

Renmark to the Border Local Action Planning Association Environmental Education Award

What Is the Renmark to the Border Local Action Planning Association?

The Renmark LAP is one of eleven local action planning groups that are working to address River Murray issues from a local perspective in South Australia. The LAP process was initiated by the Murray-Darling Basin Commission in 1995 and it enables the local community to determine priorities for action to address Natural Resource Management (NRM) issues in the Murray-Darling Basin. The Renmark to the Border LAP focuses their activities within the four main NRM fields, namely:

- Land and Water Management Planning
- Wetland and floodplain restoration
- Biodiversity and habitat restoration
- Community capacity building.

In 1996 the first Renmark to the Border LAP Steering Committee was formed. Today the Renmark to the Border LAP committee consists of up to 12 members, representing a very broad cross section of the community. The area covered by this committee incorporates the District Council of Renmark Paringa south of the River Murray and extends to Wentworth Road north of the River Murray and comprises of approximately 170,500 hectares. The area is recognised as a premier horticultural area and includes extensive areas of irrigated horticulture as well as dry land farming, some livestock grazing and remnant Mallee areas. Like all other major Riverland areas, we also benefit from significant tourism activities, especially in summer when River activities are at their peak.

Current membership of the RBLAP Steering Committee:

Stuart Martin
Peter Teakle
Phil Reddy

Bruce Hewett
Renee Fielke
Caren Martin

John Rover
Teresa ter Bogt

Mark Stoeckel
Caroly Du Rieu



Mission Statement

The Renmark to the Border Local Action Planning Association's mission is:

“To enable the community to take responsibility for the management of its own natural resources to achieve long term, sustainable economic, social, cultural and environmental benefits.”

Objectives...

To help the Association achieve this mission, the committee has established a number of broad objectives:

1. Minimise impacts of salt on the environment
2. Improve water quality
3. Maximise opportunities to improve floodplain and wetland health
4. Improve habitat for native flora and fauna
5. Minimise any adverse effects of recreational activities
6. Maximise productivity per ML of water used
7. Promote efficient irrigation supply and drainage discharge systems
8. Encourage an educated community to apply best management practices
9. Integrate planning outcomes to maximise opportunities for sustainable low impact development
10. Maximise opportunities for investment with the LAP region
11. Promote awareness of natural resource management issues within the community
12. Recognise the needs of all cultures in the resolution of issues

Future Direction...

Some of the projects that the LAP will be looking towards in the future will include:

- Lobbying of government departments for further research into accurate crop factors.
- Further research into the rate of drainage that occurs under irrigated crops.
- Engaging local students to propagate local native trees from seed.
- Targeting larger scale corridor revegetation in high salinity impact zones.
- Seeking funding for the construction of a box culvert within Margaret Dowling Reserve to allow for better flow into an area of red gums affected by salinity.
- Researching best methods for reed control in waterways. The LAP has already secured funds for this project and the on-ground field work has begun.
- Developing and implementing wetland management plans in the Renmark LAP area.
- Erecting signs explaining the Renmark LAP at the entrance points to our LAP area.
- Improving access to fishing spots by providing disabled access.
- Applying for grants from Rural, Regional Renewal and Country Arts SA funding schemes for the development, design and erection of interpretative signs at local tourist spots within our LAP area (e.g. boat ramps and locks).
- Strengthening the already existing partnerships between the LAP, Australian Landscape Trust (Calperum Station) and the McCormick Centre for the Environment to help develop a plan for better usage of the McCormick Centre building and make it a place to showcase local community groups that are achieving on-ground actions in NRM.
- Developing another section of the Murray Valley Trail with the Renmark High School Society & Environment and Technology classes.

About the Award

The award was an idea developed by the Steering Committee to encourage local high school students to complete further study within the environmental field at a tertiary institution (be it University, TAFE or other). It is hoped that these students may decide to return to the Riverland and utilise their recently acquired skills within the NRM field.

What the Award Offers

The RBLAP Environmental Award offers cash payment of \$1,500 per semester of study upon successful completion of each semester. The Award will be granted for a maximum of three years and will be subject to annual review (the RBLAP reserves the right to discontinue funding if it feels a student is not complying with the guidelines).

Application Instructions

Eligibility

To be eligible you must ordinarily reside within the boundaries covered by the Renmark to the Border LAP (these are also the boundaries of the District Council of Renmark Paringa). This means that students who have completed their education in the area, or those who moved to other areas to complete their schooling and their parents still live in the area, are both eligible.

The application

In no more than two pages please provide answers to the following questions.

- What is the full name of the nominated course and tertiary institution you have been accepted into? What is the duration of the course?
- Why do you want to complete further studies relating to the environment or natural resources fields?
- What do you hope to achieve by completing this course and where do you see yourself in the future?
- What do you see as becoming important environmental/natural resource issues over the next 10 years?
- Anything else you would like to include adding weight to your application?

What we require of you

We require evidence of your successful completion of each semester's subjects (e.g. copies of your statement of results) and a short report (either oral or written) at the end of each year to the RBLAP Committee on the subjects you have been undertaking. These requirements are reasonably flexible depending on the format of your course. A program detailing due dates for submission of results and reports is to be decided with the Project Manager by 30th June in the funding year.

Closing Date - Friday 15th February 2008



For further information please contact:

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