The Lakes Hub is an initiative of the Milang and District Community Association Inc.

Number 236 June/July 2016

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The time has come...

This edition of the Lakes Hub bulletin is the first one being produced without financial assistance from the CLLMM Project. Sadly this means it is also time to say farewell to our paid staff Faith, Andrew, Jo and Jill and thank them for their contribution to the Lakes Hub and all its programs. All of these wonderful people have offered to provide some voluntary support, but they can't do it alone.

As it stands, there is no longer funding for either staff or the lease at either outlet. However, it is not all negative. With one door closing, another opens. The Lakes Hub came about through community advocacy and with continued support will be able to continue to deliver community education while facilitating a clear, informed community voice.

While we are planning to continue an electronic presence (bulletin, Facebook and website), it would be good to be able to also continue a physical presence, particularly in the face of new environmental challenges with regard to water restrictions, climate change, reduction of agency presence, Carp control discussions, Fur Seal population expansion and many others.

There are also some exciting regional collaborations around tourism that will only be happen through local knowledge and working together.

We are looking for volunteers, donations and sponsorship to help us maintain physical shop-fronts at Milang and Meningie over the longer term. If you can put your hand up please click here to provide details of your support.

With your help, we hope to continue the Lakes Hub as an independent community run environmental resource centre, that supports our wonderful region and communities.

To get things started, the Milang and District Community Association has committed to paying the lease at the Milang Lakes Hub for another 3 months. Volunteer Glen will be in attendance two days a week and I will be there as time permits. GWLAP staff, who work from the Milang Office, will remain there until the end of their contract.

The displays are currently remaining at the Meningie Information Hub, with discussions continuing with regard to the ongoing fate of that outlet.

We already have enough support to complete the Community Drought Ready planning process, while continuing to release the Bulletin on a monthly basis.

With enough additional support we could run sessions on Carp Herpes Virus, Lake levels, environmental watering, the SE Flows project, Milang Foreshore Project, provide support for community Fur Seal monitoring and potentially run a Lakes and Coorong Issues Forum in 2018, similar to the biannual events run by the Friends of Great Salt Lake.

Looking forward to a bright and dynamic future,

Karyn Bradford

Lakes Hub Quick Facts 2015—16 Interactions

Lakes Hub was contacted **29,925** times (averaging **125** contacts per business day).

Lake Hub staff or volunteers provided information on the Lakes and Coorong to visitors, community and government staff **188,258** times (averaging **784** instances per business day).

Staff gave **eighteen** presentations to community groups and other organisations.

We sent **2,782** emails, not including emails to the Bulletin subscriber list.

3,158 people visited either the Milang or Meningie Hub.

Bulletins, Facebook, Website and Media

Twelve electronic bulletins were produced and were opened by **45**% of bulletin subscribers.

At the end of the financial year, there were **554** people on the Bulletin subscriber list, compared to 539 last year, with others accessing the bulletin though Facebook, the website and other organisations mailing lists.

Lifetime likes (subscribers) on Facebook went from 290 individuals to **484** individuals.

On Facebook, there was a total reach of **175,557** over the 2015/16 financial year, compared to last financial year, which had a total reach of 50,633.

There were **8,320** visits to the Lakes Hub website, peaking at **1,030** visits to the website in November.

Most visits to the website included downloading the latest Bulletin.

There were more than **seven** media releases and printed-media published articles facilitated or about the Lakes Hub, along with **eleven** radio interviews organised by the Hub.

Public Events

Through the Bulletin and other media, Lakes Hub provided community members with information on **78** opportunities for training, learning and education.

Lakes Hub ran a total of **seventeen** events for the community, with **454** attendees.

Community Nurseries Network

Only one Community Nurseries Network (CNN) meeting was facilitated over the year due to the position of Community Nurseries Network Coordinator no longer being funded. The nursery mangers on the west side catch up regularly to discuss any issues.

Community Drought Preparedness

More than **50** potential stakeholder organisations have been identified.

More than **28** organisational representatives have been engaged via meetings, phone calls or emails.

More than **72** non-affiliated individuals have had input.

Seven briefing documents have been prepared and supplied to stakeholders, on request

Four Drought Preparedness related funding applications have been submitted (none successful to date).

Meetings

Lakes Hub staff attended **4** training events, **81** DEWNR run meetings and **16** meetings run by other parties.

