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**CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS**

In this issue we bring you up to date on what's happening in YOUR Pike River region. Please take an interest as you all have much to gain.

You have a great committee representing your views and they give up lots of their time to make sure that we all have a future.

The committee meet the first Tuesday of every month, and a list of committee members is included in this newsletter – When you see these people out and about ask them about the Pike. Also give them thanks for they are making this river better for you all.

A Salt Interception Scheme was first discussed over 10 years ago. Many in the community have long ago dismissed this as simply a pipe dream or another broken Government promise. All would be aware of the many millions of dollars spent over this time producing report after report. Latest advice is that no further investigations are needed and the SIS group in the Government are now proceeding to finalise concept designs in preparation of an approval submission. What this means is that the approval of a SIS is possible and that a decision may come well within a year. Just hold your breath a little longer.

Earlier this year a group of interested parties met to put forwards their ideas for the development of a tourism plan for the Pike. Some of the ideas put forward were canoe tours and ecotourism cruises along the river, bushwalking tracks and backwater tours. These ideas are to be incorporated into the implementation of the Land and Water Management plan however funding for some ideas is being perused. Generally speaking we expect a far better result if the ideas are presented in due course as a total Pike package rather than ad hoc.

**Bruce Hewitt**



## PIKE IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Frances Simes has been appointed as the new Project Coordinator of the Pike Implementation Plan (PIP). Frances has been employed by the Department of Water Land and Biodiversity Conservation for the period of 1 year and will be based in Berri.

She is currently a SA MDB NRM Board member, SA NRM Volunteer committee member, Local Councillor with Loxton/Waikerie Council and a committee member of the Riverland West Local Action Planning.

Key points of her position will include:

- Pulling together all three priority areas.
- Making sure that the PIP is looked at as a whole project with regard to Natural Resource Management not just looking at individual/isolated areas.
- Ensuring that all stakeholders are included in the PIP planning.
- Identifying a communication strategy with all groups.
- Ensuring that PIP information is available and easily excisable to all concerned.
- Ensuring that all timelines and outcomes are met.
- Timeline for the project to be completed is July 2008

Frances can be contacted on [8595 2223](tel:85952223) (this number will divert to her mobile if she is out of the office) or Email [simes.frances@saugov.sa.gov.au](mailto:simes.frances@saugov.sa.gov.au)

**Floodplain** investigations are near completion, Community involvement is wanted as the group finalising plans is top heavy with academics and bureaucrats. Whilst this group is doing a splendid job local knowledge is very important.

**Water delivery** options are on the table. In the formation of the LWMP the community made it clear that they would not entertain any closure of the Pike. You may remember that word was around that the Pike could be closed with everyone getting water delivered by pipeline. Thankfully the community views were heard and the recreational value of the Pike will be preserved for boating, fishing hunting etc. However your committee believes that we need to consider all options for water delivery – whether it be a pipeline or simply better channels. Consultants will shortly to begin a series of community consultations where all ideas on how to best deliver water will be considered. Please keep a look out for meeting times next month.

## IRRIGATION RECORDING EVALUATION SYSTEM (IRES)

Most irrigators have heard of the Irrigation Recording and Evaluation System (IRES) but not enough are participating in the program.

Your committee encourages best practise irrigation. If we can show that we are the best irrigators then our message is listened to. We need to make sure that the Government keeps listening to us – not only in irrigation matters but all issues affecting the Pike.

We need you to participate. If you have previously participated in the IRES please keep your records so that district irrigation efficiency can be calculated. If you have not participated before, all that we need you to do is to keep a record of when the pump goes on and when it goes off. Also write down what you watered. Later this year we will get this info and put it into a computer program for you. It is not hard but if you just do that you will go a long way to helping this community.

## WEATHER DATA WORKSHOP

With the South Australian Murray Darling Basin Natural Recourse Management Board setting up a regional Weather Station Network, the Improving Irrigation Efficiency project has developed a new training workshop, "Weather Data Interpretation Workshop"

Topics included in the workshop will include:

- Generating Climatic Data
- Sensor Specifications
- Assessing Data Using The Internet
- Deriver Data Definitions
- Irrigation Management

### Workshops still to be run

<i>Lap District</i>	<i>Workshop Type</i>	<i>District</i>	<i>Date</i>
Renmark to Border	Weather Data Interpretation	Paringa	14/9/2007
Berri	Weather Data Interpretation	Berri	25/9/2007
Riverland West	Weather Data Interpretation	Waikerie	26/9/2007

If you would like to register for one of the following workshops or would like some more information then contact Noel Johnston - Improving Irrigation Efficiency Project on 85 824477 or Jayme Peltz at the Renmark to Border LAP on 85 864346

## CONSUMPTION TRACKER

The South Australian Murray Darling Basin Natural Recourse Management Board has constructed a spreadsheet to assist you in plotting your meter readings for the remainder of the 2007/2008 water use year. The spreadsheet requires Microsoft Excel to operate and can be downloaded from the link below

<http://www.samdbnrm.sa.gov.au/BoardProjects/IrrigationManagement/ConsumptionTracker.aspx>

The Tracker will also allow you to enter up to 3 meters readings for the last two years. These are automatically plotted as comparisons along side your actual readings for this year. This will allow you to answer the question, if I did what I had done over the last two years, where will that leave me in relation to my restricted allocation.

Once this information has been inputted into the spreadsheet the tracker will automatically put all this information into a graph so you are able to visually see where you are heading with your irrigations against your allocation and your previous years meters readings.

## IRRIGATION INFORMATION TOUR

The Renmark to Border LAP will once again be holding an irrigation information tour this year. The tour will be heading to Mildura and then on to Swan Hill and will be held on the 11th and 12th of October. For more information about the tour contact Jayme at the LAP.

# RABBIT CONTROL PROGRAM



BLOWING RABBIT WARRENS



D9 RIPPING WARRENS

The Animal Plant Control Authorized Officers from the Natural Recourse Management Board have run a rabbit control program from Pike River Conservation Park around past Simarloo.

The project consisted of

- GPS of all warrens
- 120km of trail run, consisting of 3 free feeds of oats per run these feeds were done 3 to 4 days apart in January.
- Poison trail run consisting of 1 Kilo of Oats to 10mm of 1080, 4 days after the free feeds were run
- In February ripping and cross ripping warrens at about 900mm deep with a D9 Bulldozer and Mini Excavator over a 3 month period
- Approx 350 warrens that were dug into the cliff face and not assessable by the D9 or Mini Excavator were blown using explosives.
- There was a success rate of 98% in the eradication of rabbits

Authorized Officers will be conducting a follow up program in September and October with fumigation and blasting to eradicate the remaining 2% of rabbits who have escaped there clutches.

The Officers will also be branching out into new areas reaching down into Lyrup and along the upper Pike into Paringa.

The project will again start of with the GPS of all warrens in these areas in the coming months.

With the laying of trails to start early next year.

Its also a great time for fox baiting with the breeding season underway, its very important to be baiting this time of year to interrupt there breeding cycle.

For further information regarding the project contact and fox baiting

Adam Gleeson  
 Authorised Officer  
 SA MDB NRM Board  
 0427 236 726



**LAP CONTACT DETAILS**

**PROJECT OFFICER**

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