



WEEKLY BULLETIN

September 19th 2011. No 64

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The Lakes Hub's are the initiative of the Milang and District Community Association and is part of the Lower Lakes Bioremediation and Revegetation Project funded by the Australian Government and supported by the South Australian Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

Regional Threatened Species as of September 2011

Following is a list of threatened species in the Coorong, Lower Lakes, Murray Mouth region (CLLMM).

Animals	Plants
Purple spotted gudgeon	Silver daisy bush
Yarra pygmy perch	Dune fanflower
Southern pygmy perch	Yellow swainson-pea
River blackfish	Sandhill greenhood
Murray hardyhead	Metallic sun-orchid
Southern bell frog	Scarlet grevillea
Orange bellied parrot	Ruppia tuberosa
Mount Lofty Ranges southern emu wren	
Fairy Tern	

Notes :

The classification varies between state and federal

Reviews don't occur very often but if they do then conservation status is updated accordingly.

Species Profile and Threats Database

to access information on any Australian flora or fauna species click on the following link :

<http://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/sprat/public/sprat.pl>

Tern to help

By Clare Manning (Senior Ranger Ecologist DENR)

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is seeking your help to determine the current abundance and distribution of the SA Fairy Tern population 2011-12. This information will provide a baseline dataset upon which State and National Recovery planning can be developed. This project is funded by DENR, Nature Foundation SA, South East Cooperative Coastal Conservation Initiative, Caring for our Country, Birds Australia and Friends of Coorong.



Pictured : A Fairy Tern in flight by Peter Gower

The Fairy Tern (*Sternula nereis nereis*) is a threatened piscivorous bird found along the coasts of Western Australia, Victoria, Tasmania and South Australia. The Fairy Tern is currently listed as Vulnerable under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act) and Endangered under the South Australian National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972. Fairy Terns have an estimated Australian population size of around 5,000 birds. Of these, 2,580 were once estimated to occur in south-eastern Australia. Historic declines in South Australia and in particular within the Coorong region, which has traditionally been considered the stronghold for the taxon are of current significant concern.

In South Australia, Fairy Terns appear to be primarily located in two regions 1) south-east of South Australia including the Coorong that forms part of the Coorong and Lake Alexandrina and Lake Albert Wetland of International Importance and 2) the coastline of Eyre Peninsula including a number of neighbouring offshore islands. In 1984-85, the Coorong supported a Fairy Tern population of approximately 1,500 individuals. Abundances have declined over the past 11 years and annual census counts in January 2011 were the lowest on record for the Coorong. The current Coorong population size is estimated to be <180 individuals, a >85% population decline since the 1980's with no reports of increases of this species in other parts of South Australia. The dramatic declines in the Coorong population threaten the species in South Australia, and the species as a whole. In the Coorong, nesting failures and the current age of individuals e.g. 10-years (the maximum longevity recorded to date is 14 years) indicate that without a successful breeding season in the next 1-2 years this species is facing local extinction in the Coorong. At State level, increased human disturbance by recreational activities at breeding sites, predation by Silver gulls and Little ravens and introduced predators such as dogs, cats, foxes and rats are thought to contribute to the decline of Fairy Terns but yet not confirmed.

The 2011-12 Census will take place across the entire SA coastline including Kangaroo Island. The State has been divided into 8 regions with each region having its own Coordinator, and community volunteers are welcome to get involved. For example, coordinated by local Senior Ranger Ecologist Clare Manning key areas in the Coorong include the River Murray mouth, several islands in the Coorong South Lagoon and a number of feeding and resting spots known along the Coorong mainland and these areas will be visited by DENR Park staff either by boat, kayak, car and/or foot. At each site the total number of adults, sitting adults (if breeding) and juveniles will be counted. At selected sites, and if breeding, volunteers could expect to help DENR Park staff, count the number of eggs and chicks, which will provide an indication of breeding success rates.

Survey dates have a 2-week window however each preferred survey will take place on the weekends of Nov 12 and 13th, Feb 11 and 12th and Mar 31 and Apr 1.

INTERESTED? The following **open community talks** within the Adelaide and South East region are planned and will highlight the birds ecology, how to identify them, how to observe and record observations. Where required, these talks will be further followed by ID workshops for those people interested in participating in the census:

WHEN : Saturday 17 September 2001 1030am

WHERE : RSL Club Robe 29 Victoria Street, Robe

WHEN : Thursday 29 September 2011 6.45pm

WHERE : RSL Club Port Elliot The Strand, Port Elliot

WHEN : Sunday 9 October 2011 1pm

WHERE : Valente Education Centre Cleland Wildlife Park Mt Lofty, Adelaide

You can register your interest in the talks and/or census direct with the Project Managers Clare Manning or Catherine Dickson via email Clare.Manning@sa.gov.au or Catherine.Dickson@sa.gov.au or call 0428 757 015.

Editors note : piscivorous : feeding on fish. Taxon : its scientific classification.

