



Mid Murray Landcare SA

Mobile: 0427 590 344

Email: admin@midmurraylandcaresa.org.au

www.midmurraylandcaresa.org.au

Activity Update June 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 a Grassroots Grant for 2026-2027 that will keep our Landcare Group and projects we support continuing for another twelve months, thanks to Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board.

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

5. Volunteers David, Brenton, Greg and Mick helped potting on seedlings, weeding tubestock, cuttings of native boxthorn. Orders have been going out to support projects.
6. Provided support to **twelve** landholders or groups with site visits, project support, or plant identification, we even had Renmark residents travel to the nursery to buy some plants for a windbreak.
7. Supported a planting event at Keyneton Nature Reserve with Keyneton Primary School students, they planted 47 local native plants to increase the shrubby understory for native birds and insects. This planting day was supported by Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board and Keyneton

Community Association. The students really enjoyed their day at the reserve, discovering worms, skinks and fungi, the school will continue their connection with the reserve and their planting project, they have already planned their next visits.

8. A roadside planting event of 100 local native plants to help mitigate an erosion issue on the Marne River, thanks to local landholders, Mid Murray Council, Landcare volunteers and Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board for supporting this project.



Photo 1 Roadside revegetation Project.



Photo 2 Keyneton Primary School planting day.

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.

9. Continued with managing the volunteers, camp bookings, provision of materials and equipment and all necessary administration managing the booking page, cleaning, watered, septic maintenance. Chris O'Keefe from Cambrai Primary School trimmed the trees shading the solar panels, hopefully the batteries will keep up now as we have had some power outages.
10. Camp bookings – we had forty-nine camp nights for June, one hundred and fourteen adults and fifty-five children of which two were for the Astronomy Paddock. We have had three scout groups camp at Meldanda this month, with more to come.
11. A YouTube Video on the different fauna projects at Meldanda has been uploaded to our YouTube channel.

[What Lives at Meldanda: A 100-Acre Native Reserve](#)



Image 1 Video file from YouTube Channel

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

12. Have been working on an updated fact sheet on the River Murray International Dark Sky Reserve
13. Discussions regarding function of Council Section 41 committee, now an independent body
14. Discussion regarding a possible documentary on the creation of the Reserve
15. ASSA would like to install a shipping container in the Astronomy Paddock, will discuss with School Governing Council.
16. Supported GROUND TO THE STARS: A Winter Solstice Celebration of Skycare & Landcare at Swan Reach, presented on the history and formation of the reserve.



Image 2. Photos from the Winter Solstice Event Swan Reach photo credit Sputnik

Kate Wills

17. Organised, promoted and held a Winter Solstice Event at Swan Reach, 100 stargazers came together for indoor discovery talks, deep-space telescope streams, astrophotography workshops, a mobile "Deep Space Theatre," and the hearty winter cook-up by our local CFS crew, it was an extraordinary night of community spirit.
18. 120k views across our social media platforms, with 2800 followers
19. Was successful with a \$1000 instant impact grant from Mid Murray Our Town for Winter Solstice event + \$2000 raised in raffle.



Image 3 Photos from Winter Solstice Event Swan Reach photo credit Sputnik.

20. EOI campaign for Establishing the RMIDSR Sky Quality Network ongoing with nine landholder registrations so far.
21. Murray Valley Standard interview and article published.



Image 4 Murray Valley Standard Article.

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

22. **Turtles** – Turtle Symposium catch up meetings were held to keep activities moving along in preparation for the Turtle Symposium in September [Australasian Turtle Symposium](#) anyone is welcome to attend.
23. **Feral Scan** – There were six sightings submitted to Feral Scan, from five contributors with nineteen goats sighted, including tracks and scats.

Murray Darling Carpet Python Project

24. Site visit to do habitat assessments where pythons have been spotted, went to Taylorville and met with landholder who showed me a place near a wetland that is backed by cliffs where a skin was found.
25. Site visit to an area in the mallee east of the river near Holder Siding, a very uncommon place to see a python, it is about 15km from the river, no known water source nearby, I have been unable to speak to the person who saw the snake.
26. Site visit to Langs Landing where there have been several reported sightings of a python, one was seen crossing Murraylands Road, near shacks, and in the cliff face, thank you to Wayne Lodge for showing me around. There has also been a historic sighting further inland to the west ten years ago approximately 5km from the river.



Photo 3 Python Murraylands Rd photo credit Reid.

Native Grasslands Project 2023-2026

27. **Seed production areas** – Preparing seed for seeding trial, removing grass seed heads from stalks and mixing the 5kg seed ready.
28. Ecologist for Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board collected seed we have grown in the SPA at Meldanda for a seeding trial at Poonthie Ruwe. It was great to see all the seed we have collected over the years taken away to be used, the back of Priya Spencers work ute was packed to the top.
29. **Seeding trial** – We sowed the 5kg of native grassland species mix at the trial site in one of the fenced areas. We hand sowed the seed by firstly raking up the surface to improve the seed soil contact, some areas were roughly raked, while others had nice berms made or soil turned over. We pin marked and dated ten of the sowing sites to see if there is a different response in the methods, not very scientific but may provide some insight for future works. Landcare volunteers Mick, Brenton and David helped sow the seed and we had a nice gentle rain later that day and follow up rainfall four days later.
30. **Grazing Trial** - Site visit to the grazing trial sites to check on the fences and change the SD cards in the cameras. There were no kangaroos in the trial sites where they are meant to be excluded. The native grasses are looking amazing and getting up so high they are triggering the cameras.
31. Took our water cart up to Tiliqua Nature Reserve to support the **Nature Foundation's** planting day of three hundred *Lomandra* sp. to improve habitat for the Pygmy Bluetongue lizards. It was a great effort to get these plants in the ground, the digging was pretty hard going and all the new plants as well as older plantings were protected by large mesh guards. The guards will protect the seedlings from sheep and kangaroo grazing.



Photo 4 Dr Lucy Clive planting day Tiliqua NR.



Photo 5 Brenton, David and Mick sowing native seed.