50 meetings were held at Lakes Hub shop-fronts. **Five** Lakes Hub Advisory Committee meetings were run.

In addition during 2015/16 the Lakes Hub have strengthened key partnerships with stakeholders such as the South Australian Murray Darling Basin Natural Resource Management, Community Engagement Team as well as the CLLMM Community Advisory Panel.

For more information, a full copy of our Annual Report is available on our website (www.lakeshub.com).

Water Supply - Lake Alexandrina

Irrigation water for properties around the lake and a bit further inland, e.g. Langhorne Creek, has traditionally come from Lake Alexandrina. Lake Alexandrina is primarily fed by the River Murray, but is also fed by the Bremer, Angas, and Finniss Rivers, all from the eastern side of the southern Mount Lofty Ranges.

During the Millennium drought (2007 - 2010) the flow from the Murray into Lake Alexandrina was reduced and the level of the Lake fell steadily during this period. In 2008, water levels in Lake Alexandrina and the connected Lake Albert became so low that large quantities of acid sulphate soils threatened to form. As the level of Lake Alexandrina fell, the salinity of the remaining water increased and by spring 2007 was high enough to cause long term impacts when used for irrigation.

The Murray-Darling basin system has the capacity to store significant water reserves in major dams, but with the unprecedented low rainfall and resultant low inflows to the system from essentially 2002 – 2010 (the lowest on record), those reserves were largely depleted.

Due to the unpredictability of the weather another drought is always on the cards. And so we thought we could look at ways for owners of properties or groups of properties to minimise the impact of drought on their properties. Several options as to how this can be achieved are described below.

Supply Pipelines

Constructing supply pipelines from permanent water sources, i.e. Murray River, can be a step in the right direction of drought – proofing your property. For example -

In April 2008, Marathon Water was created as a joint venture between FABAL and a near-neighbour at Belvidere, CMV Farms, to construct, a 42 km pipeline to draw irrigation water from above Wellington on the River Murray for Langhorne Creek and transported directly from the River Murray, bypassing Lake Alexandrina in the event of another drought.

Desalination: Reverse Osmosis

Reverse Osmosis is the preferred method to reduce water salinity and entails filtering out salts, under high pressure, through membranes. The Reverse Osmosis plant allows



for desalination of underground water from the aquifer.

The underground water, due to its high salinity, is not suitable untreated for long term use for irrigation, but after desalination provides a high quality resource that provides an alternative water supply. After desalination, the water can be stored underground as part of the ASR (Aquifer Storage and Recovery) project, to be withdrawn and applied as irrigation.

Water Storage: Aquifer Storage and Recovery

This process involves the storage of water (either drawn from the River Murray / Lake Alexandrina or from the desalination plant) in the underground aquifer for a period of up to 5 years. This effectively allows water to be stored in an underground 'dam' and then re-pumped at a later date for irrigation of the vineyard.



Water Supply—Lake Alexandrina (Cont.)

Irrigation Water Management

River Murray Water Licenses

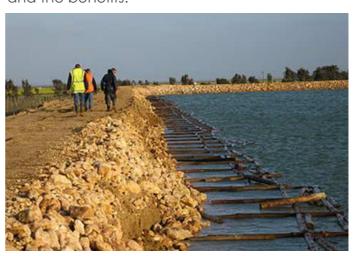
Holders of a water licence are entitled to a and the benefits. water allocation drawn from the River Murray. The water under these licences is drawn from the River Murray and piped to the property under licence.

Underground Water Licenses

There are water licences for extraction of underground aquifer water for irrigation. However this water may need to be treated as it may be too saline to be used for certain types of irrigation.

Water Storage: Dams

Dams are a good way to store water. Most dams built on properties are built with earth and rock. And can be small to fairly large; 100 – 200 mega litres etc. Property owners may consider sharing a dam structure with an adjoining property thereby sharing the costs and the benefits



We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit.

Weatherstations: New Weather Mobile Webpage Link for SAMDB Region

These weather stations record data every 15 minutes but only report to the web on the hour. To get all minute readings, please use the Download function, linked to below. To view the mobile version of this webpage click here. Once accessed it is recommended you save the site as a shortcut to your smartphone for easy access next time.

