



Mid Murray Landcare SA Incorporated

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Activity Update May 2018

1. Meldanda;

- a. Prepared and sent final report to the Mid Murray Council's Community Grant for 'Meldanda's Animal Walking Trails project that Tony Hannan has been delivering with Cambrai School students and MM Landcare volunteers
- b. The Port Adelaide Camera club booked Meldanda for some night photography on the 12th of May
- c. Chris Tugwell applied for a National Science Week Grant to hold an event at Meldanda "Develop your telescope skills"
- d. The Frisbee/Disc golf course at Meldanda was trialled by Bruce who is doing a National tour of Frisbee golf courses. There was also an SA Disc Golf Open at Mt Gambier. The Meldanda course is on the www.flyspot.com.au - website
- e. Monitored the Spiny Daisy Translocation site with Bob White and sent the report and photos to Project Officer Erica Rees
- f. Worked with Bob White to develop a list of jobs for Cadell inmates to do at Meldanda and sent to Cambrai school principal, Michelle Holloway
- g. Bob, Wayne and I attended a Chemical Handling Course in Waikerie, it was kindly funded by the NRM Board. We will have the skills and knowledge to make chemical handling and storage safer at Meldanda
- h. We had some more glasses donated to Meldanda from Cambrai local Neil Schutz
- i. Sent final report and invoice for NRM Agricultural Knowledge Grant which funded the native grass workshop we held at Meldanda
- j. Visited Meldanda with Darren Reid to look at potential installation of a small hot water service for the kitchen at Meldanda. Supply and installation estimate is \$1200-\$1500 will see if we can get a small grant



Figure 1 painting posts,



Fig 2 post marker



Fig 3 drilling holes for posts

2. Nursery;

- a. Ongoing propagating, weeding, watering of the nursery and plant sales
- b. Irene has been answering landholders queries about plant selections for specific projects
- c. Organised some plants for Roonka Scouts for their opening of the Nature Trail project that we supported
- d. Irene delivered 2 workshops this month 'Refuge for Reptiles' and 'Responsible Pet Management'. Both workshops were focused on the "Habitat Stepping Stones" values of creating a safe and friendly backyard for wildlife to live in or visit



Figure 4 Irene with a carpet python skin



Figure 5 participants at the Refuge for Reptiles workshop, Cambrai

3. Committee;

- a. Kept committee informed of relevant correspondence, workshops, and other information
- b. Managed the office, volunteers, staff, and all necessary administrations including monthly accounts, reports and committee meeting. We held our May committee meeting in Blanchetown and had a look at some potential projects in town with some of the local landholders
- c. Got 2 new tyres put on the car and had it serviced
- d. Applied to the Native Vegetation Council to undertake accredited consultant training and was accepted, training is scheduled for late June
- e. Continued to liaise with John Kobes re webpage design
- f. Supported the delivery of a First Aid Workshop in Cambrai, 10 people attended, the instructor was excellent and we all learnt how to use a defibrillator
- g. Emailed the committee the draft strategic plan for comment and a link for the new webpage
- h. Sent final report and invoice for Threat Abatement Grant
- i. Promoted the Kersbrook Landcare Nursery plant sale and the upcoming Open Day at Yookamurra
- j. Dark Sky t-shirt order came in, invoiced and posted shirts as required

- k. Picked up large mesh tree guards from Murray Bridge for the Tree paddock Protection Project and ordered 140 droppers
- l. Attended a meeting at Mt Barker with Mike Williams, Sharon Starick and Claire Stephenson and Connecting Community recipients for an update on NLP2
- m. John Endersby came to the office asking if he could do some bird surveys at reserves for us
- n. Dropped off Quandong Seeds for Sam Stewart so they could make jewellery for their Ngaut Ngaut tours
- o. Made contact with Steve Donnellan from the SA Museum to see how we could leverage some more funding for a joint Pygmy Possum Project in the region
- p. Supported Autumn Flora Survey, plant identification workshop with Botanist Nicola Barnes, we went to 2 properties north of Sedan. It was a great day and the feedback on the evaluation forms was a desire for more workshops like this. Some of the comments were;

‘I’d really like to have Nicola and Aimee come out to my area and continue my education & help me identify the flora on my property’

‘Extension of these field trips. Incredibly relevant and useful’

‘... building on to these field trips. Excellent work Nicola Barnes & Aimee Linke’

‘Continue doing an excellent job’



Figure 6 Flora Survey Workshop identifying plants



Fig 7 Nicola Barnes and Aimee Linke

3. Mid Murray Council;

- a. Furthered the Management Plan for the Mannum Waterfalls with Irene Bugeja
- b. Was successful with application for \$1500 NRM Small Volunteer Grant through Natural Resources SA Murray-Darling Basin Department for Environment and Water. The funds are to work with the Blanchetown Hall Committee to develop 'Blanchetown Nature Trail'.
- c. Worked on data collection fields with Russell Pilbeam so he could design the app for the Roadside marker project data collection. Organised materials, maps, planned sites and hired some labour to assist with project who had knowledge of native and exotic species.
- d. Spent 3 days in May surveying roadside locations and marking sites. A report will be prepared for David Hassett on completion of project
- e. Picked up the camera from Swan Reach dump, have had a quick look at photos and there were birds, lizards, cats, rabbits and foxes. One of my volunteers will look through photos more thoroughly and I will provide a report to Neil Cooke
- f. Supported Dark Sky Committee meeting to primarily discuss changing of the proposed reserve boundary to make Meldanda more in the centre. Deb Alexander, Chris Tugwell, Eponine Richardson, David Bennet and Aimee Linke were in attendance. Russel Pilbeam kindly redrew a new map with the agreed boundary
- g. Prepared reports for the Open Space and Recreation Advisory Committee meeting on the Habitat Stepping Stones project, Bird Surveys at Lake Moody and on ground works at Council Reserves.
- h. Meeting to discuss Open Space, Recreation & Public Realm Plan Implementation Plan with council staff 16/05/18

Microbat Project;

- a. Worked on the interpretive sign for Banrock Station on bats and habitat boxes in conjunction with Riverland West Landcare
- b. Received some beautiful hand drawn posters from students thanking the "Bat People" for a workshop we delivered at Waikerie Primary School
- c. Collected bat detector from Mannum Waterfalls, loaned out the bat detector to George King who monitored the Marne Valley CP.
- d. Bat monitoring season is over, I have sent out evaluation forms to the project officers involved to gauge their response to the project, how it could be improved and if they would like to be involved again. Have been getting all the equipment and forms returned to wrap up the bat season
- e. Met Nicole Hahn from Riverland West Landcare in Blanchetown to collect bat detectors
- f. Bat Club meeting over phone on 03/05/18, we are well on target with the project and won't meet again until July
- g. Started the development of a webpage for the Microbat Project
- h. James Tomlinson from Burra came down to drop off his bat detector and I provided him with resources to deliver some workshops and engage better with students on bats