



## From the Project Manager's Desk...

WELCOME to the May "update" for the Berri Barmera Local Action Planning Committee, and I can't believe another three months has passed already.

At least the locusts seem to be thinning out a little bit at last and lets all hope the damage they have caused is not to severe.

In this edition you will find a couple of new opportunities to learn more about NRM in our region.

The first of these is that we will be running another wetland bus tour later in the year, following on from the success of last year's tour, and the fact a number of wetlands have received water allocations again.

The second is a new project aimed at providing free accredited training volunteers and land managers in relation to weed identification, mapping and management.

At least the locusts seem to be thinning out a little



I encourage anyone with an interest in either of these projects to contact me if you would like more information.

The LAP Committee at its next meeting will be discussing how it may support the Bamera Playspace Project, particularly in assisting with vegetating the area.

Whilst this falls outside of our normal work, I feel this project is going to correlate very closely with the future management of the lake, and provides some unique opportunities.

A couple of other new projects have also been put up for potential funding and hopefully I'll be able to report positively on these in August.

Finally, thanks to the Berri Barmera garden club and Riverland NRM Group for inviting me to speak at their recent meetings and I would like to extend an invitation for any other group that would like to hear about our latest projects to get in touch with me.

'Til next time.....

*Paul Stribley*



# Naturelinks plan released

THE DEPARTMENT for Environment and Heritage recently released five Naturelinks Plans' including the River Murray-South East NatureLink Plan.

NatureLinks is an ambitious, landscape-scale approach to conserve the unique plants and animals of South Australia.

Landscape-scale conservation is rapidly becoming the dominant approach for responding to the challenges of biodiversity conservation, sustainable livelihoods and climate change throughout the world.

NatureLinks aims to manage and restore large areas of habitat within five broad biodiversity corridors: River Mur-

ray-South East, Arid Lands, Cape Borda to Barossa and Flinders-Olary.

This approach builds on existing conservation programs and protected areas by co-ordinating conservation efforts across private and public land.

The NatureLinks Plans provide a long term vision for a landscape that will sustain people, industry, culture, plants and animals through healthy ecosystems.

The plans provide a starting point for government organisations, non-government organisations and the community to work together to secure a sustainable future for South Australia.

Approaching conservation on such

a large scale will take time but will provide the best opportunity for our native species to survive and adapt to environmental change.

The Department for Environment and Heritage would like to invite all South Australians to share in this ambitious vision.

For more information visit [www.naturelinks.sa.gov.au](http://www.naturelinks.sa.gov.au)

Copies of the River Murray-South East NatureLink Plan are available from the Department for Environment and Heritage Murraylands Office in Berri or phone 8595 2111.

*Images courtesy DEH Naturelinks Website*



## Bus tour

FOLLOWING on from the successful wetland tour we ran back in November, the BBLAP Committee is planning another free wetland bus tour, probably in late July or August (weather depending).

Although more specific details will be advertised in June, you are more than welcome to contact Paul on 8582 2183, or [paul@bblap.org.au](mailto:paul@bblap.org.au), to register your interest and we will then send information directly out to you as it becomes available

## Weed Training for Volunteers

IN PARTNERSHIP with the Department for Water Land & Biodiversity Conservation (DWLBC), SA Murray Darling Basin NRM Board and other Riverland LAP Committees, a project has been developed to educate volunteers and landholders about weed identification, control and mapping.

This is a three year, \$350,000 project which will train people how to identify existing and new and emerging weed species, how to easily map infestations using

simple hand held electronic databases, and what methods can be used to control the weed species they find.

The idea of this project is to aim the training at volunteers who have a specific interest in managing their own particular area they are passionate about (eg wetlands and wetland groups, national parks, around Lake Bonney etc)

At this stage, SAMRIC (South Australian MDB Resource Information Centre) have been contracted to set

up the electronic database, PIRSA Rural Solutions are developing the operational plan and reporting framework, and Conservation Volunteers Australia are developing the training package.

More information will be available in the next couple of months, but if you are interested in being involved in FREE ACCREDITED TRAINING, which may also include chemcert, please feel free to contact your local LAP office.

### Refilling of Big Mussel Lagoons



## Wetlands update

AS I reported back in February, Mussel Lagoons, Beldora Lagoon and Overland Corner wetlands have received environmental allocations of water, to help maintain the ecological significance of these sites.

At the time of writing this in early May, Beldora Lagoon is full, Mussel Lagoons are filling and pumping

will commence at Overland Corner in mid-May.

We have also recently received funding to replace carp screens at a number of wetlands, which have corroded over the years.

