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Natural Resources
SA Murray-Darling Basin



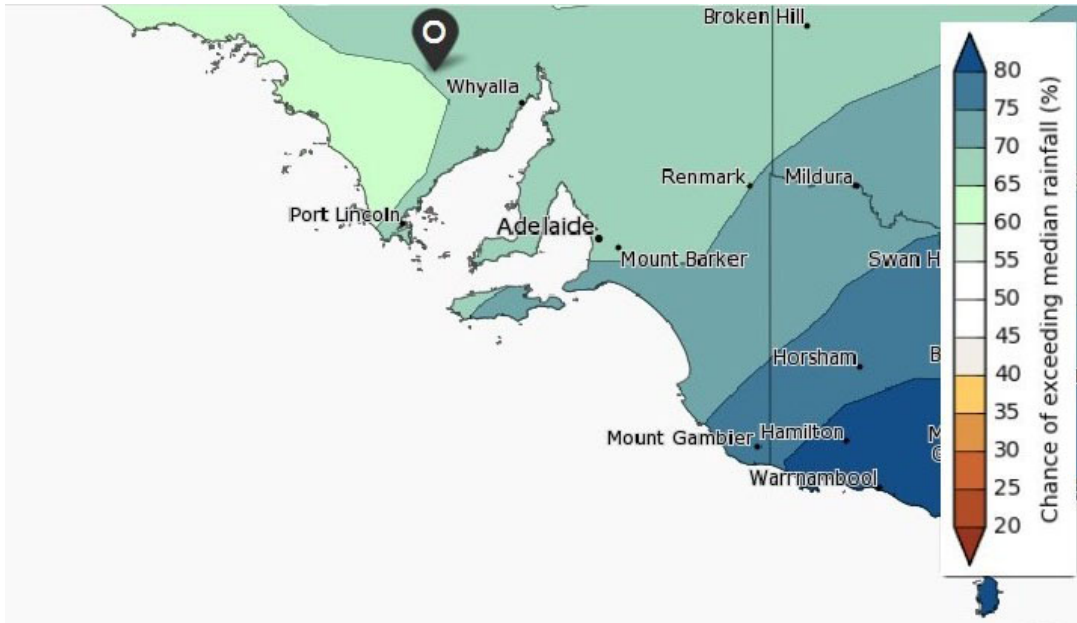
Regional Landcare Facilitator News

News and upcoming events in Landcare in the SA Murray Darling-Basin Region



Welcome to the October 2016 edition

[Back to the top](#)



Rainfall – the chance of above median for October to December (Image credit: <http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks>)

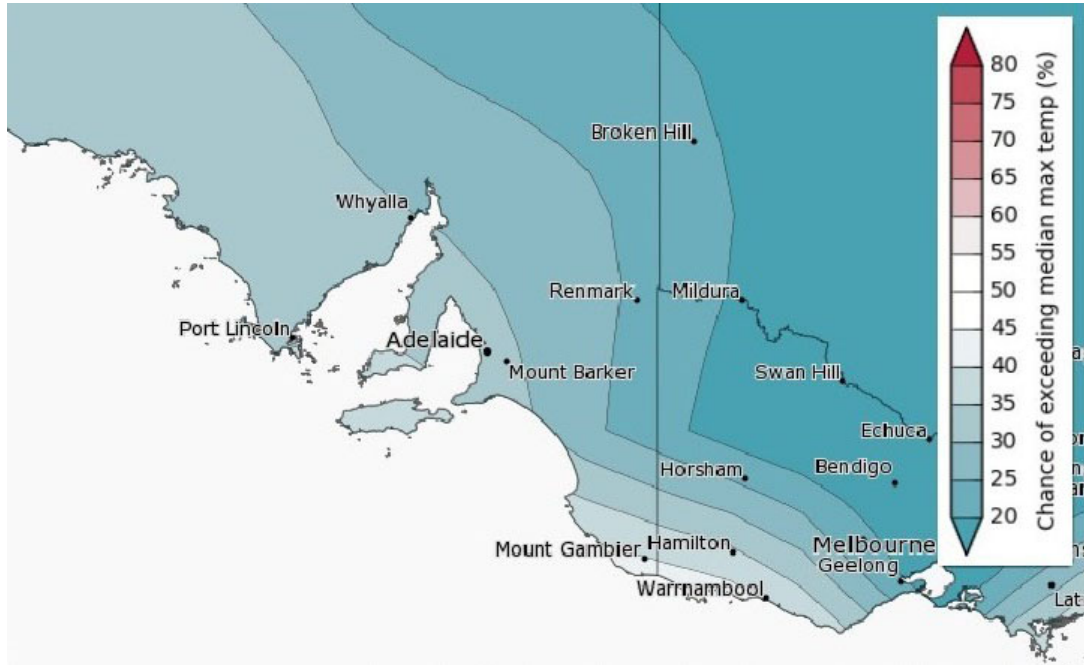
Bureau of Meteorology: Wet likely to continue

The following information has been sourced from the Bureau of Meteorology "[Climate outlooks – monthly and seasonal](#)" issued on 29 September 2016.

