

Activity Update February 2026

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 months to the Committee.
3. We held our monthly meeting at Cambrai Community Library, the committee presented Aimee with a gift to recognise her twenty-year anniversary in January for working with Mid Murray Landcare SA (formerly Mid Murray LAP).



Figure 1 Aimee Linke 20 Years in Landcare.

Support volunteer activities at the Mid Murray Landcare SA Nursery, provide support to landholders, groups, and schools with land management projects.

4. Landcare volunteer David has been fabricating up a new germination area at the nursery to improve our propagation success and increase the area we have for tubestock.
5. Volunteers have been weeding and potting on *Acacias*, *Callistemons*, and grasses. Have started putting together plant orders ready for this season. An updated plant list with prices has added to our Landcare website.
6. Provided support to twelve landholders or groups with site visits or project support or plant identification, including preparing for upcoming revegetation projects and a community website.
7. Site visit at the Cambrai library with school staff, students, and Sophie Thomson to plan a garden project near the library to improve the outdoor space.
8. Meeting with Keyneton PS staff and Rosheen Blumson MRLB to discuss and plan potential projects at the school and the local nature reserve.



Figure 2 Keyneton PS planting project area.



Figure 3 Cambrai library garden project.

Manage Meldanda on behalf of the Cambrai Primary School Governing Council

9. Continued with managing the volunteers, camp bookings, provision of materials and equipment and all necessary administration managing the booking page, cleaning, watered, delivery of potable water.
10. Camp bookings - we twenty camp nights for February, thirty-five adults and three children of which eight were for 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 and Kate Wills.

11. Chris - Council Dark Sky Committee Meeting.
12. MM Landcare Dark Sky committee meeting.
13. Meeting with Council consultants re Observatory/Planetarium.
14. Consultants tour of Meldanda.
15. Follow-up Zoom meeting with consultants.
16. Meeting with Aimee re bird citizen science & School Governing Council
17. **Social Media Update** -Kate Wills

	FEB	JAN
FOLLOWERS	2,227	2,105
Facebook	2,095	2,042
Instagram	70	61
X (Twitter)	2	2
Threads	11	2
YouTube	49	9
VEWS	55,833	27,019
Facebook	47,056	24,225
Instagram	2,471	1,544
X (Twitter)	900	1,250
Threads	550	50
YouTube	4,856	81



Digital Outreach & RMIDSR Strategy (February 2026)

1. Statistical Growth & Reach

- **Performance Surge:** Total digital reach increased by 106%, growing from 27,019 views in January to **55,833 views** in February.

- **YouTube Pivot:** Launched a strategic focus on YouTube Shorts to capture mobile-first audiences, resulting in a **5,895% increase** in video views (from 81 to 4,856).
- **Strategic Engagement:** A customised astronomical data post shared with the *Aurora Australis Tasmania* community became the Reserve's highest-performing single post to date, reaching **17,515 views**. This validates the "Data-First" strategy for high-interest niche groups.

2. Asset Development & Compliance

- **Fact Sheet Overhaul:** Commenced a comprehensive update of the 2021 RMISDR Fact Sheets. This ensures all technical data provided to stakeholders and the public is current and reflects the 3,200 sq km reserve's growing infrastructure. (Work in progress)
- **Visitor Management:** Continued development of the **Meldanda/Online Camping Guide** to improve the user journey for eco-tourists and reduce administrative enquiries. (Completed and live)

3. Strategic Alignment

- **Educational and Community Connection Strategy:** Weekly astronomical data posts are successfully building the technical vocabulary, highlighting ONE RMISDR township per week.
- **Partner Support:** Maintained digital reciprocity with Dark Sky Partners, including Kelly Kuhn (Juggle House) for the March 3rd Lunar Eclipse promotion.

Support Citizen Science projects in the region to engage landholders and volunteers in to increase awareness and help to protect our natural biodiversity.

18. **Turtles** – Site visit to Younghusband with local landholders to plan a turtle nest workshop for later in the year. We also searched for turtle nests, unfortunately we found several dug up nests and submitted them to TurtleSAT.
19. Supported a turtle workshop at Wongulla with the Wongulla and Districts PA, Landcare volunteers and staff from MRLB with about twenty-eight people showing their interest. Dr Sylvia Clarke spoke about the TURTLE Project, how to map turtle sightings, we searched around the local

wetlands for signs of nests and found none, the Wongulla group is going to do annual nest surveys in their area, which is a fantastic outcome from the day.

20. **Possums** – Volunteer Don Lester is going to make up thirty possum boxes by the 1st of May to support a large landholder project near Sleeper Track area in the mallee.
21. Landholders who have boxes from the project on YP have reported no activity.
22. **Feral Scan** – There were twenty sightings submitted to Feral Scan, from two contributors with over one hundred and fifteen goats sighted.



Figure 4 Volunteers searching for turtle nests.



Figure 5 dug up turtle nest.

Murray Darling Carpet Python Project

23. There was a sighting of a python in adjacent to vineyard west of Waikerie, it was seen in the morning about 8am, it was only noticed as it fell out of a bush whilst eating a rabbit. The sighting was submitted to iSPYthon, this valuable information helps to protect this rare species.



Figure 6 Murray Darling Carpet Python sighting.

Native Grasslands Project 2023-2026

24. **Seed production areas** – Meeting with Paul Kotz from Zoos SA to show him the seed production area at Meldanda, they are looking at establishing a seed orchard at Monarto Safari Park.
25. Aimee, Mick, Brenton, Sheralee, Cryss and Cameron harvested *Enneapogon sp.*, *Bothriochloa sp.*, *Digitaria sp.*, *Arthropodium sp.*, *Glycine sp.*, *Eutaxia sp.* and weeded both areas.
26. Cameron and Sheralee water the production areas every week.
27. **Seeding trial** – site visit took photos, checked on weeds, saffron thistle present, skeleton weed is another weed to consider controlling and salvation jane.
28. Site visit with Priya Spencer MRLB to plan the seeding part of the trial for this year.
29. **Grazing Trial** - site visit took site photos, put rocks back where kangaroos keep dragging out. Camera 1 photos of kangaroos in fenced area where they can access. Camera 2 captured photo of one kangaroo in enclosure where not meant to be. Also captured photo of an owl and a falcon. Camera 3 nothing of interest and Camera 4 took no photos, think it was a card error.
30. **Tiliqua** – watered and weeded the new planting area with two local volunteers Marg and Maree. The plants have survived the heat waves, *Heliotrope* was the weed that was present this time, there was insect damage on the leaves, believe to be grasshoppers.



Figure 7 Falcon captured on camera.



Figure 8 first fence breach, grazing trial.