



Mid Murray Landcare SA

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Activity Update September 2020

This activity update is for the month of September. If you would like to be on our mailing list and receive this free update, please email Aimee Linke on the above email address or view on webpage.

Meldanda

1. Managed the volunteers, camp bookings, provision of materials and equipment and all necessary administrations including invoicing and banking for Meldanda. Kept neighbors informed of any camp bookings.
2. Sheidow Park Primary school camped at Meldanda and did lots of great things around the district. They totally enjoyed their stay despite some dilemmas which included the fridge door falling off as soon as they put food in it, the kitchen pump not working and having to switch it off to re-set it all the time and the septic overflowing! We have had the septic inspected and there are tree roots growing in it so it doesn't work properly and it will cost thousands to install a new one, so it might be cheaper to get it pumped out annually. Volunteer Bob White ordered a new hinge from overseas to fix the fridge door and Don Bursill has lent us a fridge from his shack until we get the other one fixed. Volunteer Brenton Jay went to town and bought a new pump to replace the kitchen one that isn't working properly. It is so great having support of local volunteers and the Mid Murray Council with managing Meldanda.
3. MMC Lachlan Graetz mowed the big campground area, Astronomers paddock and the seed production areas.
4. Volunteer Bob made sure site was ready for campers, put up COVID safe signs, tidied up workshop and repaired a pipe when a camper put a tent peg through it.
5. One group of campers that stayed left me this message....*'It was truly magical - the kids switched off, unplugged and enjoyed every moment! We had the best time and will be back very soon...'*
6. Volunteers Bob, Andy and Brenton reconnected the new pump, so we have water to the kitchen again. Brenton and Andy put our temporary fridge into the kitchen.
7. Spoke to Insurance Broker Simon Sickerdick regarding insurance at Meldanda, sent him the information we had. He is having trouble finding anyone to insure Meldanda. Also made enquiries with the Executive Officer from Landcare SA in regard to our public liability and what it will cover.
8. Bob and Sharon donated some pots, pans and utensils for the kitchen at Meldanda.
9. Had an enquiry from Mannum Horse Riding Club about walking the trails at Meldanda, they pick up the horse poo in chaff bags and take it with them, so weeds won't be spread at the site.

Community Nursery

10. Volunteer Sharon White propagated some *Cymbopogon ambiguus*, Lemon Scented grass, *Cassinia arcuata* and some other species for landholders.
11. Sent landholder Peter Lee a quote for some native plants to support a Heritage grant application he was submitting for his property.
12. Volunteers Sharon and Sheralee did some cuttings of *Eremophila divaricata*, *Grevillea sp.* and *Eremophila alternifolia*.
13. For the second year in a row we have supported a school planting day in association with the Wongulla PA, the project went really well, apart from some campers that used the site and ended up burning some of the tree stakes and pulling guards off. It is unfortunate that people behave like this as it ruins it for the responsible campers amongst us.



Figures 1 and 2 Wongulla tree planting

Committee & other

14. Managed the office, volunteers, staff, and all necessary administrations including monthly accounts, reports. Prepared 2 months of accounts ready for meeting with the treasurer. We also had a meeting with the auditor/accountant and have started setting up a new software program for processing our accounts.
15. Have been working on a brochure for Wildwood Park Sanctuary, it has all been approved and will send it off for printing, this was thanks to a Small Volunteer Grant through Riverland and Murraylands Landscape Board.
16. Meeting with Scott Hutchens and Alex Emmins District Officers for Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board. We looked at Church Reserve where there was previously Boneseed, discussed priority weed projects in the region. I sent them a copy of all the reports that include weed control in the nature reserves for Mid Murray Council so they can help to continue the work and investment that has already been done.
17. Volunteer Mick Lowe has been fulfilling his volunteer requirements at the Marne Valley CP

with mulching and tending to the revegetation site.

18. Landholder site visit on 3 Chain road to provide some information and support on plant species. When we were there, we saw some rare *Dodonaea subglandulifera*, not sure if it had germinated after the 2014 Eden Valley fires.

River Murray International Dark Sky Reserve

19. Held the Dark Sky Committee Meeting on the 11th of September at Meldanda. Prepared the minutes and emailed out to the Dark Sky Committee and Mid Murray Landcare Committee.
20. Chris Tugwell prepared and sent the annual report to Adam Dalton, the Dark Sky Places Program Manager, International Dark-Sky Association.
21. Irene Bugeja submitted a small community MMC grant to have a brochure developed for the project.

Microbats

22. Rocky Warren dropped off a bat to me that was collected at the Swan Reach Police Station, I passed it onto staff at the SA Museum.
23. Met Barry and Maureen Wright in Burra and picked up the bat detector, they did some monitoring at Redbank CP and at their home in Burra.