The new mobile webpage will also display weather data from the following partners

- · Langhorne Creek Wine & Grape Inc
- · Lower Murray Water
- McLaren Vale Grape Wine & Tourism Association
- · Natural Resources Alinytjara Wilurara
- · Natural Resources South East



There are a couple of ways you can access this new webpage. You can click or enter the following link;

http://m.aws.naturalresources.sa.gov.au or there has been a link placed on the original desktop page which will take you through to the new version.

http://aws.naturalresources.sa.gov.au

Handy tips for collecting firewood

Keep the home fires burning – but make sure you collect your firewood the right way.

As the nights get colder, nothing is as comforting as settling down in front of a crackling fire.

The only problem is that buying wood from the hardware shop or getting a delivery from the local wood yard can be expensive.

No-one will mind if you just collect a bit for free in a national park, right?

Wrong.

It's illegal to take wood from <u>national parks</u> and reserves, even if the wood is dead or fallen.

If you are caught, you face penalties of up to \$1000. You can also have your equipment seized. In the past, rangers have confiscated chainsaws and other gear from people caught illegally taking wood in parks.

The same goes for all public land, including reservoir and forest reserves.

Why are dead trees and fallen wood so important?

Dead trees and fallen branches provide vital habitat for a range of native species, including birds, possums, reptiles, insects and even other plants and fungi.

Tree holes and hollows in particular are extremely important, but they can take many years to form.

Once they do, they provide nesting and sleeping places for brush-tailed possums, goannas, and birds such as yellow-tailed black cockatoos, kookaburras and rosellas.

Some native bird species cannot breed without the right sort of holes or hollows to nest in, so the reduction in the number of old trees in the landscape has had a serious impact on their numbers.

Fallen wood can also provide hiding places and food sources for small animals such as echidnas, bats, dunnarts, pygmy possums, geckoes and other lizards.

Where can I collect firewood?

There are a few ways to collect firewood legally:

- By agreement on private land. Know someone with a rural property with lots of trees? If you ask nicely, they might let you help yourself to some dead wood.
- On some road verges, if you have a permit from the council. Check with the council to find out their policy on firewood collection.
- In some ForestrySA plantation forests, but only by agreement with the ranger.

Even on private land, it is important to remember that large trees with a diameter of more than 1 metre – living or dead – are protected under law and cannot be cut down without council approval.



Reflections from Local Identities...

Robert Mongrovios

Robert and Margaret Mongrovios of Narrung are both keen native plant growers, environmentalists and are members of Nurrung Progress Association.

Robert Mrongrovius (Nursery Consultant, previously Pharmacologist) from Nurra Nursa Nursery at Narrung has been over the years attending both Meningie and the Raukkan Nurseries to share his skills and knowledge with the nursery members.

Robert has an extensive knowledge of local native species in the area including where to source materials, when to collect seed and the best time to propagate different species.

These nurseries are a part of the Community Nurseries Network (CNN) which grows for the Coorong Lower Lakes Recovery Project. His propagation techniques for various species has helps the CNN to achieve it target over the years.

Learnings for next time

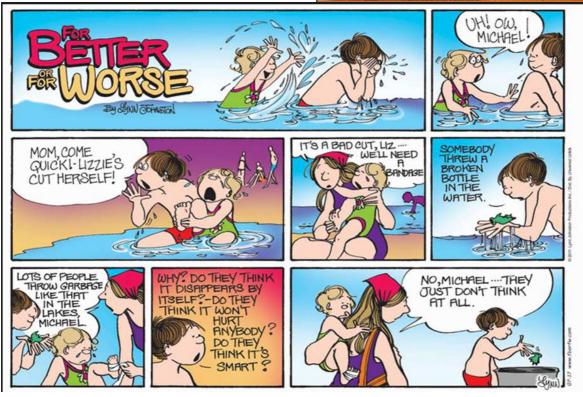
For land holders who took up planting on their properties, there is a lot of work involved in maintaining sites, after the planting. This also including removing of tree guards from plants that have grown.

Guards are not bio-degradable and should be removed. Parts of the guards break down and end up blowing around

Certain species need two years to grow and if possible species list needs to come out in winter ready for the following winters planting. When lists are compiled timing needs to be considered. Certain species are winter germinating species can be unachievable to grow if list not given out till September. This can also effect seed collection times.

