

Activity Update June 2019

Meldanda;

1. Managed volunteers and administrations for Meldanda.
2. Prepared site for Nuriootpa 1st Scout Group camp, they loved camping there and using the volleyball court (which needs more sand) and the giant chess set. They heard about Meldanda from the Modbury Observatory. Bob kindly welcomed them on the weekend when they arrived and mentioned the Dark Sky Reserve and one for the scout group leaders drove all the way back to Gawler to get her telescope for the group to use.
3. Bob and Brenton added a security plate to the storeroom door
4. Bob and Aimee picked up the stolen gear from the Murray Bridge Police Station
5. Organised the delivery of 9,000 litres of potable water for Meldanda
6. Volunteer Trevor Carmichael weeded the native grass seed orchard
7. Bob White, Sheralee and Bob Sharpe helped plant some more grasses in our grass seed orchard



Figure 1 Bob Sharpe and Sheralee planting grasses



Figure 2 Bob White auguring holes for grasses

Nursery;

8. Ongoing propagating, weeding, watering of the nursery, plant sales, putting orders together.
9. Plant sales have been going well this month keeping us busy at the nursery, we will also be supporting several National Tree Day events
10. Pulteney Grammar School planted at the Marne Mouth, Wongulla with support from Wongulla Progress Association, this may be an annual event
11. Meeting at Nildottie with Roy and Rod to look at the planting projects and work they have done at the cemetery and around the town. They would appreciate some more plants to beautify other area of the town, including down near the new wharf
12. Sharon completed an annual stocktake of the nursery which is part of our audit report
13. Brenton attached the flagpole brackets for us so we could put up our new nursery signs that we bought through a Small Volunteer grant from Natural Resources SA MDB



Figure 3 new signs for nursery



Figure 4 new signs for Landcare office

Committee;

14. Kept committee informed of relevant correspondence, workshops, and other information. Managed the office, volunteers, staff, and all necessary administrations including monthly accounts, reports. Held our monthly meeting at Meldanda and Lyn Carmichael kindly made us some beautiful soup for lunch.
15. Have been contacted about our potential involvement in the 1 Million Turtles project as our organisation has previously been involved, the turtle team would like to continue this collaboration and meet to discuss in early July <https://1millionturtles.com/>
16. Received our offer and contract for Connecting Communities grants that will help to fund our Landcare group for approximately 2 days a week
17. Met with landholder to provide some sturdy tree guards to protect plants from sheep grazing

Carpet Python Conservation Collaboration Project

18. Was interviewed by journalist from the Murray Valley Standard for an article about the Murray Darling Carpet Python project
19. There was an article in the River News about the project and school sessions 13/06/19
20. Irene Bugeja evaluated the first workshop for us which is a requirement of the funding
21. Iren has been researching habitat need of the python which will contribute to the final report for this project
22. Held the python workshop at Lenger Reserve with 35 people attending. It was a fantastic day, beautiful weather, great people, lots of good questions and an enjoyable informative walk around the reserve.



Figures 5, 6, 7 Lenger Reserve Carpet Python Workshop with Peter Matejcic, Daniel Saliba, Chris Grant and Tiger

Murray Darling MEGA Microbat Project

23. Supported 2 volunteers to help troubleshoot the bat call analysis software
24. Supported bat workshop at Mt Pleasant to teach how to use the semi-automated bat call software
25. Sylvia Clarke has begun summarising the data for the final report and we will present this at National Science Week event in August to be held at Murray Bridge. The results so far 300 people attended Bat Nights across the region to learn about their local microbat species, 160 members of the community borrowed Anabat Swift recorders through local Landcare Project Officers and set them up in their backyards or elsewhere on their properties to record over 800 overnight surveys, resulting in over 3500 microbat species records

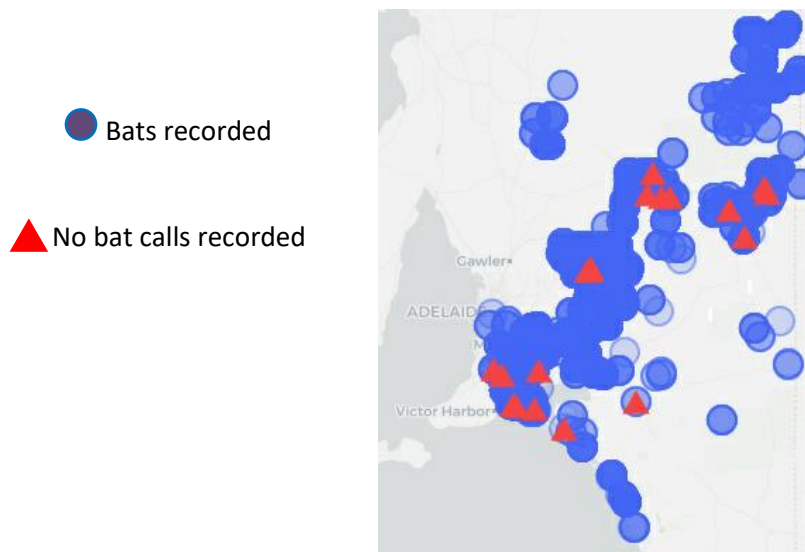


Figure 8 bat survey sites

Increasing productivity of Irongrass grasslands

26. Submitted final invoice for the survey work and team support for the first-year part of this project
27. Spent a week in Victoria looking at grasslands to learn other ways of management including indigenous cultural practices
28. Have been offered a contract to support this project over the next few years which will help our Landcare group to keep operating



Figure 9 grassland ecologists

Mid Murray Dark Sky Reserve

29. The first of the demonstration lights for the swimming pool have been delivered to Cambrai
30. Submitted an abstract to present at both the Private Lands Conference and the State Community Landcare Conference

Seed attributes study

31. Submitted final report and invoice for this project

Spiny Daisy Project

32. Have had some caterpillars in the nursery find the spiny daisy quite tasty, removed them and have put them in a cage to see what they hatch into

Mid Murray Council;

33. Second draft prepared of Implementation/Sustainable Recreation Management Plan for Blanchetown after meeting with Jake McVicker and David Hassett
34. Met onsite with community members from Blanchetown to discuss the Nature Trail and the first signs were installed



Figure 10 Blanchetown volunteers with new sign