Irongrass Grasslands Project

24. Volunteers Andy and Bob mowed around the seed production areas and the trial site to prevent the barley grass from setting seed and blowing into these areas.
25. We have had 20.85mm of rain on the trial site at Meldanda.
26. Volunteer Cryss Filsell and I weeded in the SPA and collected some seed from *Ptilotus spathulatus*. Volunteer Cryss sorted, weighed and bagged seed.
27. Don Bursill donated an old fridge that we can use to store more seed. Brenton and Andy put it up in the back shed for us.



Figure 3 *Velleia* sp,



Figure 4 Jo and Cryss monitoring grassland trial



Figure 5 Orchid Drupe Wasp

28. Poonthie Ruwe monitoring for 3 days at Tailern Bend with Jo Clarke and volunteer Cryss Filsell. Two students from University of Adelaide came out for a few hours to learn some of the species we were monitoring. FB Post on Poonthie Ruwe 10/9/20,
29. Volunteers Sheralie and Cryss weeded all day in the SPA and Brenton hooked up the irrigation to the seed production boxes in the nursery.
30. Met on site with landholder Georgie Keynes to look at potential sites to set up some wicking bed trials. The chosen sites will not be grazed to allow the establishment of native grassland species. Volunteer Brenton Jay is supporting this project and has been busy buying the materials to set these up in mid-October.
31. Supported 3 days of grassland monitoring with Nicola Barnes and Kate Graham at Makota CP with Anna Senior. Nicola and I also went to Brian Sleep's property north of Burra. We met 2 landholders Michael Dittrich and Greg Hall to discuss setting up trials and looking at potential locations. We had snow out at Mt Bryan when we were there, the weather was cold and wet and not very nice for outdoors work.



Figure 6 snow on Mt Bryan

Western Pygmy Possum

32. Acquitted small grant for Mid Murray Landcare SA Wildlife Monitoring (042.2020) to Sylvia Clarke which supported extra WPP work and bat monitoring.
33. Jack Duffield sent in box data sheet and photo for box installed in heritage scrub at Stockyard Plain.
34. Andy Marschall set up his pygmy possum box on his property in Cambrai and sent in the data sheet.
35. Bruce Ohlmeyer installed 4 possum boxes on his property at Stockyard Plain/Waikerie and sent in data sheets and photos.
36. Was interviewed by ABC Riverland about the Western Pygmy Possum boxes on the 23/9/20 we made with The Waterhouse Club and how that supports the possums and the project. They were also interested in all the bat boxes made up by volunteers and I spoke about the community bat monitoring project we support. FB post on 20/9/20.
37. Met with Barry and Maureen Wright in Burra, picked up data sheets for the possum boxes they set up and lent them an endoscope to use for inspecting the boxes.
38. Supported a 2-day workshop for 20 people from The Waterhouse Club, we had an information session at Meldanda presented by Head of Research and Collections for South Australian Museum, Steve Donnellan, box making workshop run by our volunteer Don

Lester and Meldanda tours run by Aimee Linke. The second day we met Gary Taylor at Moorunde Wildlife Reserve who is an Entomologist at Adelaide University and a volunteer for Moorunde. Gary presented on the reserve which is a 6900ha property managed by the Natural History Society of SA. After lunch we went and installed 20 of the 40 boxes that were made by The Waterhouse Club. Everyone really appreciated the work we do and enjoyed the weekend immensely; this is a 3-5-year project that the Waterhouse Club and SA Museum wish to support.



Figure 7 The Waterhouse Club with the WPP boxes they made at Meldanda.



Figure 8 Steve Donnellan presenting with all the box kits on the foreground.



Figure 9 installing boxes at Moorunde.



Figure 10 inspecting a wombat warren at Moorunde.

Roadside Vegetation Management Plan (RVMP)

39. Ordered the missing roadside markers that have arrived. Volunteer Andy put them onto droppers ready for me to go out and install them.
40. Irene Bugeja has been working with MMC Russel Pilbeam on the RVMP, it will be ready soon to send to the NVC for review.
41. Installed missing markers with volunteer Bob White over three days at Sleeper Track, Murraylands and Bolts Sands, Tungali roads and areas around Mt Mary and Waikerie. When Bob and I were out we saw lots of *Olearia magniflora* especially around Murraylands and there was heaps of *Stipa* around Murbko region.
42. Spoke to Michael Johnston, senior Technical Officer, construction contract Management for DIT about the roadside markers on the Halfway House Road between Annandale to Sedan. DIT will soon start construction of some new shoulder widening on both sides of the road, upgrading of all drainage under the road and sealing of all side roads. Informed Michael of any restrictions around the Markers.



Figure 11 *Olearia magniflora*



Figure 12 Bob White helping with sign replacement.