

Algae control draft at Hay presentation

A HAY presentation of the Murray-Darling Basin Ministerial Council Draft Algal Management Strategy has been arranged for October 25.

Purpose of the presentation is to inform the community about the nature and causes of the algal bloom problems in the Murray-Darling Basin and the substance of the draft strategy for algal management.

It will take place at

the Hay Services Club, starting at 10.30am.

Murrumbidgee Catchment Committee chairman Ron Harris said the strategy aimed to reduce the frequency and intensity of algal blooms, and other water quality problems associated with nutrient pollution in the Basin.

The presentations will also provide opportunity for the community to comment on the draft strategy and suggest changes if necessary.

"The problem of algal

blooms, particularly the toxic blue-green type of algae which choked the Darling River in 1991, has become a major issue on the agenda of the ministerial council," Mr Harris said.

"The key to the strategy as developed by the ministerial council is to implement a total catchment approach to solving the algal problem in the long term.

"A combination of flow management measures and better management of nutrient-rich effluent from

urban and agricultural sources has also been highlighted in the strategy."

Mr Harris said the ministerial council was now seeking comments from the community to its draft strategy.

The period of consultation will run until the end of this month and any comment received will be considered in preparation of the final strategy to be released early next year.

Comments to the strategy should be referred to the Murray-Darling Basin Commission, GPO Box 409, Canberra, ACT, 2601.

The Draft Algal Management Strategy is available from Department of Water Resources offices.

'Bidgee flood peak biggest this year

THE largest flood peak in the Murrumbidgee this year is progressing down the river.

This follows widespread rainfall over the Murrumbidgee Valley recently.

The Murrumbidgee peaked at Gundagai at 8.60m — major flood level — on October 5.

Minor to moderate flooding was extending along the river last week, with 6.50m predicted at Darlington Point next Saturday with minor flooding.

The rainfall, combined with the wet catchment conditions, produced major tributary inflows above and below both the Burrinjuck and Blowering dams.

Inflows to Burrinjuck peaked at 73,000ML a day on October 4, while Blowering received 153,546ML of inflow during the week, four times as much as the previous week.

Blowering is currently at 91 percent capacity, which is three percent over irrigation full supply, and has been discharging minimum flows of 300ML a day since October 3.

As a result Blowering Dam will again begin pre-releases as soon as the floodwaters recede.

Because of this latest rainfall, a return to allocation in the Murrumbidgee River will not occur for at least two weeks.

The Murrumbidgee at Hay Weir peaked at 8.33m (30,300ML a day) on October 5.

As a result overbank flow is currently being experienced through much of the Lowbidgee area.

Diversions to the Lowbidgee floodplain were minimal due to the overbank flows.

Off allocation water and overbank flows will continue for the Lowbidgee for at least the next month.

Japan ready to import rice

MARKET prospects for Australian rice have increased significantly since Japan announced it would need to import one million tonnes of rice.

A severe production downfall brought on by a cool growing season and a series of typhoons through key rice-producing areas has been estimated by Japanese officials to have left that country short of its production target for processing, table and security stock requirements for the coming year.

Ricegrowers' Co-operative Limited general manager Jim Kennedy said the announcement by Japan that it would approach Thailand, China, South Korea, Australia and the United States for emergency imports to make up the shortfall would revive an otherwise flat market.

"The co-operative believes Australia will have the opportunity to supply medium grain rice for table consumption and some processing applications.

"Reports from Japan indicate that 200,000 tonnes of a total 400,000 tonnes of long grain rice for processing will be imported from Asian countries by the end of this year.

"Stage two of the program will require further imports for processing and table rice consumption during the first quarter of 1994," Mr Kennedy said.

Although no sales have yet been made, Mr Kennedy said he was confident that the co-operative would provide a component of the Japanese requirement.

The main shipments would coincide with harvest of the 1994 Australian rice crop which would provide fresh new season's rice.

"Already, depressed prices in overseas rice markets, caused by world

over-supply and application of US Export Enhancement Program subsidies have begun to show signs of improvement.

"Rice suppliers are reconsidering their marketing strategies in the light of the Japanese requirement.

"This promises further improved prospects for Australia if subsidising and high volume countries divert stocks away from the co-operative's traditional markets."

Mr Kennedy said the development should also remove the rationale for the export subsidies and thus improve prospects for a satisfactory resolution of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade round.

Recent meetings of the co-operative's directors, the Rice Marketing Board and the Ricegrowers' Association central executive established a need for adjustments to the market signal scheme.

"Individual farm allocations will be increased for the 1994 crop to the base area already advised.

"In the original scheme this base area had been reduced by 15 percent.

"The same increase in allocation will apply to newer farms."

He said the \$60 market differential that was to apply under the scheme to each tonne from excess areas for each farm had been reduced to \$25 per tonne for all varieties.

However, this extra production will incur increased equity and debentures totalling \$10 per tonne towards the additional handling and storage costs.

"Long grain premiums will be increased to maintain the relativity between varieties."

Mr Kennedy said the Minister for Agriculture had been advised of the market developments and had approved the necessary adjustments to the market signal scheme.



Hairdressers up with latest color trends

KEEPING up with the latest trends in summer hair colorings were Swan Hill hair stylists Sun Centre Salon and Top Knot Hairdressers at an in-salon training seminar last week.

The group gathered at the Sun Centre Salon to hear the newest ideas in colors and color combinations from Schwarzkopf color technician Sonia Rohan, of Melbourne.

Six models also volunteered to sample a new color treatment.

Jacinta Parsons (seated) was willing to update her hair look with the help of Tania Foster, of Sun Centre Salon, and Julie Templeton, of Top Knot Hairdressers.

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Panic-free way to speaking

ONE of the biggest difficulties many face is how to be comfortable with themselves and speak naturally, panic-free, in front of others.

A "Super-Effective Communication Seminar" will be held at the Swan Hill Resort Motor Inn on November 8.

Speakers Laurie Smale and John Easson will offer advice on how to tap into true communication power.

Based on creative commonsense, their fun-filled presentation shows how easy and non-threatening it is to fast-track oneself to jitter-free speaking, whether it is in front of one or 1000.

They bypass all the usual hype and create in their audience the ability to start using their own unique communication talents.

Mr Smale and Mr Easson have combined to

provide unique and highly results-oriented events satisfying a wide variety of personal and business needs.

Mr Smale is editor of the *National Speakers Association of Australia Times* and author of the run-away success audio program, "One Step to Panic Free Public Speaking".

Managing director of TACT Management Business and Training Consultants, Mr Easson is an Accredited Masters Learning in Australia.

The two speakers will share many of their hard-earned secrets on how to comfortably and effectively communicate in any situation.

The seminar costs \$110 a head and will be held from 2pm to 9.45pm, with a tea break from 5.30pm to 6.15pm.

Further information is available from Inta Blake at the Swan Hill TAFE Campus on (050) 32-9766.