Planting sites in his view should be prepared for two years prior to commencement of revegetation. Sites ideally he would like to see weed free before planting as certain species for example *Enneapogon nigrican* struggle where as Poa labillardierei do slightly better. These native species struggle to go in Nurrung area as kikuyu and veldt grass are such dominant species. It was hard to convince all landholders in the area to come on board to revegetation.





Terry Sim— **Fencing Project** Officer 2007— 2011

I jumped on because of the River Lakes and Coorong Action Group (RLCAG) which was formed in 2006 to advocate for the wellbeing of the River Murray



Terry Sim

and communities around Lake Alexandrina, Lake Albert and the Coorong.

Water from underground at Langhorne Creek basin started to deplete, so SA Water offered a look back. How many third & forth generation twelve month window for Landholders/ irrigators to swap license for lake licenses. The government of the day did not think that so many land holders would take the offer up. In the twelve month time frame technology had improved and instead of pumping water out of the lake from a pipeline installed two kilometres in, it was stretched to 14-15 kilometres in. Water was uncapped

I really wanted to get involved in the project when the opportunity arose. I felt that local knowledge and community involvement was and is vital for a project of this size and purpose. I did not want people from Adelaide calling the shots or not understanding the importance of the Lakes and its history.

My role as Fencing Project Officer started in 2007 and then I was based at Wyngate on Hindmarsh Island. My role was to fence off as much land as possible around the lakes to reduce the impact of stock on the lake edge and to protect natural regeneration and revegetation. When I started my first task was to obtain a list of all landholders that butt onto the lake and compile a register. This was not always easy due to the privacy act

All the landholders could of said no, but most

embraced it, some quicker than others, and eventually they all came on board. All sensitive area's were fenced off, I am glad to say Some landholders were worried the bit of land they gave up they lost. But they didn't, it was lease

I have to say that those who took up the fencing contract under sufferance, did overtime see the benefits and wished they had fenced their properties off earlier as it had improved the property. I strongly feel having local people to approach them through this process and liaise with, made a huge difference and made the process a lot smoother.

As someone who has grown up here, one of the best things that has come out of this, now is locals now know more about the local flora and fauna, names of bird species etc.

More people in Adelaide and interstate are now more aware of the lower lakes and Coorong region. The importance of the river system. It is good to see the water return.



Click on above picture to hear Terry Sim explain the fencing project in his own words; or paste this link into your browser; http:// placestories.com/story/14122

A Welcoming History Lesson of Milang

By Charlotte Hill & Josh Van Kooten of Eastern Fleurieu School R – 6, Milang Campus

(As reported in "The Southern Argus" Thursday, 30th June 2016)

At Monday's locomotive launch, students, Charlotte Hill & Josh Van Kooten gave a history lesson of Milang

Welcome to our town of Milang – it looks like a small quite town, but it has a unique natural and human history.

It is on the edge of Australia's largest freshwater lake, and 20 kilometres from the mouth of Australia's largest river system.

Lakes Alexandrina, Albert & the Coorong are wetlands of international importance. The Milang Wetlands are where the Lathan's Snipe come each year in spring, to fatten up, before flying back to Japan & Siberia, in summer.

Before 1853, the Narrandjeri people who lived here referred to Milang as a place of sorcery.

After it was surveyed in 1853, it quickly became a port for unloading wheat and wool transported down the Murray by paddle steamer.

Cargo was unloaded at the jetty and moved on horse drawn rail wagons to A H Landseer's warehouse and flour mill. From there, wheat, wool and flour were loaded onto bullock wagons and taken either to Port Adelaide or Port Elliot to be loaded onto sailing ships.

The Honourable A. H. Landseer was a shipping agent with offices in Goolwa, Morgan and Port Victor. He ran his business from Milang until his death in 1906. He exported wool to England and Europe.

When the railway line was opened in 1884, the river boats no longer stopped at Milang, because further up the river Murray, the town of Morgan was connected to Adelaide by a new railway line.

Milang lost its status as the busiest inland port in Australia, but Milang continued as a farming and fishing town.

Tonnes of fish, mostly Mulloway, were sent to Adelaide each week by rail. The Butter factory received milk from many dairy farmers and made butter and cream that were sent to Adelaide by train until 1931.

Another Milang resident, Alan Scott, became the owner of the largest road transport business in Australia. He started here in 1948 with one truck.