October rainfall is likely to be above average across northern and eastern Australia with strongest chances over Victoria, Tasmania and southern NSW. October to December rainfall is also likely to be wetter than average for much of the country, except in the northeast and southwest where the chances of a wetter or drier

than average three months are roughly equal. The historical outlook accuracy for October to December is moderate to high over most of Australia. Please see the map above for indications of above median rainfall for October to December in your district.

[Back to the top](#)



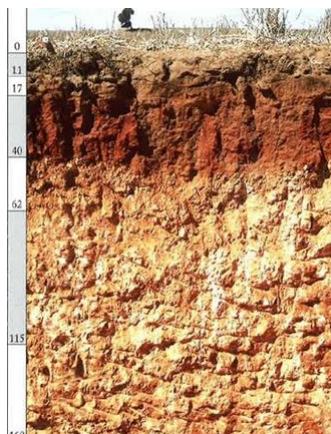
Indications of above median maximum temperature for October to December
 (Image credit: <http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks>)

Cooler season likely for most of Australia

October to December days are likely to be cooler than average for most of Australia. In the northern tropics, western WA and Tasmania, daytime temperatures are likely to be warmer than average.

Overnight temperatures show a similar pattern to the daytime temperatures: cooler than average except in the northern tropics, parts of western WA and Tasmania where nights are likely to be warmer than average. Please see the map above for indications of above median maximum temperature for October to December in your district.

[Back to the top](#)



Soil of the month: northern Murray Mallee hard loamy sand over red clay

Production

Hard loamy sand over red clay soil types cover over 41,000 ha of South Australia. Considered to hold moderate agricultural potential, this soil type is often associated with grazing for livestock and dryland cereal production within areas of the northern Murray Mallee region. Mallee ecosystems are commonly associated with this soil type (eucalypt trees and tussocky spinifex grass).

Nutrition

The sandy loam topsoils are naturally low in organic carbon and as such have a poor capacity to retain and supply nutrients to crops and pastures. The capacity of the soil to provide fertility is somewhat increased by the high clay content within the sub soils.

Management

The sandy topsoils leave this soil type susceptible to wind erosion. During wind events, pasture, native vegetation and stubble can act to hold the topsoil and minimise the effect of wind erosion. Ground cover can insulate the soil from high temperatures and solar radiation during the summer months.

The clay sub soil increases the potential for waterlogging during wet seasons. If left bare during periods of rain, salts can accumulate in low lying areas of the paddocks. Soil cover will help prevent the onset of salinity.

Image: Hard loamy sand over red clay. Image credit: James Hall

Acknowledgement

The above soil profile information has been compiled drawing on information from *The Soils of Southern South Australia Volume 1* (James Hall, David Maschedt and Bruce Billing).

[Back to the top](#)



National Landcare Awards and Conference celebrates outstanding Landcare champions

The National Landcare Awards gala dinner on 22 September celebrated award winners from diverse categories, including sustainable farm practices, Coastcare, young Landcare leader, and Indigenous land management. Western Australia dominated the night, sweeping the awards with six wins, including the coveted People's Choice Award which went to Southampton Homestead in WA's Balingup.

Southampton Farm run by Jeff Pow and Michelle McManus received the most votes from the Australian public in an online poll.

Southampton Farm's philosophy recognizes "it's all alive, it's all intelligent, and it's all connected". The farm grows pasture-raised poultry and a small dairy herd using holistic management principles – a practice based on managed grazing to mimic the behavior of wild herbivores and birds in grassland ecosystems. They have used this system to completely regenerate a degraded farm in the South West of WA – firstly after pine plantations were cleared in 2006 and again after a devastating fire in 2013.

Jeff Pow and Michelle McManus are part of a leading trend in farming – "bringing the terms of trade back onto the farm" – taking responsibility for the growing and the processing of all food on the farm in their micro-abattoir, and selling their produce directly to the community.

