

My family and I decided to the make the most of the opportunity to visit the Riverland

The evening of our arrival we decided to spend the afternoon by the river nestled amongst towering River Red Gums. Purple Swamp Hens wandered around the caravan park with varying species of ducks, obviously accustomed to visitors, waddling up to greet us.

When in the Riverland there is no other option than to slow down and unwind. We decided to take a leisurely stroll around the caravan park, with the river as our backdrop. It became evident that places like this have a unique quality that city life often lacks – a real sense of community. There were children racing around on their bikes, friendly conversations and welcoming smiles. For children, a sense of community is vital to their understanding of their place in the world, feeling a sense of belonging, developing friendships and life-long memories.

After a day of typically stunning Riverland weather the sky started to darken and heavy rain clouds moved in. We noticed most people started to 'bunker down' for what was looking like a mighty storm. And that it was. Thick heavy raindrops were soon falling, with the tin roofs creating a thunderous sound. Very unusual weather for the Riverland at this time of year. However, in true nature play spirit, I didn't let it dampen my canoe plans for the morning as I vowed to push through rain, hail, or shine.

Mornings in the Riverland are characterised by the sound of birdsong and that muddy earthy smell of the river. It was still raining but at 7am I headed off to meet local canoe tour provider Kym.. We travelled along the banks of the Murray River NP. Thick green reeds, sunburnt cliffs, thickets of willow, arching powerful River Red Gums and teeming bird life defined my three hours on the water.

Kym pointed out the many types of birds we encountered such as the Night Heron, Whistling Kite (including the large stick nests), Great Cormorant, and even Tree Martin nests, which looked like coral formations embedded into the cliff tops. There really isn't any better way to experience the river than on the water.

Continued:

Following my time on the river I headed out with Ranger Hannah. Our original plans had changed as a result of the downpour the night before. Access into the Park and its walking trails can be tricky following rain so it's best to touch base with the Parks office to find out the best ways to venture in. The Park itself is a beautiful landscape of floodplains, wetlands, creeks, and varying vegetation types depending on how close they are to the river.

Once the morning rain had cleared the deep blue sky and open plains created a picturesque landscape. We stopped by several beautiful spots along the river admiring the sheer size and breadth of the River Red Gums – a truly iconic feature of the Riverland.

One of the areas we were able to visit was Eckerts Creek Log Bridge. A site that forms part of the Katfish Reach Project. The project is an impressive and incredibly important initiative for the River Murray. The various land uses adjacent the river have, over time, impacted flows and seasonal occurrences of the floodplains, creeks, and river. As a result the flora and fauna have been significantly impacted.

The Katfish project aims to address and reverse some of these impacts as Ranger Hannah described:

"the project involves activities such as the removal of barriers to native fish movement and natural water flows with a key objective being to restore the traditional flows and flooding regimes that once occurred in the river and it's surrounding areas.'

Hannah went on to say the project is benefiting the local flora and fauna, particularly native fish such as the endangered Murray Hardyhead. With the addition of more flows and improved health of River Red Gums, the project also benefits the Regent Parrot – an endangered species.

Hannah also mentioned the popularity of the camping grounds and walking trails within the Park such as the Ngak Indau Wetland Trail.

On our final night, we sat outside on the banks of the river illuminated by the moonlight.

We would definitely recommend getting onto the river in some way. I was fortunate enough to have Kym from Canoe Adventures take me on a guided tour. For information on tours and river activities it's best to drop by or check out the Berri Visitor Information Centre website. In addition to the River Murray National Park, there are several other National Parks in the Riverland region worth a visit. To help families make to most of their visit we have complied a list of 20 Things to Discover in Murray River National Park

Getting funded for that great arts idea!

Applications are now open for the Country Arts SA Skills Development program and the Australian Governments Regional Arts Fund Step Up and Step Out program. Grants ranging from $3,000 to $20,000 are available to individuals, groups and organisations based in regional SA for projects commencing after 1 July, 2016. Applications will be accepted until 5pm Tuesday, 15 March 2016. The funding will target activities that have long-term cultural, economic and social benefits for both individuals and communities by:

 Developing partnerships and cultural networks

 Providing artists with professional development opportunities Supporting arts and community development projects that provide local communities with the opportunity to participate in, and access cultural activities

 Build capacity in regional communities In the last funding round over $147,600 went towards supporting 14 South Australian community arts projects through the Regional Arts Fund Grants and $7,500 funded three Skills Development projects.