Our school has the oldest purpose built school building, still in use in South Australia.

The former teacher's house is now our community centre. It is recognised as one of the best in the state.

A Willow tree planted by the Duke of Edinburgh in 1867, is the oldest surviving 'Royal Tree' in Australia.

We hope you enjoy your visit to our town!

Meet the Author—Lucy Treloar

Lucy Treloar's highly acclaimed first novel Salt Creek is set in the hauntingly beautiful yet inhospitable Coorong region in 1855.

Heralded as an "unflinching and fascinating account of one man's folly and the implications of settlement", it has been shortlisted for the Indie Book Awards 2016 and chosen as one of the best four debuts of 2015.

Free admission
Date: 28th July 2016
7pm
Goolwa library
Cadell st
Goolwa

JULY - OCTOBER



BAG IT! Film Night

Thursday 7 July I 6pm I \$5 Guest Speakers Jaclyn Smith 'Plastics in Paradise' & KESAB 'Recycling Right'. Film night and shared community dinner bring a plate of food to share.

Mindful Shopping

Wednesday 13 July I 6.30pm I Free Tips and tricks on how to live a life less plastic. Product displays and a chance to purchase plastic alternatives on the night.

Nature Dreamcatchers

Wed 20 July I 10am and 12.30pm I \$10
A school holiday program for primary
aged children. Join Liv Moore to weave a
beautiful nature inspired dreamcatcher.

Plastic Free July DIY Workshop

Saturday 23 July I 11am I \$10/\$8
A practical,hands-on workshop to make your own beeswax wrap, produce bag and jute scrubber.

Wicking Bed Workshop

Friday 29 July | 12pm | Free Hands-on workshop covering wicking bed design principals, materials needed, construction methods & suitable plants RSVP - www.thejoinery.org.au/events

Advanced Backyard Vegetable Growing
Saturday 13 August | 9am | \$85
Have you tried growing vegetables?
Would you like to become more
productive? 1 1/2 day workshop.

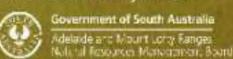
Native Food Gardening

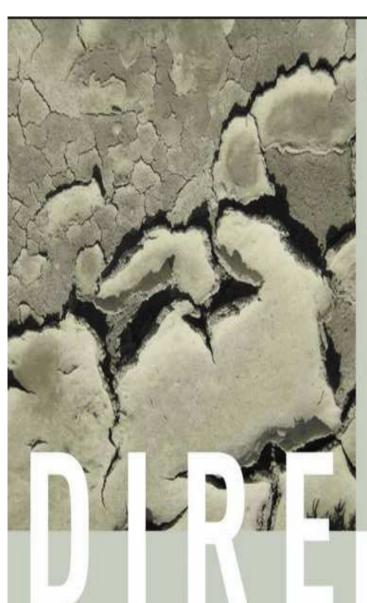
Sunday 16 October | 2pm | \$10 Informative and practical talk on food and medicinal plants in SA. Includes a parkland walk to identify plants and their uses.

Book Online I adelaidesustainabilitycentre.eventbrite.com.au

Adelaide Sustainability Centre I The Joinery, 111 Franklin Street, Adelaide W Coming soon E diane salvi@conservationsa.org.au P (08) 7123 2166 ☐ facebook.com/AdelaideSustainabilityCentre

The Adelaide Sustainability Centre is supported by







DIRE art exhibition art and science on land rivers sea June 23 – July 24 2016

Regional Art Centro (The Old Goolwa Police Station) 1 Goolwa Terrace Goolwa Friday 24 June, 2016 at 5.30 pm

Dr Ian Dyson, Lesley Fischer, and Goolwa Primary School

students

Floor talks by artists, farmers, scientists or environmentalists each Saturday, 2:00 – 3:00 pm

Opening hours

Wed - Fri: 11 am to 4 pm Sat - Sun: 10 am to 4 pm Telephone 08 8555 7289



DIRE / Art exhibition / Art and Science on Land Rivers Sea / 23 June - 24 July 2016 /

South Coast Regional Art Centre/

(The Old Goolwa Police Station) /
1 Goolwa Terrace / Goolwa /
South Australia / Invitation









design by: DC Communication Design DIRE, presented by the
Centre for Culture Land
and Sea Inc. [CCLS], is
the 4th in a series. Before
the exhibition, some artists
met farmers, scientists,
and environmentalists for
conversations about the threats
to the living environment.
Artists also show the beauty of
the living land rivers and sea.

