

Activity Update July 2019

Meldanda;

1. Managed volunteers and administrations for Meldanda.
2. Volunteers Bob and Brenton mowed the planting site in preparation for upcoming planting day in the Stipa grassland with Cambrai PS
3. Volunteers Brenton and Sheralee picked up the Spear grasses for the Cambrai PS planting day from Kersbrook Nursery
4. Mannum Scout Group planted in the Fire-Retardant Display Garden for their National Tree Day event, supported by volunteers Bob and Sharon



Figure 1 Mannum Scouts planting at Meldanda

5. Toured around a teacher from Sheidow Park who is planning a school camp at Meldanda
6. Local family camped at Meldanda for a few nights during the school holidays
7. Ranges to River NRM group held their meeting at Meldanda, I provided them with an update of our activities

8. Irene Bugeja has been working on an Australia Post Grant to fund some materials for Meldanda, like some gravel to put out near the BBQ area and reduce some of the dust
9. Volunteers Sharon and Sheralee have started cleaning up the back shed so we can start getting the space ready for workshops, meetings and other activities. The first load of rubbish is ready to take to the dump.

Nursery;

10. Ongoing propagating, weeding, watering of the nursery, plant sales, putting orders together.
11. Preparations for tree planting events
12. Put in an order with Trees for Life for seedling supplies

Committee;

13. 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 where we held a lunch with the volunteers.
14. Enjoyed a week's leave over the school holidays and caught up with family.
15. Meeting with treasurer Lyn Carmichael to work through end of financial year accounts processing in preparation for audit
16. Meeting with Janet Pedlar and Mike Thomson about the 1 Million Turtles project and how we can support it in the future.
17. Meeting with John Kobes to change our email addresses; admin@midmurraylandcaresa.org.au, nursery@midmurraylandcaresa.org.au, bookings@meldanda.com.au our old ones still work and we will slowly phase into these new ones
18. Received our first payment for 2019-20 Connecting Communities grant that will help to fund our Landcare group for approximately 2 days a week

Carpet Python Conservation Collaboration Project

19. Completed the final report for this project and sent off to Natural Resources SA MDB
20. Still need to complete interpretive sign that will be installed at Mannum Waterfalls and Towitta Springs as part of a Mid Murray Council Community Grant. The final sign draft is out for approvals currently, thanks to design support from Bec Stevens Project Officer Media and Communications Natural Resources SA Murray-Darling Basin
21. Had some more sighting information sent in, including photo below from Nildottie



Figure 2 Murray Darling Carpet Python photo by Ryan Beinke

Murray Darling MEGA Microbat Project

22. Had a phone hook-up meeting while I was in Griffith for a funeral. Kyle Armstrong presented some of the findings from analysing the results which was great. There were hundreds of people involved with the project, providing over 800 bat survey nights and over 3000 new species records for at least 13 different species, which is more scientific records in two years than all of the previous records generated since 1890. There will be a media release soon for this project and a final wrap up event at Murray Bridge on the 18th of August, anyone is welcome.

Increasing productivity of Irongrass grasslands

23. Meeting with INTG Working Group at Meldanda to update rest of group on the Victoria trip
24. Started discussing and planning trials and seed orchard
25. Signed contract for this project for 3 years which will include; grassland flora surveys, threat management, seed orchards, grassland monitoring at Poonthie Ruwe, assisting with running events and participation with INTG Working Group.

Western Pygmy Possums in the Mid Murray/Murray Mallee region

26. Organised the first Western Pygmy Possum workshop with Steve Donnellan from the SA Museum and Rowena Danks from Murray Mallee LAP to be held at Mantung Conservation Park in August.

27. Landcare volunteers will get together to prepare the materials for the boxes that will be made at the workshop. The boxes will be installed as habitat for the possums in the local area on the eastern side of the river.



Figure 3 volunteers planting Robertson road

Mid Murray Dark Sky Reserve

28. The demonstration lights for the swimming pool have been delivered and installed at the Cambrai Swimming Pool. Photos of the new lights have been provided along with the application for the dark sky reserve
29. The Dark Sky project was profiled as part of the 30 years celebrating Landcare with a media release. Podcast link below

<https://www.5mu.com.au/shows/sa-today/podcast/94574-celestial-clarity-in-the-murraylands>

Spiny Daisy Project

30. Volunteer Sheralee has been keeping an eye on the plants and records anything of significance

Mid Murray Council;

31. Replants on Robertson Road for National Tree Day with Landcare volunteers, local landholder has offered to water the plants to get them established.
32. Supported a Blanchetown Hall Committee member with a draft sign for the Community Garden, this is still being developed.