



LBLAP news

Winter 2010

Loxton to Bookpurnong Local Action Planning Committee Inc

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Long Sought Funding Finally Made Available

LBLAP has just been advised that its application for funding to make culverts under the Gurra Gurra Road more functional, has been successful.

About 10 years ago, another organisation undertook a \$750,000 project installing disused irrigation pipes to act as culverts (*known as Tortoise and Echidna Crossings*) under the Gurra Gurra Road. Unfortunately, once into the project, it was discovered that there was a telecommu-

nication cable running adjacent and parallel to the road, the removal of which was not funded in the project. The cable has therefore remained as a barrier to flow immediately in front of the culverts ever since.

However, the last operational service was removed from that line last year, paving the way to remove the cable for \$10,000, rather than relocate it for around \$70,000.

"LBLAP thanks DWLBC and the

SAMDBNRMB for recognising the merits of this project. It is a wonderful opportunity to make fully functional, a \$1 million investment (*today's value*) for the minimal sum of \$10,000," said LBLAP Chairperson, Andrew Biele.

"Hopefully the next flood event, when this infrastructure will come into play, is not too far away".



Part of the Bank of Pipe Culverts at Tortoise Crossing, with embankment covering Telecommunication Cable to Right of Picture

New Management Committee Chairperson and Members

Sorry that I'm a bit slow out of the box with this one. Had some memory lapses in relation to gathering photos at Meetings, so I've had to scour the net for these.



**New LBLAP Chairperson
Andrew Biele**

**“... people ...
creating the little
differences
which, when
combined, make
the big changes
our precious
surrounds
need...”**

Earlier this year, our Chairperson, Dave Reilly, stood down from that role. Dave has been a longtime Committee Member and Chair for a couple of years now.

The research and development side of his Date Palm business is taking up more and more of his time and he felt the need to relinquish the responsibilities of Chair. He continues as a Management Committee Member.

All the best with the date palms Dave and thanks for your help and guidance over the past few years.

However, when one door closes, another opens.

Management Committee Member for several years, **Andrew Biele** has agreed to take over the role as Chairperson mid-term.

Andrew was born in the Loxton area and is currently the State Grower Liaison Officer for Boars Rock Winery.

He has broad managerial experience in the horticultural and dryland farming areas locally. Andrew has:

- Advanced Diploma of Rural Business Management.
- Diploma of Viticultural Management and Oenology.
- Industrial and Commercial training commission

– Motor Mechanics
Andrew says that *“LAP allows me to be active within a group which is professionally coordinated and funded with the correct links to relevant groups. It's a great social network where people like myself can interact with each other, having input and creating the little differences which, when combined, make the big changes our precious surrounds need for us all to enjoy long term sustainability.”*

At the same time that Andrew took in the Chairperson role, we were lucky enough to secure the services of three new Committee Members.

Keith (Max) Gray is the Upper Team Leader for United Utilities Australia.

He and his wife have built a home on Derrick Road, Loxton North that would be of interest to anyone interested in sustainable living. *Minimal heating/cooling costs etc.*

Among other things, Max is Chairperson of both the Loxton North Primary School Governing Council and the Loxton North

Recreational Grounds Committee.

Andrea Schmaal is a young person with a history of involvement in community organisations and issues. Among Andrea's significant community contributions are

- 2008 Loxton Mardi Gras Ambassador coordinator
- Loxton Skate Park Committee member
- 2003 served on the fundraising committee for her sister raising \$13,000
- Red Cross volunteer
- Sunday School teacher for the Concordia Sunday School
- Coaching, umpiring and mentoring junior sports in both Netball and Basketball
- Recipient of the Loxton Apex Club Youth Citizenship Award
- Recipient of the Loxton Australia Day Junior Citizen of the Year Award.

Tom Athanasopoulos is Andrea's fiancé and is keen to get involved in environmental issues and activities.