To read more about Southampton Farm [click here](#)

For more information and full list of National Landcare Award winners [click here](#)

[Back to the top](#)



Soil sampling at the Lameroo trial Site May 2016

Can spading header rows help to control ryegrass in the southern Mallee

If not managed well, annual ryegrass control can lead to increased herbicide costs, herbicide resistance, soil carbon loss through windrow burning or contaminated crops. From every angle, control of this weed can be expensive business. Annual ryegrass is a serious weed in cropping situations as it is highly competitive but annual ryegrass seed is less likely to germinate when buried deep within the soil profile. With this in mind Natural Resources SA Murray-Darling Basin, in partnership with Lameroo Agriculture Bureau and Insight Extension for Agriculture, are asking the question: ***'Could spading be a viable non-herbicide control option for ryegrass control?'***

To investigate this theory we have established a paddock scale trial looking at the impact of burying ryegrass seed deeper in the soil profile by spading header rows.

So far results of the trial are promising. Areas that have been spaded to turn ryegrass deep under the soil are showing a 75-87% reduction in ryegrass numbers in highly contaminated ryegrass paddocks. Shifting header rows across the paddock each year should enable the entire paddock to be treated over a three year period. Spading is showing potential to greatly reduce grass weeds (non-chemically) as well as improve the productivity of sandy soils.

The impact of spading is being compared in full spaded paddocks versus header row only for a number of other issues including nitrogen tie up, rhizoctonia, and soil erosion.

If you have investigated this on your own property or have any comments on the practice, please help us add to this story by contacting Eliza Rieger on eliza.rieger@sa.gov.au or 0408 416 684.

[Back to the top](#)



Melissa Connors and Noel Jenner have formed a friendship after three years of waving hello to each other.
(Image credit: ABC Central Victoria: Larissa Romensky)

Community project recruits retired farmers to help tree changers on the land

The following article was written by Larissa Romensky of [ABC Central Victoria](#). Posted 10 Aug 2016

When Melissa Connors and her family moved to their four hectare property in Kyneton four years ago, they did not know much about hobby farming.

Having previously come from a small block in the outer suburbs of Melbourne, they needed a different set of skills to tackle livestock, fencing and water management.

"We did things backwards. We put six black Angus steers on it before even looking at the fences. We'd come out and they'd be on the road," Ms Connors said.

"We just found ourselves on a really steep learning curve."

After meeting and befriending local retired farmer Noel Jenner, the idea for a community project *This Farmer Needs a Farm* was born.

"It's about creating a platform for tree changers, like myself and my family, who have moved to our plots of land and know absolutely nothing about working them; getting our retired farmers to share their knowledge and build our farms into what we want them to be," Ms Connors said.

She said the farmers could be involved as much as they wanted, taking the form of a one-on-one partnership or within a group, depending upon the different needs of the community.

"The bottom line is, it's getting this knowledge out of these guys' and women's heads," Ms Connors said.

She said the project was trying to tap into an existing knowledge base by creating connections and encouraging people to talk.

"Rather than sitting behind your computer screens to find the answers," Ms Connors said

To read the full article [click here](#)

[Back to the top](#)



What's on in the region?

Click on the links below for more information about these upcoming events.

October

27 - Murray Bridge, [Let's talk about trails \(RCMB\)](#)

28-30 - Cairns, [National Biological Farming Conference](#)

30 - Adelaide, [Treasure Hunt for Nature](#)

November

6 - Murray Bridge, [Kinchina Park Celebration Day](#)

For a listing of other events in the region visit the events page on our website [click here](#)

[Back to the top](#)



SA Murray-Darling Basin Farmers Markets

Adelaide Hills Farmers Market

Where: 23 Mann Street, Mount Barker

When: 8:30am to 12:30pm every Saturday

Goolwa Wharf Markets

Where: Goolwa Wharf, Goolwa

When: First and third Sunday of every month 9:00am to 3:30pm

Mount Compass Produce and Craft Market

Where: Wetland car park Sam Court, Mount Compass

When: Markets are held on the 1st Saturday of January, February, March, April, October, November and December

Murray Bridge Farmers Markets

Where: The corner of Seventh Street and Mary Terrace, Murray Bridge

When: Every Saturday 8:00am to 12:00pm

The Riverland Farmers Markets

Where: Berri Senior Citizens Hall, Crawford Terrace

When: 7:30am to 11:30am every Saturday

Strathalbyn Farmers Markets

Where: On South Terrace near the Old Strath Railway

When: Every 3rd Sunday of the Month

[Back to the top](#)

The [Regional Landcare Facilitator Program](#) is supported through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Programme.

Natural Resources SA Murray-Darling Basin hosts Eliza Reiger the Regional Landcare Facilitator, who can be contacted at eliza.rieger@sa.gov.au or on 0408 416 684.

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