



LAKES HUB — WINTER NEWSLETTER 2010

Have your say !



A community based information centre for sharing of information about projects in and around Lakes Alexandrina and Albert and the River Murray.

The Lakes Hub is the first place to visit or call if you want information or have any queries or concerns in relation to Coorong, Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth projects. Staff at the Hub will not only provide you with a warm welcome but also the most up to date information.

The Hub has strong relationships with other community and government

organisations and can direct you to the most appropriate place or person if more information is required.

The communities around the Lakes are committed to playing an active role in a sustainable future for the region. The Lakes Hub was developed with Australian and State Government support to enable locals and the broader public to be active participants in decision making for the Coorong, Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth.



You will find more information on the back cover of this publication regarding ways to contact the Hub and how to be kept regularly informed of any information / updates relating to the Bioremediation and Revegetation Project and other related conservation and educational programs.

August 2010

NEWSLETTER HEADER
FEATURES PICTURES OF THE
FISHING PORT OF MILANG IN
THE MID 1900'S

AUGUST 4TH LAKE ALEXAN-
DRINA ABOVE SEA LEVEL
0.003 FOR THE FIRST TIME IN
YEARS. LAKE ALBERT STILL
BELOW AT -0.331

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Plans for a Hub at Meningie

There are plans to develop a second Lakes Hub at Meningie. It is evident that the area needs a focal point for local residents and landowners to deliver and receive regular information relevant to that particular region. It is envisaged that the Meningie Hub will accommodate a Hub

Coordinator, various project officers and be a depot and work base for other related Government officers etc.

The Hub will also contain information material, have facilities for meetings and will service the inquiry needs of the local community.

With the support of the local residents and landholders the Meningie Hub will be able to play a significant role in bridging the gap between Government and the community by ensuring that both science and local knowledge are the tools used for decision making.

Did you know ?

The surface area of Lake Alexandrina is approximately 64,950 hectares or 649.50 square kms (160,494 acres / 250.77 square miles).

Lake Albert is approximately 17,310 hectares or 173.10 square kms (42,774 acres / 66.83 square miles).

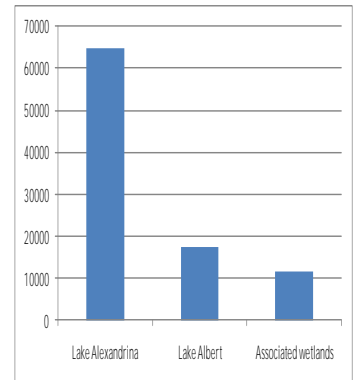
The associated wetlands have an area of 11,540 hectares or 115.4 square kms (28,515 acres / 44.55 square miles) and the majority of this area is currently dry.



The area of the lakes is calculated on the lake edge being 0.75 AHD (above sea level)

Together Lake Albert and Lake Alexandrina have 700 kms (435 miles) of lakeshore frontage.

References :
Wetlands of the River Murray—PL Pressey.
A Fresh History of the Lakes—T Sim & K Muller.
Nature Maps.



TALKING HEADS SESSIONS

Talking Heads sessions at the Hub are free and occur monthly

The Lakes Hub conducts a free, community information session monthly with topics relevant to the Lakes region.

Since the beginning of the year entertaining and **knowledgeable presenter's** have included -:

Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) - monitoring water and air quality in the lower lakes.
Russell Seaman DENR

Environmental manager— discuss the bioremediation and revegetation project.

Charles Irwin, local landowner—issues. Rural Solutions—general revegetation strategies.

Tony Slatyer (Sec. for Env Reform Commonwealth Govt) / Allan Holmes (CEO DENR) - community concerns.

Chris Bice SARDI—fish passage & ecology projects.

Donna Ferretti (SA Water) - sea water environmental impact statement studies.

Jeff Edwards (Rural Solutions) - revegetation projects and weed, pests, plant species identification.

Keep your eye on the web site and emails for prior notice of new sessions.



Volunteer, Regina assisting with acid sulfate soil monitoring tasks.