So, three community minded people who we look forward to making a real contribution to our Committee. Welcome.



Max Gray



Andrea Schmaal and Tom Athanasopoulos

Free Workshops to Improve Irrigation Management

Free irrigation management training workshops to improve irrigation efficiency have been hosted by the South Australia Murray Darling Basin Natural Resources Management (SA MDB NRM) Board earlier this year

SA MDB NRM Board Irrigation Field Officer, Noel Johnston, said there are still a couple more workshops to be offered through the SA MDB NRM Board as part of the Improving Irrigation

Efficiency project.

The drip irrigation maintenance workshop outlines preventative as well as remedial maintenance with common principles for all irrigation systems. It is a step-by-step guide for total system care and if carried out on a regular basis, growers' irrigation systems should provide years of trouble-free service.

Attendees will receive a course manual and a certifi-

cate of attendance upon completion of the full workshop and credits can be gained for a selection of certificate level units for the Agriculture, Horticulture and Conservation Land Management Training package.

Workshops Remaining	Location	Date
Drip Irrigation Maintenance	Berri	Friday 6 August
Soil Water Dynamics	Berri	Thursday 2 September



Government of South Australia

South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board

Riverland NRM Group Adopts 2010 Business Plan.

**Riverland NRM
Group aims to build
links with Riverland
LAPs**

Ken Stokes, Chairperson of the SAMDB NRM Riverland Group, has recently advised that the Group has a new Business Plan for 2010.

The Group, which represents the SA MDB NRM Board at a local level, has, as part of its responsibilities, a role to monitor progress and achievements of community projects that have been funded by the SA MDB NRM Board. As we all know, LAPs across the Riverland implement a number of initiatives funded by the Board.

The Plan therefore highlights the Group's desire to establish strong links with the community and industry

bodies in the Riverland and, in that regard, the Plan includes specific actions to engage with LAPs on a regular basis.

The Group Chairperson and Berri Barmera Local Action Project Officer, Paul Stribley, are working on developing a simple but informative pro forma which will make it easier for LAPs to record and report on progress and achievement of funded projects.

The Group also has a significant role in supporting the SA MDB NRM Board's Operations Team, in developing and implementing the 2010 Operations Plan. *That Plan addresses pest plant*

and animal issues across the Riverland. The Group is also currently participating in a Steering Committee with Riverland LAP officers, to develop a community education program that will help land holders deal with problems on their land and volunteers out in the field.

The Riverland Group meets on the 4th Monday of each month and members of the public are encouraged to come along. Details of each meeting can be obtained by contacting the Group's Administrative Support Officer at the SA MDB NRM Board's office in Wade St Berri, or by phoning 8582 4477.

“A Day on the Kat” *(much of this report is reproduced from the Friends of Riverland Parks June 2010 Newsletter article by Lizzy Lewis)*

...Katfish Reach Project primarily aims to rejuvenate the Katarapko Wetland

The next event for the Katfish Reach Group will probably be a Carp Busting Day

Our Project Manager sits on the Steering Committee of the Katfish Reach Project, which is coordinated by DEH (*as from 1/7/10 DENR - Dept of Environment and Natural Resources*). The Katfish Reach Project primarily aims to rejuvenate the Katarapko Wetland via the creation of an adaptive hydrological system for beneficial floodplain and native fish outcomes.

There are signboards located at prominent sites around Katarapko, outlining proposed infrastructure to implement the Project.

You may also have seen some fairly consistent multi media promotion leading up to a recent public event, 'A day on the Kat' held on Sunday 16 May.

This was an extremely successful event, with the weather coming to the party with a lovely mild day.

After a full breakfast of sausages and eggs, 80 canoes set off in four groups of 20 at half hour intervals to travel to Stop 1, only 800 m up the Katarapko Creek.

There were also groups of walkers, 25 altogether, who joined the paddlers at all the stops along the way. Here we were all given a presentation on native fish caught by stunning with an

electrical current. We were told that the importance of reporting any fish caught with tags was because it enables the researchers to age and to plot the course taken by these fish.