Country Arts SA CEO Steve Saffell said that a wide range of arts practices were funded in the last round and we hope to receive even more applications this year. "In 2015, enterprises in everything from ceramic workshops for inmates at Mobilong Prison to China silk murals and stop-motion animation workshops received funding," said Mr Saffell. "We're impressed by the creative ideas people come up with when they see a gap or need in their local community. We encourage anyone with an idea that would benefit their community to consider applying in 2016." If you have an idea to pitch, Arts and Cultural Development Officers are located within various communities around South Australia and are happy to discuss how Country Arts SA can support community projects or help emerging and professional artists take the next step in their arts career. Your local arts officer can provide more detailed information about the funding program most appropriate for your project and assist you in developing your proposal. This advice can include sourcing a suitable artist, other possible avenues of funding and ways of documenting and evaluating a project's progress and outcomes. The current funding round closes on Tuesday, 15 March 2016 for projects commencing after 1 July 2016, however in exceptional circumstances applications seeking minor funding support may be considered under quick step arrangements.

For further information: http://www.countryarts.org.au/support-funding/ or call Country Arts SA on 8444 0400 Media enquiries: Joy Lothian Joy.Lothian@countryarts.org.au or (08) 8444 0417 / 0423 828 03

Sunday 6th March 2016
Friends of the Coorong
Clean-up Australia Day Event

Everyone is welcome to join us on the ocean beach this year for our clean-up at Tea Tree Crossing. We'll be meeting at Salt Creek (near the replica oil rig - look for our banner) at 10am and travelling in 4WD convoy to the ocean beach. If you have a 4WD and haven't made the crossing now is the time. If you don't have a 4WD but don't want to miss out on this adventure let us know. Lunch will be provided - thanks Natural Resources SE. You will need to bring a chair and something to drink. Don't forget to wear sturdy footware, sun protection and gloves.

RSVP to Joanne Flavel 85751200 (Mon-Wed business hours) or Wendy 0424261740.

Sunday 3rd April 2016
Friends of the Coorong
Aboriginal Basket Weaving Workshop with Meryl Mansfield

Following the popularity of her workshop in 2013 Meryl has agreed to undertake a second workshop where you can learn about local Aboriginal culture and try your hand at traditional basket weaving. Everything that you need will be provided. Meet at Trunkeena on Seven Mile Road (a few kms SE of the Coorong National Parks office) for 1pm start. Approximate duration 2-3 hours. Afternoon tea will be provided. $10 for non-members. Friends of the Coorong members free. RSVP Beryl 0417841556.

Design and Survey The SEFRP is currently in design stage, involving a series of on ground engineering surveys and water modelling investigations to identify the infrastructure needed to move water along the flow path.

Design for the SEFRP is being developed in three phases of concept design, design development and design documentation.

The design for the alignment section of Blackford Drain offtake to Henry Creek Road is approaching 70% design development. This has involved further consultation with landholders in early 2016 to confirm the best locations for crossings, fencing and drainage infrastructure. This is to ensure any new infrastructure complements landholder operations and considers stock, vehicle and machinery movement.

Design will progress to the third phase of "Design Documentation" over the next three months. The design is finalised in this phase and provides all the documents needed to meet required construction, operational and safety standards.

The alignment from Henry Creek Road to the Salt Creek outlet is in the final stages of investigation to identify the feasibility of inundating the Tilley Swamp Watercourse en route to the Coorong South Lagoon. Once completed, a concept design for this section of the alignment will be confirmed.

Consultation with landholders will continue throughout the remaining stages of design.

Environmental Management Program The Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (the EPBC Act) is the Australian Government's central piece of environmental legislation. It provides a legal framework to protect and manage nationally and internationally important flora, fauna, ecological communities and heritage places—defined in the EPBC Act as matters of national environmental significance.

The South Australian Government will seek EPBC Act approval in the next 2 months by lodging a referral to the Australian Government to decide if the proposed activities trigger the matters protected by the EPBC Act and requires formal assessment and approval.

This decision is reached in 20 business days and includes a public comment period of 10 business days (with no extensions).

Figure 1. Design site inspection along Tilley Swamp Drain

The referral will be available on the Australian Government's webpage for EPBC Act Public Notices and the decision will also be available on the public notices page (click here).

The EPBC Referral has been informed by a comprehensive biological survey of the project alignment and a comprehensive water quality risk assessment to identify risks and appropriate mitigation strategies to ensure the project has no adverse impacts upon Coorong water quality.

