



LBLAP news

Spring 2010

Loxton to Bookpurnong Local Action Planning Committee Inc

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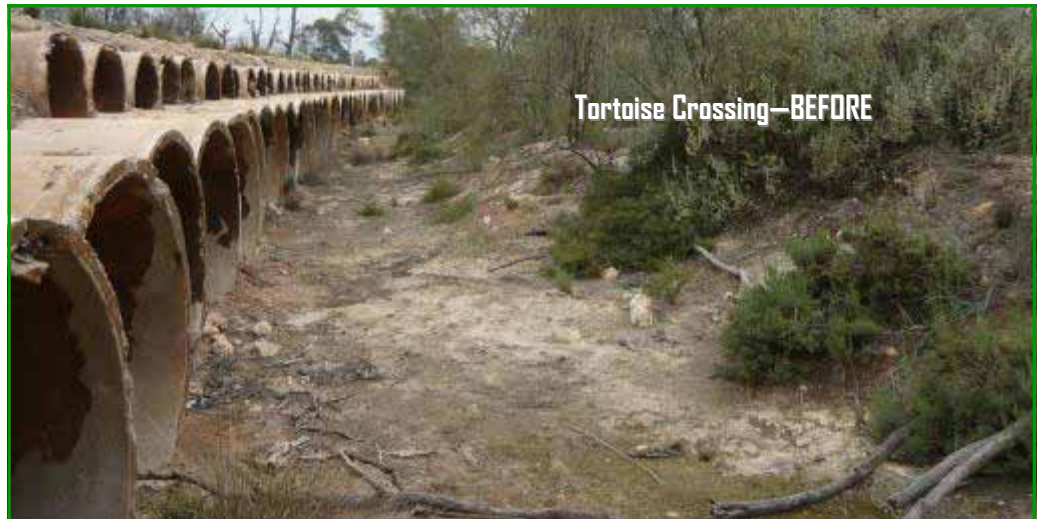
Ta Daaaah — All Good Things etc etc

As advised in the last Newsletter, we had secured some funding to undertake a long desired and much needed “cleanup” of a 10 year old project site on Gurra Gurra Road.

Wanting to beat the impending flood, we rushed to get the worked completed as soon as possible.

Unfortunately, it appears the impending flood might now prove

to be a non-event, which is really disappointing, but at least the culverts are much more operational when there is, eventually, a significant flood event.



Important **Regent Parrot** Monitoring Work Required—Can You Help??

Have you noticed a flash of yellow whiz past you on the river lately?

A striking yellow bird, with blue-black tail; and bright orange beak?

nesting in tree hollows and flying back out to the mallee to feed.

Regent Parrot Recovery Team Chair, Chris Grant said that now is also the

time to minimise disturbance to **Regent Parrots** and their nests. With only about 400 breeding pairs left in South Australia, we need to make sure the species is protected.

upstream to the SA-Vic border. You can help prevent the decline of **Regent Parrots** by revegetating with local species along the birds' flights corridors and minimising activities near their nest sites. *For example, take care when camping or boating near old trees with hollows.*

Please report your **Regent Parrot sightings to the DENR Berri Office on 8595 2111. All information greatly appreciated.**

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Local Action Planning Groups and volunteers are undertaking one of the largest surveys of **Regent Parrots** and their nests, since 2004.

“We are particularly interested in **Regent Parrot** flight paths, so note down which direction they come from” Mr Grant said. For further information about this survey work, other **Regent Parrot** projects and how to identify this colourful parrot, visit the DENR website (*see below*) or contact the LAP Office.



The endangered **Regent Parrot**

The aim of the survey, is to find all **Regent Parrot** nests from Swan Reach,

Or olive-green in colour, perhaps perched in a tree hollow?

It's not a yellow Rosella ... it's a **Regent Parrot**.

The **Regent Parrot**, a nationally threatened bird species, is again breeding along the River Murray, from August to October.

Now is the time to look out for them flying through river red gums,

And again.....



Please report ALL Regent Parrot sightings to the DENR Berri Office

DENR Website

http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/biodiversity/murraylands_bcp/threatened.html

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS - *It's that time of the year again*

Loxton to Bookpurnong Local Action Planning Committee Inc **AGM**

The LBLAP AGM has been scheduled for:

7:00pm Tuesday 9 Nov
upstairs in the
Loxton Hotel

The formal business side of the evening should not take too long as Committee positions are already filled. However, please come along if you have any ideas for projects in our area.

