



LBLAP news

Loxton to Bookpurnong Local Action Planning Committee Inc

Winter 2011

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New Tax Deductible Fund

We've just been advised that our application for entry to the *Register of Environmental Organisations* has finally been approved.

Our Project Manager started the ball rolling on this process about two and a half years ago, so we've been waiting a while.

Associated with entry

on that Register, is tax deductibility status or 'deductible gift recipient' (DGR) status. This means that gifts made to the LAP's new Tax Deductible Fund are tax deductible (subject to the usual conditions).

However, and perhaps more importantly, DGR status also opens up new sources of funding where the funding

bodies require that any applicant must have DGR status.

At a time when our access to core operational funding is being squeezed, the opportunity to access new sources of funding might be a life saver.

3 Small Volunteer Grant Applications Successful *Cont pg 5*

LBLAP, on behalf of two of the community groups it works closely with, has been successful in winning some funds (\$1,000 in each case) from the recently announced SA MDB NRM Volunteer Small Grants.

Bookpurnong Lock 4

Environmental Association will use their funds to purchase a sighting scope to better able them to monitor birdlife on the Ajax Achilles Wetland.

The Yatco Wetland Landcare Group have \$1,000 to put towards a salinity monitor to

enable them to monitor more accurately, the state of the waters within the wetland.

In the case of the sighting scope, the funds will have to be supplemented by LAP funds to around \$1,400 and with the salinity meter, around \$1,000.



Aquaponics Project – SA Govt NRM Funding

Aquaponics -

A viable option for Riverland horticulturalists?

LBLAP recently won \$15,400 funding via the SA Govt NRM Grants, to provide Aquaponics Training to interested persons in the Riverland.

Aquaponics is a blending together of aquaculture and hydroponics, with one system being complementary to the other. *The water contaminated by fish waste that would be “dumped” in a conventional aquaculture system, is used as fertilizer for the hydroponics, when the two systems are operated side by side.*

Our Land & Water Management Planning Groups (Pyap to Kingston and Bookpurnong Lock 4) have often asked what other commodities might be viable in the Riverland, given that wines and

citrus have been in an economic slump for some time.

Aquaponics appears to offer some potential, given the Riverland’s available land with access to reasonable quality water. Particularly when you take into account the fruitblocks that have been cleared in recent years.

The project that has been funded, involves 2 bus trips to tour actual production sites (*aquaculture and hydroponic*). It will also entail 2 highly concentrated Training Days in the Riverland.

One bus tour to Virginia/Two Wells has already been undertaken, as well as both of the Training Days.

The tour was escorted by, and the training delivered by, Andrew Dezsery. Andrew has years of experience in the fields of aquaculture and hydroponics and has been keen to get people involved in the Aquaponics system for some time.

The response from the participants so far, has been outstanding. They are all convinced of the advantages of the Aquaponics system and have been highly complementary of the delivery by Andrew of the training. That’s a big complement to Andrew, as the Training Days started at 8:00am and finished at 5:00pm. It’s a long day.



The bus group gets the lowdown on a brand new hydroponic installation at Virginia



Things are looking up—Inside a hydroponic tomato production facility

Late News on Volunteer Small Grants *Cont from pg 1*

LBLAP has also been successful in winning a further \$750 from the recently announced SA MDB NRM Volunteer Small Grants.

These funds will be used to fit out the existing

“Loxton Community Dining” with new life jackets.

Almost missed the Press with this one, as the Editor mistakenly redirected the Successful Appl'n Notification.



Almost missed the print deadline with this one

Millipedes arrive at Loxton North

Well, it had to happen. Portuguese Millipedes have finally arrived in our neck of the woods.

They have apparently been active for some time in the area bounded by Bookpurnong Road, Alamein Avenue, French Road and Balfour Ogilvy.

After considerable research by LBLAP Committee Member, John

Kelly (*who lives in the problem area*), some strategies to better manage the pests were uncovered.

Information Sheets were printed off by the LBLAP Office and hand delivered to households within the problem area. *At this time it was discovered that the pests have started to branch out beyond the*

roads earlier thought to be the pest's boundaries.

Anyone who has lived with these pests (*the Editor did so when living south of Adelaide*) is well aware of what a nuisance they are.

That Information Sheet is enclosed with this newsletter if you'd like to distribute it to anyone who may be interested.

Strategies available to better manage Millipedes

CropMate plots crop course

Grain growers and advisers throughout Victoria, NSW, South Australia and Queensland have a new weather and climate-information tool. The tool is used for crop-management decisions.

CropMate is an interactive internet site designed to provide farmers, advisers and agronomists with timely and accurate meteorological, seasonal and agronomic information.

The website has been developed by Industry and Investment NSW, using data from the Bureau of Meteorology and the Queensland Climate Change Centre of Excellence.

Users can access the site at www.cropmate.agriculture.nsw.gov.au

I&I NSW Agricultural Research and Advisory Station's Graeme McIntosh, based at Dareton, said CropMate allowed users to integrate climate data into manage-

ment decisions.

"CropMate is an easy-to-use site that collates climate, weather, soil, crop and individual farm data for a particular locality," Mr McIntosh said.

Mr McIntosh said the system was specific to growers' locations, paddock status and crops planted.

The five sections of the program include:

PRE-SEASON planning, which analyses average temperature, rainfall and evaporation, and provides seasonal forecasts on climate influences, such as the Southern Oscillation Index.

SOWING pages, which have recent data on rainfall and temperature, forecasts and synoptic charts to help growers choose crop varieties.

SPRAYING pages, which detail rainfall, wind, temperature and Delta-T conditions,

plus a prediction on rust outbreaks.

TRACKING the season pages, which provide information such as cumulative data on rainfall, decision tools for nitrogen application and a calculator for determining whether to cut crops for hay or grow for grain. HARVEST pages, which include weather observations and forecasts.

GRDC Southern Regional Panel chairman David Shannon said CropMate would assist growers in managing risk.

"In these times of climate uncertainty, any means of reducing the guesswork associated with cropping will be of enormous benefit to grain growers," Mr Shannon said. CropMate was funded by the Grains Research and Development Corporation.

Peter Hemphill March 10, 2011 Weekly Times

A tool for all Riverland farmers, including irrigators?



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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

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- ◆ SA MDB NRM Board
- ◆ SA MDB NRM Riverland Group
- ◆ Australian Government
- ◆ Department Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
- ◆ South Australian Government
- ◆ Dept for 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