Water quality monitoring in the Coorong and the South East Drainage Network continues and involves the Environmental Protection Authority sampling 14 locations on a fortnightly to monthly basis.

Surface water data collected by telemetered stations provides further information on salinity and water level. It is available in real time and is available on the South Australian Government's Water Connect website. A factsheet outlining how to access the data has been prepared and available from the SEFRP webpage or Water Connect.

Community Engagement The SEFRP Steering Committee continues to meet to review project progress and provide advice and recommendations to the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources on project delivery. The SEFRP Steering Committee is supported by two advisory groups including the SEFRP Design and Environment Advisory Group.

On completion of the full alignment concept design, a series of public information sessions will be held across the South East Region and Coorong and Lower Lakes Murray Mouth area. Further information will be provided about these information sessions over the coming months.

A project information display will be present at the South East Field Days in Lucindale on 18-19 March 2016, in the Natural Resources South East marquee.

Figure 2. Sharp-tail sandpiper, Coorong

Figure 3. Site inspection with landholders

FREE Information Session

gwlap
GOOLWA TO WELLINGTON
Local Action Planning Association

Strathalbyn Bat Night!

Come and learn about our native bats - find out what is in your back yard.

WHERE: Strathalbyn Natural Resource Centre, 6 Catherine Street, Strathalbyn

WHEN: Friday 11th March 2016 from 7:30pm

Come and meet our bats! These little creatures are all around us and yet we rarely see them or even think about them.

Chris Grant will talk to us about the amazing world of bats;

- what they eat
- how they fly in the dark
- the incredible variety of bats
- where they live and why their conservation is important.

We will try to catch bats using mist nets and harp traps - there are 12 species we could catch. We will probably see some bats flying around if it is a nice warm night and will certainly hear their echolocation on bat detectors.

Chris has studied bats for 15 years and travelled around the world catching bats and speaking at conferences.

This evening is suitable for the whole family!

Please RSVP by Wednesday 9th March to:

Jacqui Wilson
Community Engagement Project Officer
P: 08 8536 5617
M: 0400 036 843
E: jacqui.wilson@gwlap.org.au
www.gwlap.org.au

Government of South Australia
South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board

Australian Government

National Landcare Programme

Centacare

Coorong Drought Assistance Program

Is inviting you to attend a 12 hour

Standard Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) Course

This course teaches first aid skills for adult members of the public to give the initial help to adults experiencing mental health problems, in a mental health crisis situation, or in the early stages of a mental illness.

Where: Tintinara Town Hall

When: March 22nd and 23rd (2 day course) 9.00 am to 4.00 pm

Instructor: Joan Oldfield

Cost: Free (normally $160)

If you are interested in this 12-hour Standard Mental Health First Aid course, please contact:

Contact: Bill Eden 08 8531 8888. **Applications close 15/03/2016**

Additional Information:

Morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea provided (if you have any dietary requirements please contact us before the training)

Tea and coffee facilities available

Centacare Murray Bridge
55 Adelaide Road Murray Bridge SA 5253
Telephone: 8531 8888 Fax: 8531 8899
www.centacare.org.au

This service is funded by the Australian Federal Government Department of Social Services

The same program is going to be run at Meningie, April 12-13th.

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GOOLWA TO WELLINGTON
Local Action Planning Association

Field Day

Peats Soil - Brinkley

Using microbiology to get the most from your soil

WHERE: Meet at the Strathalbyn Natural Resource Centre, 6 Catherine St. Strathalbyn.

WHEN: Wednesday 23rd March 9:30 am - 1:00 pm

Join us for a bus tour of the Peats Soils organics processing plant and a presentation from **Dr Ashley Martin, Soil Scientist**. Dr Martin will discuss the role of microbes in the soil and how this knowledge can be used to overcome some key soil issues in the area.

> **Sandy soils**: Sandy soils often lack structure, which reduces water infiltration, water holding capacity and beneficial microbial communities that drive important soil processes, such as nutrient release, disease resistance and carbon accumulation.
>
> **Water repellent soils**: Water repellent soils in agriculture are usually caused by a build-up of waxy materials and incompletely-processed organic matter in the surface layers. Natural waxes on the surface of plant leaves are the major contributor to this problem. Inadequately broken-down organic matter can also contribute, along with soil management practices that damage structure.
>
> **Soil acidity**: Soil acidity in the Goolwa to Welling LAP area is typically due to the underlying parent material (rock) and leaching of alkaline nutrients by rainfall.

