



# Mid Murray Landcare SA

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## Activity Update May 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 Council Chambers and online.
4. Was successful with an application for a Landcare SA Financial Assistance Package Grant.

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

5. Volunteers David, Cryss, Brenton, Greg and Mick helped potting on seedlings, weeding tubestock, cuttings of rare plant *Dodonaea humilis*. Aimee getting orders ready, propagating seeds and potting on seedlings of *Maireana radiata*.
6. Provided support to **eighteen** landholders or groups with site visits, project support, or plant identification. Prepared a large order for a landholder to help screen a solar farm near Mannum and plants to support a planting event at Yookamurra with school students.

**Manage Meldanda on behalf of the Cambrai Primary School Governing Council. Support volunteers, support local school and other surrounding district schools or groups with activities at Meldanda.**

7. Continued with managing the volunteers, camp bookings, provision of materials and equipment and all necessary administration managing the booking page, cleaning, watered. Chris from Cambrai Primary School repaired the washed away track. We also had another new sign installed showing the different campgrounds.
8. Camp bookings – we had **twenty-two** camp nights for May, forty-eight adults and thirteen children of which three were for the Astronomy Paddock.
9. Cambrai Primary School has been spending their Fridays at Meldanda engaging with nature. We had Jerry Zimmer (The Branded Story) come to Meldanda to do some filming with the students for a YouTube video, the students had a great time being movie stars. The video is live on our YouTube Channel, link below.

**[Meldanda: 100 Acres, One School, Thirty Years of Belonging](#)**



Photo 1 new campground layout map sign



Photo 2 Jerry filming students for YT Video

**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.**

**Chris Tugwell**

10. First meeting of Swan Reach Observatory board (Don, Andrew, Ken, CJT)

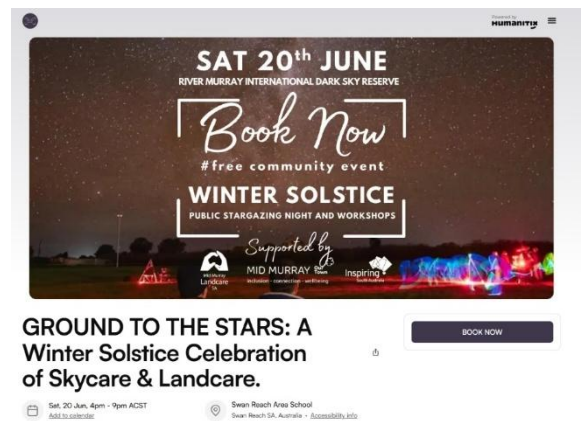
11. Final meeting of Council Section 41 committee (to become independent board); Don, CJT
12. Update of Reserve 'fact sheet'
13. Planning and preparation for Winter Solstice event at Swan Reach (Kate)
14. Cambrai History Festival, Dark Sky talk at Meldanda (~40 attended) - Leila, CJT

### Kate Wills - Top Performing Digital Content

Our top-performing content across both Facebook and Instagram focused on the upcoming Winter Solstice "Save the Date" and inspirational/educational posts navigating 100% cloud cover.

### Key Activities

- Winter Solstice Event Coordination (June 20th): Strategic planning is finalised for the "Ground to the Stars: A Winter Solstice Celebration of Skycare & Landcare" public stargazing night and workshops at the Swan Reach Area School Oval and Gym.
- Grant Funding Secured: Applied for and received a \$1,000 "Instant Impact" Grant through Mid Murray Our Town, directly supporting the event.
- Sponsorship & Fundraising: Secured 7 high-value sponsor prizes for our Skycare Raffle, bringing the total raffle prize pool value to \$1,985. The Swan Reach CFS has also been locked in to run a winter gourmet fundraising dinner station on-site.
- Inspire SA Grant Project: Ongoing rollout of the Inspire SA Grant project framework. This includes coordinating the official launch at the "Skycare Discovery Hub".



Promotion 1 winter solstice event

<https://events.humanitix.com/ground-to-the-stars-a-winter-solstice-celebration>,

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

- 15. **Turtles** – Turtle Symposium catch up meeting was held to keep activities moving along in preparation for the upcoming symposium. The symposium will be held in Adelaide on the 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> of September.
- 16. **Microbats** –We have provided landholders in the mallee with bat detectors; they plan to set up and collect some long-term data.
- 17. **WP Possums** – Landholders have been installing their possum boxes, and we have started receiving the photos of instalts and site data sheets.
- 18. We went to check the SD cards on cameras and check the boxes on the property near SRCP, on approaching one of the boxes a little face could be seen peeking through the hole, managed to capture an image, thanks to Harrison Kent, we think it could be a ragged snake eyed skink (*Cryptoblepharus pannosus*).
- 19. We took a photo of the camera inside one of the boxes to show how far up the possums have piled up the leaves. We think the possums must be in torpor as there is very little activity on the cameras.



Photo 3 Ragged snake-eyed skink in possum box, zoomed in photo.



Photo 4 ragged eyed skink actual size.



Photo 5 WPP box pile up with leaves.

- 20. **Feral Scan** – There were fourteen sightings submitted to Feral Scan, from six contributors with seventy-four goats sighted, most were from
- 21. Living Landscapes project at Pooginook, some were also near Morgan and Loxton.

## Murray Darling Carpet Python Project

22. Python tracking in the inflatable kayak several times, I never saw the python, but it was easy to detect with the tracker, the python is staying within a certain section of the cliff.
23. Have been contacting landholders about python sightings, organising site visits and collecting more details on their sightings. Site visit to property on Black Hill Road, it was seen in a tree hollow, it may be breeding at the site.



Photo 6 The inflatable canoe for monitoring, all good on a calm day.



Photo 7 MDC python tree hollow.

## Native Grasslands Project 2023-2026

24. **Seed production areas** – Sheralee, Mark, Nancy, Brenton, Mick, Cameron and Aimee weeded the seed production areas and collected native grass seed including the silky blue grass (*Dichanthium sericeum*). The grasses are booming with the rainfall we have had and the increased watering time by the volunteers.
25. **Seeding trial** – will sow the seed into the trial site in June, the seed mix will be a total of 5kg and will be a mixture of lilies, grasses and other flowering herbs.



Photo 8 Volunteer Mick admiring the Kangaroo grass.



Photo 9 Native grasses looking great.