Goolwa to Wellington Local Action Planning Assoc AGM

With a presentation by: Dr. Daniel Rogers (DENR) 'Migratory Birds of the Coorong'

WHEN : Wednesday 12th October 2011 commencing at 7.30pm

WHERE : the St. Andrews Hall (Corner of Alfred Pl. and Russell St., Strathalbyn SA, opposite the Strathalbyn Cathedral)

GENERAL :

Members of the Public welcome.

Nominations for Goolwa to Wellington LAP Board membership and positions welcome.

Light refreshments will be served following the AGM and presentation.

Please RSVP Tony Randall by Friday October 7th 2011 on 8536 5612 or 0427 917 511

or by email: tony.randall@gwlap.org.au



Goolwa to Milang Fresh Water Classic- January 22nd 2012



It's on again for the first time since 2007.

A tradition in South Australia on the Australia Day weekend, up to 400 yachts including trailer sailers, multihulls, off the beach cats and dinghies join the classic Goolwa riverboats for the Milang Goolwa Freshwater Classic, hosted by the Goolwa Regatta Yacht Club (GRYC) and joint sponsors.

This event originally started to settle an argument between two hardened local river boat skippers who decided on a 'decent race' on 27 December 1966.

They raced from Goolwa to Milang, little knowing that their challenge to each other was destined to become Australia's biggest freshwater race.

Yachting men and women have been coming to Goolwa for 150+ years to participate in races organised by the club. Goolwa Regatta Yacht Club was founded some time before August 1854 and is the oldest yacht club in South Australia and believed to be the oldest in Australia.

Drought conditions and environmental protection works to the Murray River have prevented the GRYC holding the event for the past four years. But, with the return of the water, this iconic event will be re-launched on January 22nd 2012.

For more information contact

Locky McLaren, Event Director com.aujaynelocky@adam. 0882783280 or 0401122090

FROG ATLAS

Frog Atlas allows you to learn about some of Australia's frogs, while helping to build an interactive map of frog distributions. The Atlas is the next stage of two long-term Frog Census programs that have been running in South Australia and Melbourne has evolved thanks to the input of our partners.

Frog calls vary between species and provide a simple means for gaining information about where frogs are found. By learning to identify frog calls and contributing them to a central, mappable site, together we can build up a picture of what is happening to our neighbours, the frogs.

The Atlas provides information on which waterways have frogs, which may be used by land managers to determine areas that need protection or rehabilitation.

Each record builds on what we know about the sorts of places different frogs occur. By comparing the results from year to year we can find out whether a species is becoming more or less common over time. This can help in trying to work out what should be done to conserve our frog populations.

The Frog Atlas provides a portal for the public collection of frog distribution data, with this information then being fed into state fauna and environmental management databases e.g. [Department for Environment and Natural Resources](#) and [Department for Water and Land Biodiversity Conservation](#).

You can register on line (free) to upload your new frog distribution information. <http://www.frogatlas.com.au>

REMINDER :

What : Volunteer frog monitoring sessions

When : Starts Wednesday 14th September at 6.30pm

Where : Clayton Bay Community Boardwalk

What to bring : You will need to bring mozzie protection, rubber boots, weather protection and a torch.

Contact : Kate Mason 0407 793 634 or email Kate.Mason@samdbnrm.sa.gov.au

This season's frog monitoring will commence at the Clayton Bay community boardwalk at 6.30pm next Wednesday 14th Sept.

Kate Mason will be leading the monitoring sessions and will be grateful to anyone wishing to assist her. Frog CD's and books will be on hand along with free training and expertise. Frog monitoring will continue at Clayton Bay and Dunn's Lagoon each September as part of consistent monitoring within the NRM Board's wetland program. A 2010 Southern Bell Frog monitoring report can be accessed at the Lake Hub at the Milang.

FAST HYDROPLANE (Worlds First Racing Hydroplane)

From The Advertiser Friday 28 November 1913 .Submitted by Terry Sim

MILANG, November 27.-Mr. A. Ross of Milang, has this week installed a six cylinder Thorneycroft engine, developing 90-horsepower, in the hydroplane Miranda IV., for Mr. K. D. Bowman, of Poltalloch.

This is the same type of engine which enabled this fast racer to record 42 miles an hour in the mile championship three years ago in England. Miranda IV., which is to compete in the motor events at the Milang regatta, is 26 ft.in length, and 6 ft. beam, and during her trial run on Lake Alexandrina on Tuesday went at a great pace, dashing the spray high into the air.

More about the Miranda IV - The world's first racing hydroplane.

Reference <http://www.vallejoartgallery.com/item.php?id=346>

Designed by the patriarch of the Thorneycroft family for his own use, the MIRANDA IV is the world's first hydroplane. Built by Hart-Harden on the Thames, she launched in 1910 with her four-cylinder 110H horse-power Thorneycroft engine. When put to full throttle, the forward plane of the hull would rise clear of the water, and in speed trials the racing hydroplane achieved speeds around an astounding 35 knots.

The model is of carved beech wood, finished in varnish and mounted on turned brass columns on a mahogany base. This laminated 'bread & butter' construction was definitely directed and possibly carved and shaped by Sir John Thorneycroft himself. The precise sharp lines give a good indication of her built-for-speed purpose, which she answered. The ship measured 26'L x 6'B and weighed nearly a full ton, with mahogany bottom planking and English pine sides. She was painted an English racing green with a white hull and deck.