The formal part of the evening will

be followed by presentations by:

Karlene Maywald -
Chair of State Govt Murray Darling Basin Plan Steering Committee and
Robyn Cain - *Director – Riverland Futures Taskforce*

Join us afterwards for a cuppa and a bite to eat.

So. Date's been set. Clear your calendar and get along to what should be an informative evening.

Financials available before meeting from the Office.

Bring along any project ideas in relation to:

- Wetlands
- Floodplains
- Recreational
- Climate Change
- Recycling
- Climate Change
- Eco-Tourism
- Flora & Fauna Conservation
- Water Quality

See you there.



AGMs - Be informed, maybe even get involved

Bookpurnong Lock 4 Environmental Association **AGM**

Please mark the following date in your calendar.

Bookpurnong Lock 4 Environmental Association AGM.

6:00pm Wed 13 Oct at
Boulderstone's Home, Lock 4.

Find out the latest on:

- Water quality issues at Lock 4
- Lock 4 History Book
- Weed ID Training
- Environmental matters in the area.

- Climate Change Project

The formal part of the evening will not take long and will be followed by a BBQ.

Bring the kids, it's that sort of evening.



LBLAP Management Committee Member wins Award

Callie Nickolai, SAMDBNRMB Wetland Monitoring wiz and LBLAP Committee Member, was recently announced as the winner of the Jane Gilooly Memorial Award.

The Award is presented by CSIRO Land &

Water and the Australian Society of Soil Science Inc.

Callie will use the Award to fund a 3 week study tour of the Murray Darling Basin to ascertain first hand how other river communities maintain their wetlands. She will

travel from the Lower Lakes to Hume Reservoir and also Charleville.

The 5,000 km trip (*to be undertaken in March or April 2011*) should be most informative and Callie is looking to share all when she returns.



Callie in action. (She normally doesn't bother with the waders)

“Talking Fish” in the Murray Darling Basin

How long have you been fishing in the local area?

Do you have recollections about the ‘big ones’ that ‘used to be caught around here’?

The Murray Darling Basin Authority is looking for people who have a current or past connection with the rivers and waterways of the

Murray-Darling Basin. They want to hear people tell their stories and share their memories as part of an exciting new oral history project.



Photo courtesy Museum Victoria

Get your old photos out of the cupboard. Someone actually wants to look at them

“Many different groups of people including fishers, Aboriginal communities, tourists and landholders, have developed unique relationships with rivers and their environments as they have lived by, grown up with, visited and played in them” Conservation Manager for I&I NSW, Scott Nichols, said.

“The long history of

recreational fishing within the Basin has led generations of people to spend large amounts of time on or near its rivers and waterways. This desire to catch fish and to experience the river has given people a refined understanding of how fish relate to their riverine environment, and consequently how changes to these environments have affected the status of native fisheries.”

“In addition Aboriginal communities have relationships with the rivers that stretch back thousands of years – well before the arrival of European settlers.”

“Accessing and recording the wealth of information from River users will make a significant contribution to our knowledge of the Murray Darling Basin, and help shape the management decisions of the future to achieve improved river health outcomes.”

Mr Nichols said the project will focus on 12 reaches within the Basin, including Katfish Reach (*Katarapko Creek in the Riverland*), and the Coorong and Lower Lakes in South Australia.

Local radio features and an interactive website with downloadable material will be produced to inform people of issues unique to their area and those that are common throughout the Basin.

This project is being managed by Industry & Investment NSW’s Conservation Action Unit in conjunction with Rural Solutions SA, and funding from the Murray-Darling Basin Authority’s Native Fish Strategy.

Editors Note—Camping Photos showing river bank etc also sought.

If you have a story or have photos you would like to share with the “Talking Fish” project, please contact Scott Nichols on 02 8437 4909 or scott.nichols@industry.nsw.gov.au or Jodi Frawley on 0418 197 454 or jodi.frawley@uts.edu.au

Katfish Reach Carp Buster Day—21 November 2010

Do you love carp?

Do you believe that all of earth's creatures are to be nurtured and valued?

If yes, then look away now.....

The Katfish Reach Steering Committee is organising a "Carp Buster" Day to follow up their highly successful "Day on the Kat" event held recently.

The Katfish Carp Buster will be held at the Loxton Aquatic Club Grounds, Grant Schubert Drive, Riverfront, Loxton (*that's the town Boat Ramp for out of towners*).

The registration desk will be open at 7:30am, with fishing commencing at 8:00am. Final fish weigh-in is at 3:00pm on the day.

Registration is quite inexpensive, in fact it's **FREE**.