These new screens will be built according to the recommendations

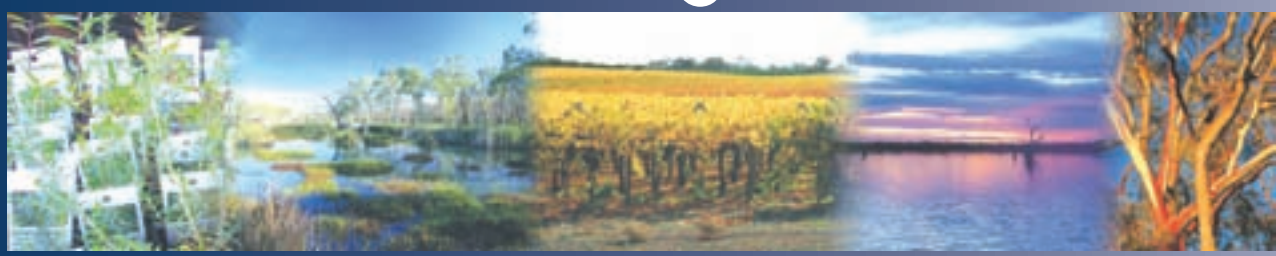
of the latest research which best facilitates the movement of small native fish whilst excluding adult carp from the wetlands.

The new screens should be installed by the end of June and I'll report on the finished work in our next update in August.

# Berri Barmera Local Action Planning Committee



Phone 8582 2183  
Fax 8582 2495  
Email:  
[enquiries@bblap.org.au](mailto:enquiries@bblap.org.au)





■ Refilling of Beldora Lagoon

# Tell your stories to help promote the River

CONSERVATION SA, as part of its Murray campaign is putting together a book of hand-written Murray River memories and messages. They will be presenting the finished product, *Our River*, to Premier Rann (and possibly to polities further upstream).

This is part of Conservation SA's advocacy work pushing the State Government to commit to buying permanent water entitlements of

150 gigalitres to ensure the health of the Murray, Lower Lakes and Coorong until such time as the Murray Darling Basin Plan starts really solving the river system's problems.

To create *Our River*, Conservation SA is asking people to use the template from the website provided to write or draw a message expressing how they feel about the Murray, Lower Lakes and Coorong.

The premise is that the Murray is

part of the South Australian soul and weaves its way through the lives and memories of so many of us.

We want the people, through *Our River*, to remind the government just how precious the river system is to us South Aussie folk.

Conservation SA wants the book to be as diverse and representative as possible, and we encourage people to write whatever they want, be it a political message, a story from their

memory, a poem or a picture.

Download your template from [www.conservation.sa.gov.au/ourriver.html](http://www.conservation.sa.gov.au/ourriver.html).

Completed templates can be sent to:

**Julie Marron, Fundraising Coordinator**  
Conservation Council of South Australia  
Level 1, 157 Franklin Street  
ADELAIDE, SA 5000.



■ LEARNING: Barmera Primary School students enjoying their day at the Environmental Expo

## Barmera Primary School Environmental Expo 2010

TWO classes from Barmera Primary School are holding an Environmental Expo again this year at the Riverland Exhibition Centre site on Friday June 4 from 9:30am until 3pm.

This is the third time such an event has been staged and the second time at the field day site.

The past events have been extremely successful and this one will once more showcase how worthwhile such an experience can impact on students' social and educational development.

Groups of students have selected a broader range of environmental topics and have researched information about them.

Year 9 Glossop High school students have also joined us as mentors for each of the student groups.

These groups are developing workshops and displays and will be presenting them at the expo.

Other Riverland schools have also been invited to present workshops,

displays and/or participate in the workshops during the day.

There will be a number of environmental organisations with displays and information about themselves for the general public to view. Some will also be running workshops for students to participate in.

Students enjoy showing other students what they have researched.



Once again the River Exhibition will be on show.

This amazing display is a 28 metre long, colourful silk collage that illustrates the history and folklore of the Murray. It has questions and

statements under lift up flaps and will wind itself through the centre of the pavilion.

The students enjoy showing other students what they have researched and using environmental displays will be a good way to involve students and the wider community.

The expo will showcase that the students of Barmera Primary School, Glossop High School mentoring students and the other Riverland schools involved, care about their environment and community and are keen to share their information for others to learn ideas in order to help the local area become environmentally sustainable.

We would like to invite the public along on the day to have a look at what has been achieved and perhaps even participate in some of the activities.

For further information please contact Glenys or Darrin at Barmera Primary School on 8588 2198.

## Riverland NRM group adopts 2010 business plan

KEN Stokes, SAMDB NRM Riverland Group Chairman has recently advised that the group has a new business plan for 2010.

The group which represents the 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 NRM Board. As we all know LAP's across the Riverland implement a number of initiatives fund-

ed 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 LAP's on a regular basis.

Mr Stokes and Berri Barmera Local Action Planning 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 board's operations team in developing and implementing the 2010 operations plan which addresses pest plant and animal issues across the Riverland and is currently participating in a steering committee with LAP officers to develop a

community education program that will help landholders deal with problems on their land.

The Riverland group meets on the fourth 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 board's Wade Street office or by phoning 8582 4477.

Supported by the Australian Government's Caring for our Country and the South Australian Murray Darling Basin NRM Board.



CARING FOR OUR COUNTRY



*Working with the community to support the local environment*