For more information on the work of the CCLS, email ruth.trigg@westnet.com.au Telephone 0437 456 489

Front page photo by Ruth Trigg: A metaphor of the cracked surface of land and gulfs, and the cracking below for in situ leaching to extract uranium.

Tolderol Game Reserve.

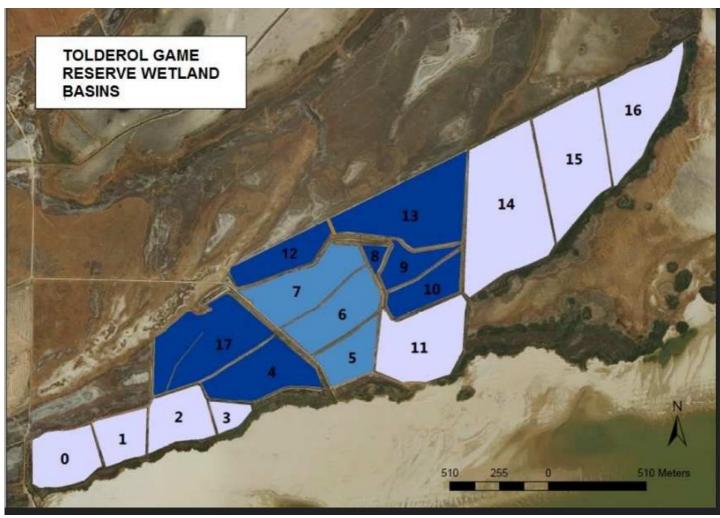
As many of you are already aware, the new pipe has been installed at Tolderol Game Reserve Wetlands and was successfully tested on Monday 30th May. This will enable water to be delivered to two additional basins, doubling the area available for migratory waders. A big thank you to Birds SA and CHASA for the generous donations that made this possible and to Chris Eckert, Rick Eckert, Doug McInnes, Barry Potts, Ian Eckermann and Ian Stuart for their fantastic efforts getting the pipe installed. Basins (4 and 17) will also be ploughed for this coming spring, we do ask that you please do not walk across the new pipe, Basins 4 and 17 can be accessed via the track just to the right of the entrance gate. (Behind the pile of reeds along the new fenceline around the new plantings) Attached are some photos of the installation and successful test-run of the pipe! This spring is going to be a big one

The two parts of Tolderol Game Reserve Wetlands

We have recently received concerns from members of the public regarding the use of the environmental water at Tolderol Game Reserve Wetlands. We wish to reiterate that the reserve is divided into two zones, the hunting zone and the conservation zone. The environmental watering project at Tolderol Game Reserve occurs solely on the conservation zone and the watering regime applied to the basins within this zone are targeted at migratory wading birds in spring and summer. Attached is a map which we encourage people to forward onto interested persons. Please don't hesitate to contact Kate Mason on 08 85 329100 or kate.mason@sa.gov.au for further clarification.







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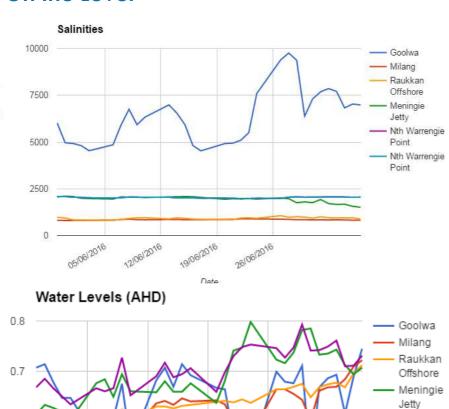
On the Level

Electrical Conductivity (µS/cm)

0.5

0.4

05/06/2016



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 <u>website</u>.

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

Data received from:

Nth

Warrengie Point

> 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

19/06/2016

1206/2016

26/06/2016

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 (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.

	July
1	
44	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	
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12	Tolderol Bird monitoring - from 8am
13	
14	
15	Brome Grass Workshop - Waikerie - 9.30am - 3pm
16	
17	Community Seal Monitoring
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24	DIRE Exhibition closes—South Coast Regional Arts Centre—Goolwa
25	
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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.