Volunteering opportunities locally

With so many projects occurring around the lakes there are always opportunities to volunteer.

There are both indoor and outdoor activities available ranging from

office / reception work, seed collecting and counting, planting, acid sulfate soil collection and monitoring, photography, general maintenance, plant nursery assistance and much more.

If you would like to offer assistance and wish to become one of the many treasured volunteers of the region please contact the Lakes Hub.

Contact details on the back cover.

Community Nurseries

There are currently seven community nurseries which make up the Community Nurseries network. They are located around the Lower Lakes, Meningie, Milang, Strathalbyn, Clayton Bay, Finniss, Hindmarsh Island and Goolwa. Raukkan nursery which is owned and operated by the local Ngarrindjeri aboriginal community is also linked in with the nurseries network.

Private grower Robert Mrongovius from Nurra Nurra is assisting the Raukkan nursery with all

aspects of plant care and propagation.

These nurseries have had financial assistance through the Bioremediation and Revegetation Project to develop their nurseries enabling them to reach the quality and production levels required for the revegetation projects around the Lower Lakes.

The native plants grown are then planted out in designated areas by contractors and community groups.

Collectively the community nurseries propagated approximately 130,000 native species in the 2010 season, most of which have been planted out by volunteers and community fundraising groups.

Propagation has now begun for the 2011 planting season with an aim of reaching 200,000 plants ready to go in the ground from June next year. For more information on the Community Nurseries program contact Jo McPhee - Lakes Hub Community Nurseries



Community Planting

Opportunity for community groups to either volunteer or participate in a fundraising exercise for their local sporting, Landcare, school group etc by planting out product from the community nurseries growing program will be available in the 2011 season.

2010 saw in the region of 20 community groups

participate in the program from Meningie—Lake Albert, Milang—Lake Alexandrina and on to Goolwa.

Expressions of Interest forms are required to be completed for community groups interested in participating in the 2011 planting season.



Community planting opportunities will also be available for the 2011 season for schools, community groups, individuals etc.

Revegetation summary 2010

Apart from the community and volunteer plantings this season, commercial plantings have also taken place on a broad scale. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) have contracted Rural Solutions SA (RSSA) to manage broad scale revegetation projects around the Lower Lakes with over 1 million native sedges planted so far this season.

Aerial seeding for the 2010 season has been completed by Rural Solutions covering an area of approximately 5500 ha with predominately cereal and native Rye species as a mechanism for soil stabilization. RSSA have also conducted an aerial lime dosing program to stabilize acid soils along **with a variety of other 'on ground' activities.**

Aerial Limestone dosing





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The Lakes Hub is an initiative of the Milang & Districts Community Association Inc and is part of the Lower Lakes Bioremediation and Revegetation Project. This project is funded by the Australian Government and supported by the South Australian Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)

The Hub was developed to act as a two way passage between Government and the Community, to incorporate and engage the community in the Project as much as possible.

The Hub is a tool for the community to access information regarding the Coorong, Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth and the projects currently running.

The Lakes Hub not only accommodates a Manager and Community Nurseries coordinator but also Goolwa to Wellington Project Officers who specialize in monitoring and evaluation, funded fencing, tributaries vegetation etc. D.E.N.R. staff also utilize the Hub as a work venue when necessary.

The Hub is also a great source of free reference material with brochures and handouts on flora, fauna, soils, project information etc and regular information forums.

www.lakeshub.com



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Terry Sim
Lake Alexandrina On Ground Works Project Officer,
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Would you like to be kept informed ?

The staff at Lakes Hub are always keen to help with any inquiries so feel free to drop in, phone or email.

The Hub also emails out weekly Bulletins with updates on the levels of salt, Ph and water levels in the Lower Lakes plus prior notice of upcoming events, courses, job vacancies etc and links to weekly media reports.

The Hub will also forward on relevant information from other departments at times.

Should you wish to be added to the E-News list please send a request via email to

info@lakeshub.com

We look forward to working with you.