



Mid Murray Landcare SA

Mobile: 0427 590 344

Email: admin@midmurraylandcaresa.org.au

www.midmurraylandcaresa.org.au

Activity Update March 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 and kept the community informed of activities.
3. We held our monthly meeting at Cambrai Community Library.
4. Submitted a Grassroots Grant application to keep Mid Murray Landcare in operation for another 12 months, if successful.
5. Started reviewing and updating our Strategic Plan.

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

6. Landcare volunteer David has finished our new germination area at the nursery, it looks great and am looking forward to using it, thanks David.
7. Volunteers have been weeding and potting on *Bursaria spinosa*, *Eucalyptus sp.* and grasses. Have still been putting together plant orders ready for this season.
8. Provided support to fifteen landholders or groups with site visits, project support, or plant identification. Identified numerous native plants and weeds including some at Keyneton Nature Reserve with Phil Graetz. We found some new plants that were not on the species list for the site,

including Native Cranberry, *Astroloma humifusm* (name has changed to *Styphelia humifusa*), *Lomandra nana* and *Gonocarpus tetragynus*. We also located a plant that is on the species list called Blady Grass, *Impereta cylindrica* which is a caterpillar food plant for the southern and white banded grass-dart and common brown butterflies. Phil Graetz has also been actively controlling rabbits at Keyneton Nature Reserve and implementing weed control and maintenance work. Places like this nature reserve are so fortunate to have dedicated volunteers like Phil Graetz to care for and help preserve them.



Image 1 Volunteer David, new germination area.



Image 2 Keyneton Nature Reserve.

9. Site visit to landholders' property to provide some insights into land management for grazing land, identified native plants and weeds, will meet with landholders again to look at options for their large property.

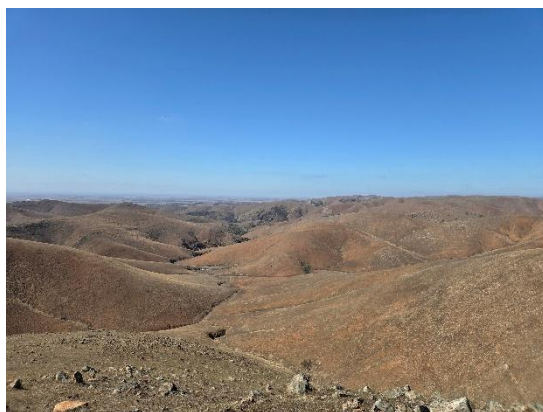


Image 3 property visit, large grazing property.



Image 4 one of the plants identified *Verbascum virgatum*.

Manage Meldanda on behalf of the Cambrai Primary School Governing Council

10. Continued with managing the volunteers, camp bookings, provision of materials and equipment and all necessary administration managing the booking page, cleaning, watered.
11. Camp bookings – we twenty-eight camp nights for March, fifty-nine adults and eleven children of which nine were for the Astronomy Paddock.
12. We had enquiries from bird watchers and horse owners if they were allowed to ride there if they clean up after their horses, both were answered as a yes, it is great there are so many different users of Meldanda.
13. Bogon moth sighting submitted to iNaturalist, it is classed as an endangered species.



Image 5 Bogon moth.

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.

14. Chris - I have been talking to Sputnik, who is a local landowner, with a regular ABC Drive spot, and big Dark Sky supporter, and consultant, I have been talking to about ways to raise sponsorship and overall profile. He has agreed to help us out and I will be meeting with him after Easter.



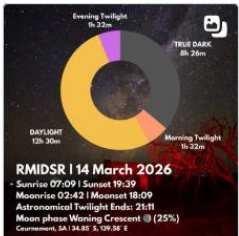

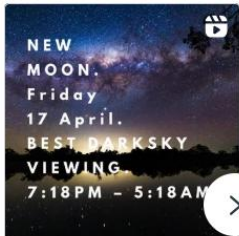
Kate -

	MAR	FEB
FOLLOWERS	2,309	2,227
Facebook	2,163	2,095
Instagram	75	70
X (Twitter)	3	2
Threads	13	11
YouTube	56	49
VIEWS	78,030	55,833
Facebook	73,561	47,056
Instagram	1,418	2,471
X (Twitter)	1,200	900
Threads	450	550
YouTube	1,401	4,856

15. **Strategic Outreach & Social Media:** The "Alan on Flora" Theme: High-engagement content linking our local environment to the stars. We've focused on the link between Landcare and 'Skycare', ensuring our followers understand the environmental impact of preserving our dark skies.
16. **Grant Submission – "The Skycare Pilot":** We successfully submitted our Inspiring SA grant application to establish the RMIDSR Sky Quality Network. Huge thanks to Andrew Cool and Ken Grant for their technical input. We expect to be notified of the outcome in mid-April.
17. **SQM Data Management (Meldanda):** I have been working with David Bennett on SQM readings and am currently developing a 'set of instructions' for our volunteers on how to download and manage this data.
18. **International Dark Sky Week (IDSW) Coordination:** Most of March was dedicated to the detailed planning of the Swan Reach Hub activations. This included securing our new high-tech partners and coordinating site logistics with the Swan Reach Area School. Please see the attached overview for the full 13–20 April plan