Carp are the only fish targeted and there are 17 prizes in total to be won in the following categories

- **Heaviest Carp**- Male - Female and Junior (*16 or under*)
- **Longest Carp**- Male - Female and Junior (*16 or under*)

- **Smallest Carp**- Male - Female and Junior (*16 or under*)
- **6 x Mystery Draws from Registration Numbers**
- **Guess the mystery weight of a selected bag of carp**
- **Guess the weight of a selected carp**

BASIC RULES (*more detailed rules available with the rego slip*)

- All contestants must be registered to be eligible for prizes - No registrations accepted after 11:00am.
- Carp only event. Release of natives is encouraged.
- Fishing methods to comply with State legal requirements.
- Fish to be killed quickly and humanely
- Carp must be presented whole—with no evidence of illegal methods or having been frozen.
- Fishing to start at 8:00am and finish at 3:00pm. Scheduled weigh-ins at 11:00am, 1:00pm and 3:00pm. No carp accepted after 3:00pm.
- Rego Tickets must be presented with fish to be weighed and again to collect any prize.
- Prize presentation will start after final weigh-in at the Loxton Aquatic Club grounds.
- Anglers must be present to receive any prize
- Judges' decisions are final.
- No cash in lieu of any prizes.
- All person competing do so at their own risk.
- All anglers responsible for the security of their personal belongings.
- Participants using boats must abide by the regulations governing the use of these vessels.
- All juniors must be accompanied by an adult.

Food and non-alcoholic drinks available on the day, so come along and enjoy a day out.

See you there. (*I'm sure "tight lines" would have some copyright issues.*)

Registration is quite inexpensive, in fact it's **FREE**



Great Family Day

Lots of prizes

Community Comment on **DRAFT** Murray Darling Basin Plan

I'm sure that there will be plenty of publicity about the event, once all details are known, BUT, keep Friday 15 October free if you want to attend a Basin Plan information/comment session.

This day will be your only opportunity to attend a session in the Riverland. There will be a morning and afternoon session (*3 hrs each*).

Other details (*venue etc*) have not yet been announced, but will be put on the MDBC website once known.

Link to MDBC Community Consultation Sessions
<http://www.mdba.gov.au/communities/meetings-events>

Keep Friday 15 October free



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Check out our website,

www.lblap.org.au

Covering 155,000 hectares to the south of the River Murray, the LBLAP area includes six irrigation areas - Kingston-on-Murray / Lock 3, Moorook, New Residence, Pyap, Loxton, and Bookpurnong / Lock 4 - some dry land located within the Loxton/Waikerie District Council boundary, and fifteen wetlands, including Katarapko Island, Yatco, Ajax Achilles, Pyap and Gurra Gurra Lakes .

The main areas of focus of LBLAP are:

- ◆ Irrigation and Drainage
- ◆ Flora and Fauna Conservation
- ◆ Climate Change
- ◆ Community Education Development and Awareness
- ◆ Wetland and Floodplains
- ◆ Water Quality
- ◆ Recreational.

If you have an interest in any of these areas or have any ideas for local projects that you believe should be undertaken in these areas, please contact our Office.

Membership of LBLAP is **FREE** and you can be as hands-on as you choose. If you know of someone who:

- ◆ would like to get involved with some monitoring - *friendships - afternoon in the outdoors*
 - ◆ maybe has some ideas for the local environment
 - ◆ would like to get involved at Management Committee level, or
 - ◆ would simply like to be kept up to date with LBLAP activities
- please pass this newsletter on to them or ask them to get in touch with LBLAP.

If you've received this Newsletter via email, please feel free to pass it on to others. *If you'd prefer to receive future Newsletters by email, please let us know.* If republishing an article from this Newsletter, please acknowledge the source.

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Acknowledgements

Loxton to Bookpurnong Local Action Planning Committee Inc are grateful to the following organisations for their ongoing support:

- ◆ SA MDB NRM Board
- ◆ SA MDB NRM Riverland Group
- ◆ Australian Government
- ◆ Department Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
- ◆ South Australian Government
- ◆ Dept of Water
- ◆ Department of Environment & Natural Resources
- ◆ Dept of Primary Industries and Resources of South Australia
- ◆ Central Irrigation Trust
- ◆ CARE Team
- ◆ Yatco Wetland Landcare Group
- ◆ Bookpurnong Lock 4 Environmental Association
- ◆ Bookpurnong Lock 4 Land & Water Mgt Planning C'tee
- ◆ Pyap to Kingston Land & Water Management Planning C'tee

