

Activity Update April 2025

This activity update is for the month of April 2025. If you would like to be on our mailing list and receive this free update, please email Aimee Linke at the above email address, or view it on our webpage. These projects are from varied sources of funding including the Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board's Grassroots Grants and contract work.

Support the objectives of Mid Murray Landcare SA.

1. Managed the office, volunteers and all necessary administrations including monthly payment of bills, reports, invoicing, managing webpages and social media posts, scanned all receipts and reconciled monthly accounts in XERO.
2. Sent out monthly activity update, agenda, minutes, correspondence list, and financial report for the month to the Committee.
3. We held our monthly committee meeting at the Cambrai Community Library.

Support volunteer activities at the Cambrai Community Nursery, provide support to landholders, groups, and schools with land management projects.

4. Provided support to nine landholders or groups with site visits or project support or plant identification including Scott's Creek site visit with Prince Alfred College students, worked on their bushtucker garden weeding, planting, path maintenance and plant identification.
5. Volunteers have been potting on flax lily, native grasses, weeding and recycling the old potting mix.



Figure 1 Bushtucker Garden at Scott's Creek after tidy up.

Manage Meldanda on behalf of the Cambrai Primary School Governing Council

6. Continued with managing the volunteers, camp bookings, provision of materials and equipment and all necessary administration managing the booking page, cleaning, watered, fixing leaks.
7. Camp bookings - we had twenty-nine camp nights for April, fifty-one adults and eleven children, with five of those booking the Astronomy Paddock.

Support the River Murray International Dark Sky Reserve Committee and Mid Murray Council with projects to maintain dark sky accreditation and education on the impacts of light pollution. Chris Tugwell

8. Kate Wills has volunteered to maintain our Dark Sky Reserve website and Facebook pages. Huge thanks to Kate.

Support Citizen Science projects in the region to engage landholders and volunteers in Water Watch activities, Turtle Conservation and Feral Goat projects.

9. There were seven sightings submitted to FeralScan for April with approximately three hundred goats seen from Chowilla, Pooginook, north of Blanchetown and north of Gluepot by five observers including three new contributors. There were also one hundred and forty goats mustered.
10. We had the exciting discovery of a Western Pygmy Possum (WPP) approximately one kilometre WSW of Meldanda. A landholder who lives on Bundilla Road found the male possum under a Peppercorn Tree, it was taken to Wildwood Park Sanctuary, the possum is being cared for and when in better condition will be released back to the site it was found at. With this new discovery we will work with the Cambrai Primary School students to install some WPP boxes at Meldanda later this year, once we have some more made up by our volunteer Don Lester and his helpers.



Figure 2 and 3 Male Western Pygmy Possum found, photos courtesy Sally Arnold.

11. Visit with Angaston Primary School to set up a bat detector with students in their garden.
12. Site visit to Scott's Creek on the Murray River near Morgan, spoke to Prince Alfred College students about bats and we set up a detector.
13. Site visit with landholder Angas Jones at 'Almond Grove' Sanderston, saw how much the Acacia orchard has grown, and we set up a bat detector which will contribute data to the Marne Saunders Microbat Monitoring Project.



Figure 4 Setting up detector at Almond Grove



Figure 5 Bat detector at Scott's Creek.

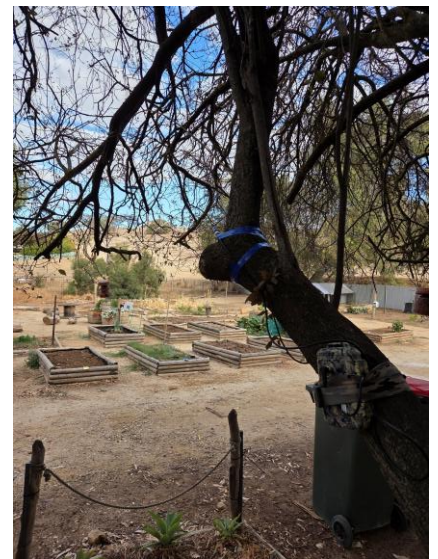


Figure 6 Bat detector Angaston PS.

Murray Darling Carpet Python Project

14. The project has approval from Road and Marine Services to install core flute signs about the iSPYthon Project on Lyrup, Waikerie, Cadell, Morgan, Swan Reach, Walker Flat, Purnong and Mannum ferries. Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board Media and Communications staff have prepared the signs and are getting them printed.
15. Shared Social Media post prior to Easter weekend with the expected increase in people/travellers over the break.
16. Supported Detection Dog in field training on properties where pythons have been recently sighted to see if the dogs can pick up their scent. They had been trained in the lab and now their skills were tested in the field. The first field days were on a property near Black Hill where a captive python was placed in the scrub and the dogs had to find it.
17. There was more field testing with the detection dogs, and also person searches, in the Riverland with the help of RMMAC rangers. The dogs were tested, without a captive python being hidden, at sites where there have been recent python sightings. The field work with detection dogs looks promising, however we were still unable to find any pythons.



Figure 7 One of the detection dogs in the field with the trainer.

Native Grasslands Project 2023-2026 – Aimee Linke

18. Native grassland trial - volunteer Bob White went through all the SD cards from the four cameras that have been set up at the grassland trial sites. Thanks Bob. There was no evidence of grazing animals in the sites, outside of them there were birds, kangaroos, foxes, and sheep. I have moved all the cameras to be totally inside the trial areas to reduce unnecessary, although at times interesting, footage.
19. Seed production areas have continued to be watered, ants controlled, we collected some *Glycine rubiginosa* seed and weeded both areas.
20. Ordered some more plants for the seed production areas and we will replace the most worn section in the native grass area with four new rows of grasses.

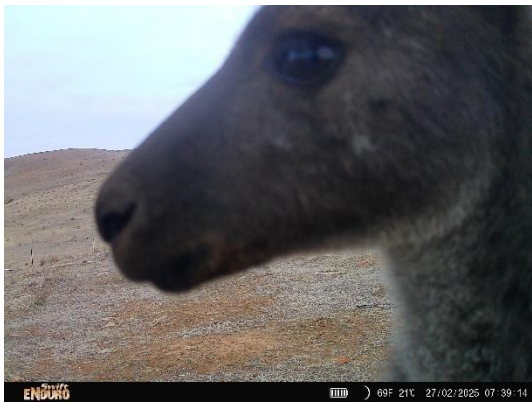


Figure 8 Kangaroo inspecting camera.

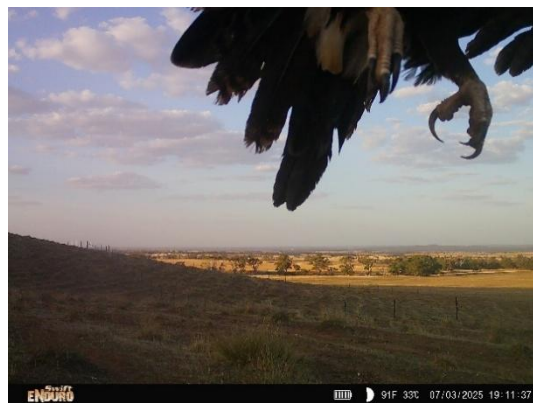


Figure 9 Wedge-tailed Eagle legs?