Thornycroft raced the hydroplane in two Bournemouth regattas and at a motor yacht club regatta in Southampton in 1910, winning all three events. At the latter, MIRANDA IV covered 16 miles in 33 minutes. The hydroplane is still in existence in the Old Tailm Town Museum in South Australia.

Provenance: From the Thornycroft Family, of Chiswick & Southampton, England.



Builders full model - Ship Model Overall Length 38 Inches with a 8½ Inch Width & an 11¼ Inch Height; Mahogany Base Measures 35½ X 6½ Inches with 1¼ Inch Legs & 3 Inch Brass Columns

Weed Management Soc of SA – free weed info.

In recognition of all the great work undertaken by our state's environmental volunteer base, the Weed Management Society of South Australia is offering a great opportunity for community groups and volunteers to sign up for FREE E-Membership.

E-Membership gives you the opportunity to receive regular information about weed management via email, including our quarterly newsletter WeedWise. Through WeedWise, the WMSSA promotes weed management initiatives and provides information on weedy work undertaken throughout the state. Regular updates are provided on up and coming seminars, workshops and Australian and international conferences.

By being a member of the WMSSA you get the chance to learn from, and contribute to the body of weed knowledge in this state. You will be a part of an organisation that actively develops constructive policy positions to inform governments on weed management policy. Past examples include the WMSSA's position paper on Olives and participation in the Senate inquiry into invasive species legislation.

If you are interested in registering your community group for FREE E-Membership please email the WMSSA at shauna.potter@sa.gov.au with your email address and the name of your community group.

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:

<http://data.rivermurray.sa.gov.au>

www.sawater.com.au/SAWater/Environment/TheRiverMurray/River+Murray+Levels.htm

<http://www.mdba.gov.au/water/live-river-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

DAILY RECORDINGS – RIVER MURRAY DATA

Data received from <http://e-nrims.dwlbc.sa.gov.au/Telemetry/Default.aspx?App=RMW>

DATE **SEPT 12- 16 2011**

DATE	SITE	WATER LEVEL AHD	SALT (EC)
12	GOOLWA	0.691	3933
13		0.672	3974
14		0.590	987
15		0.637	1031
16		0.671	846
	AVERAGE	0.652	2154
DATE	SITE	WATER LEVEL AHD	SALT (EC)
12	MILANG JETTY	0.693	547
13		0.640	553
14		0.642	523
15		0.659	540
16		0.656	555
	AVERAGE	0.658	544
DATE	SITE	WATER LEVEL AHD	SALT (EC)
12	RAUKKAN OFFSHORE	0.682	362
13		0.698	235
14		0.667	380
15		0.660	382
16		0.652	298
	AVERAGE	0.672	331
DATE	SITE	WATER LEVEL AHD	SALT (EC)
12	MENINGIE JETTY	0.636	5641
13		0.734	5694
14		0.732	5618
15		0.712	5655
16		0.697	5690
	AVERAGE	0.672	5660
DATE	SITE	WATER LEVEL AHD	SALT (EC)
12	NORTH WARRENGIE POINT LAKE ALBERT	0.683	5659
13		0.757	5734
14		0.740	5820
15		0.726	5835
16		0.718	5867
	AVERAGE	0.725	5783

CALENDAR OF EVENTS for more info contact the Lakes Hub

September 2011

1	NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY MONTH
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7	NATIONAL THREATENED SPECIES DAY
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14	Meningie History Trail meeting 4.30pm Lakes Hub Meningie – All welcome. Andrew Dawes 0427751488 or 8575 1830 Conservation & Land Management course info session – MOSHCC Milang Contact Karyn Bradford 85370687 Email karyn@moshcc.com.au FROG MONITORING SEASON BEGINS Contact Kate Mason 0407 793 634 or email Kate.Mason@samdbnrm.sa.gov.au
15	
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18	WORLD WATER MONITORING DAY
19	
20	Clayton Temp. Flow Regulator removal info session. 7.30pm Clayton Bay Hall. Contact Gemma 0427 018 783 or email gemma.cunningham@sa.gov.au for catering purposes
21	
22	Angus River Catchment Gp AGM. Speaker : Kate Mason – frog monitoring. Contact Liz Schofield 0427802138 All welcome
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If you have any relevant community event or courses that you would like added to the Calendar of Events please contact the Lakes Hub.

October 2011

1	Native plant sale – Alexandrina Nursery, Kessell Rd, Goolwa (near council Depot) 11.00-3.00pm Contact ph 8554 2555
2	
3	Public holiday – Strathalbyn Show (GWLAP & HUB trade site near Football Clubrooms)
4	
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7	
8	Port Elliot Show – Hub site Goolwa Alive – Hub site
9	Port Elliot Show – Hub site
10	
11	
12	GWLAP AGM 7.30pm. Speaker Dr Daniel Rogers ‘Migratory Birds of the Coorong’ All welcome Contact Tony Randall by Friday

	October 7th 2011 on 8536 5612 or 0427 917 511 or by email: tony.randall@gwlap.org.au
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