Back into the canoes for another 400 m, and this time Cindy Shorrock (*SAMDBNRMB*) had trays of "river critters" set up on tables on the bank. It was fascinating stuff for all the youngsters out enjoying the day. There were tiny shrimps, divine beetles and Caddisfly larvae, to name just three, and we could have spent much longer just looking at all the tiny things swimming round in the murky water.

Another 1200 m and we landed again to find Chris Grant (*DENR*) with a carpet python coming out of his shirt, around his neck and onto the top of his hat! On the ground, there was another one almost too heavy to lift. The kids were fasci-

nated and we were joined this time, by a group of cub -scouts who were camping in the park and had heard what was going on. The snakes were touched and handled by everyone and behaved beautifully.

The fourth and last stop, was for a presentation on bringing back native fish and learning to identify really small ones. Easier said than done ,I think.

We then had the choice of either paddling another 1000 m and being picked up by shuttlebus to return to the beginning, or to paddle back the way we came.

It was truly a day to remember and so well organised by DENR. We all went home with armfuls of leaflets and stickers.....

Keep your eyes open

The next event for the Katfish Reach Group will probably be a Carp Busting Day.



Photo courtesy Dara Clayton DENR

Help to Address the Spread of Invasive Plant Species—Grow Me Instead

Grow Me Instead—This is how the nursery industry is addressing the spread of invasive plants

As environmental awareness among the Australian community escalates, the need for the Nursery & Garden Industry (NGIA) to promote its environmental credentials has never been more vital. In recent years, NGIA has taken significant steps to address key environmental issues. Did you know the spread of weeds costs the Australian agricultural industry around \$4.2 billion a year?

We have many plants in Australia that were formerly grown and sold to gardeners and have since 'jumped the garden fence' and become invasive in the natural environment. You can help prevent them from spreading further.

NGIA has developed the national 'Grow Me Instead'

program to help prevent the spread of weeds. As part of the program, a Grow Me Instead booklet has been developed for each State/Territory which list plants which are classed as invasive and suggest superior, non-invasive alternatives.

Download the booklet for your State or Territory below. By selecting plants carefully, using these lists for guidance and encouraging others to do the same, you will be significantly helping the environment.

For further help in choosing the right plant and horticultural expertise, pay a visit to your local garden centre or to the website below.

WEBSITE

www.lifeisagarden.com.au/Category?Action=View&Category_id=418

Article courtesy RBLAP—Photos courtesy Ramm Botanicals

Avoid any seed grown plants specifically *Gazania linearis* and *Gazania rigens*.

It is safe to grow the new sterile Gazania hybrids listed below. They have been specially bred as non-invasive and relatively drought tolerant with improved growth habit, foliage, flower colour and size without viable seed set.

Look for these new improved sterile varieties of Gazania at your local garden centre.

Pictured below are Montezuma, Sunset Jane, Sahara, Sun About and Avalon.

Addressing the spread of invasive plants



Montezuma



Sunset Jane



Sahara



Sun About



Avalon



The Not So Good News—Ajax Achilles Wetland Management Plan Stalls

As detailed in previous Newsletters, LBLAP and Bookpurnong Lock 4 Environmental Assoc (BL4EA) have been trying to progress the case for a Wetland Management Plan for the Ajax Achilles wetland for some time now. We have recently re-

ceived notification from Dept of Environment & Natural Resources, that it would not support any moves toward a Wetland Management Plan, or indeed any monitoring of the wetland, for environmental reasons. A department representative went on to say

that the best course of action for a beneficial environmental outcome, is to "...do nothing other than discourage traffic in the [Ajax Achilles] wetland and adjacent area."

" best course [for beneficial environmental outcome]...is to do nothing"





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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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The River



The Floodplain



The Community

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



The Past



The Future???



Tomorrow's Community