The day will also include the opportunity to see some innovative new operations including large scale composting, biodiesel production and methane harvesting.

This field excursion will be of interest to anyone wishing to get more from their soil.

Please RSVP by 19th March 2016 to:

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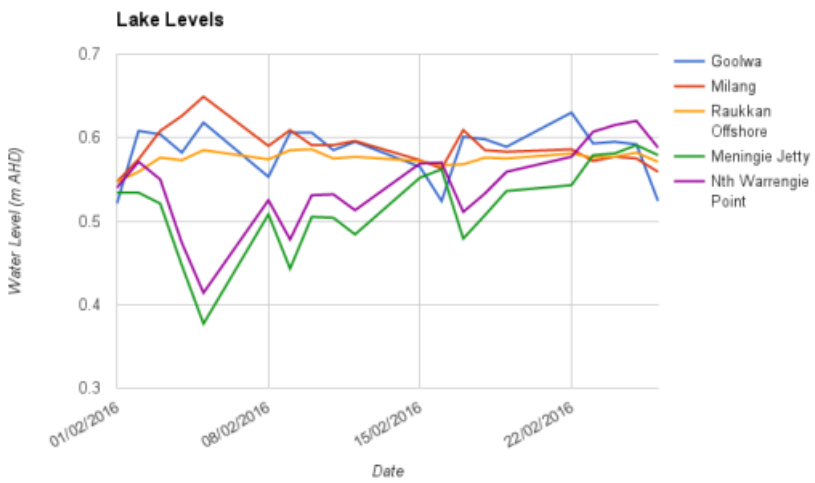
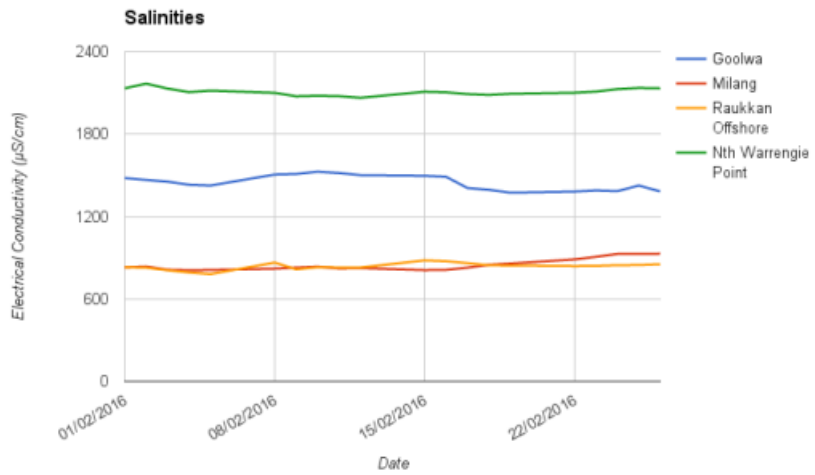
www.gwlap.org.au

peats SOIL & GARDEN SUPPLIES

Government of South Australia
South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board

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 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 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.

	March
7	
8	International Woman's Day
9	
10	
11	Womens Wellbeing Workshop - Meningie - Friday 11th of March
12	
13	Adelaide Fringe in Goolwa Free entry, contact 1300 466 592. Goolwa Wharf Precinct
14	
15	
16	
17	Soil Moisture Workshop 10am - 12 noon Mt Compass Contact Monique White 0400 972 206 Precision Ag Tools Workshop 1pm - 3pm Mt Compass Contact Brian Hughes 0429 691 468
18	Lucindale Field Day
19	Lucindale Field Day Earth Hour
20	Tatiara former residents social reunion Adare Church Hall 2 - 5pm Contact Pip 8552 5473
21	
22	World Water Day
23	Mental Health First Aid Course - Tintinara - 22nd & 23rd of March
24	Mount Pleasant Easter Twilight Farmers Market 2016
25	BirdLife South East SA Keith-area campout Friday March 25 to Monday March 28 Contact Linton Huxley: 0498 466 092 or fieldtrips@birdssa.asn.au
26	Easter Market Meningie RSL Hall 9am - 12 noon Cadell Harvest Festival 26 March, Riverland
27	
28	
29	
30	
31	
1	**April**
2	Beachside Food & Wine Festival Christies Beach 12 noon - 10pm
3	Aboriginal Basket Weaving Workshop with Meryl Mansfield
4	

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 en-