Top content by views

Boost content See all content

 <p>DARK SKY PARTNERS: We Nee... 3 March 10:00 1.0K views, 11 likes, 7 shares</p>	 <p>Plants need daily sleep too — Understanding... 23 March 18:59 1.6K views, 14 likes, 3 shares</p>	 <p>Your weekend Astronomical Outloo... 12 March 18:06 765 views, 11 likes, 3 shares</p>	 <p>Your weekend Astronomical Outloo... 19 March 18:00 756 views, 18 likes, 9 shares</p>	 <p>What's Up in April? Our StarWatch guide for... 31 March 18:00 673 views, 17 likes, 3 shares</p>
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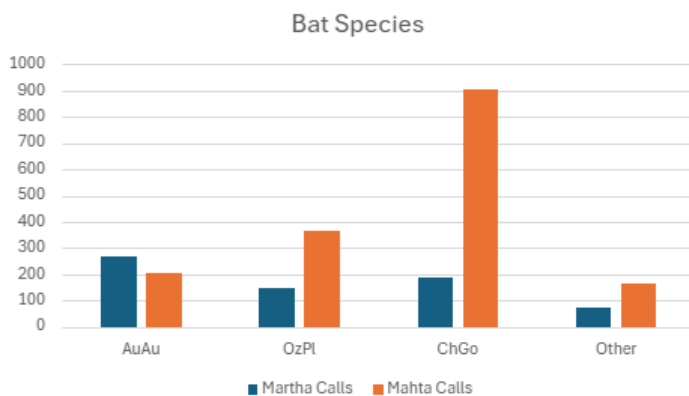
Support Citizen Science projects in the region to engage landholders and volunteers in to increase awareness and help to protect our natural biodiversity.

19. **Turtles** – National Turtle Symposium has been announced. The event will start at 8:30am Monday morning 28 September to 1pm Tuesday 29th at The Exchange in Adelaide, South Australia. For more information or to register for the event, use this link [Australasian Turtle Symposium](#)



20. Turtle partners catch up meeting was held to update stakeholders on activities related to turtles and the upcoming symposium. There are some interesting project happening in the region and data being collected by Nature Glenelg Trust and Murraylands and Riverland Wetlands team catching turtles as bi-catch in their fish surveys, signs being installed to protect areas where turtles cross the road and Sylvia Clarke spoke about the Turtle Project to an audience of 900 people at a SA Carp Frenzy held at Lake Bonnie, there were quite a few turtles caught as bi-catch as well, which were released.

Microbats – Landholders from property off Sleeper Track borrowed two Anabat detectors and set up on their property in two different locations, the detectors were set up over seven nights, one bat detector 'Martha' recorded 1614 call files and 'Mahta' over the same nights recorded 7888 call files, there were no interference calls, these were all bat calls. There were six different species recorded at both sites, a graph below shows the difference in activity between the different species. There were much higher number of calls from the Austronomous australis, Ozimops planiceps and Chalinolobous gouldii, the other species groups together are two forest bats Vespadelus regulus, vulturinus and Nyctophilis geoffroyi.



21. During March we also started a Marne North Rhine Saunders Catchment Microbat monitoring project. We set up eight bat detectors across the northern part of the catchment starting at the North Rhine River and ending at the Marne near Bundilla Gorge. The bat detectors were set up over the same nights to see if there is any difference in activity. All the detectors have been retrieved and a report on the project will feature in next month's update.
22. **Possums** – Landcare Association of SA in their first Members Blast for the year shared our Western Pygmy Possum project YouTube story and Nest box instruction guide [Don't miss out: Upcoming LASA Events and Opportunities](#)
23. **Feral Scan** – There were thirteen sightings submitted to Feral Scan, from six contributors with 2109 goats sighted, some were shot and a Living Landscapes Project SA mustered and trucked out two thousand.

Murray Darling Carpet Python Project

24. Site visit to meet locals who saw the python adjacent to a vineyard west of Waikerie, collected habitat information from the sighting which will help inform conservation actions for this rare species.
25. As part of this three-year project, which comes to an end this June, the project team has permits to capture a number of pythons and have trackers put in so we can monitor activity. Our first python that was a healthy size and condition was captured south of Swan Reach this month by Harrison Kent. The python was transported to the Zoo and a tracker professionally implanted by vets at Zoos SA, the team has started collecting data by using a radio tracker, we hope that this movement data will provide some valuable information to help protect and conserve the pythons.



Image 6 python sighted west Waikerie.

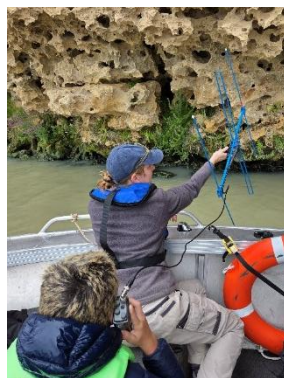


Image 7 Mel Burford radio tracking python.



Image 8 tracked python.

Native Grasslands Project 2023-2026

26. **Seed production areas** – Aimee, Mick, Brenton, Sheralee, and Cameron weeded and removed any dead plants from the non-grass seed area.
27. Cameron and Sheralee water the production areas every week and Sheralee has sprayed for weeds around the outside of the poly-belt.
28. **Seeding trial** – have discussed the project with various people in terms of weed control and planning the sowing of the seed, what species to use and at what rate.
29. **Grazing Trial** – due to check sites in April.
30. **Tiliqua** – the rest of the scheduled watering events for the year have been cancelled because of the rainfall received and the fuel crisis.
31. Attended a Natural Sequence Farming workshop in Keyneton supported by Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board to discuss any limitations with current land management policies in implementing any of the farming concepts presented. It was an interesting workshop which stimulated some thought into current and past land management activities. Across our landscape we still have evidence of past works with contours or similar that were put in place to slow and trap the flow of water across slopes, some of these areas are places where the native grasses are growing the best.



Image 9 Workshop demonstration slowing water flow.



Image 10 volunteers maintaining seed production area.