

Activity Update July 2018

1. Meldanda;

- a. Managed volunteers and administrations for Meldanda.
- b. We had the Northern and Yorke Motorhome Club stay at Meldanda for a weekend and they got Murray Mallee Wood oven Pizzas to cater one night for them. Thankyou to volunteer Bob for liaising with the group.
- c. Promoted the 'Specky Brecky' event that was held at Meldanda for the Lunar Eclipse. There were about 20 people who attended, and the weather conditions were perfect. A big thankyou to our committee members that helped out especially Chris Tugwell for organising everything for the night and our volunteers Bob and Sharon who cleaned up the facilities before the event.
- d. Prepared a flyer to start promoting the National Science Week workshop to be held at Meldanda, to learn how to set up and use a telescope, it will be on the 11th of August.
- e. Weeded the Spiny Daisy translocation site with volunteers Sharon and Wayne, we will look at putting up an exclusion fence to keep the herbivores out.
- f. MMC Jane Barnett sought our interest to support a mental health event at Meldanda later in the year to engage people with nature.



Figure 1 Keyneton Primary School National Tree Day planted on Robertson road near Towitta

2. Nursery;

- g. Ongoing propagating, weeding, watering of the nursery and plant sales.
- h. Picked up 2 boxes of *Melaleuca lanceolata* from Birdwood that a volunteer grew for us.
- i. Picked up some boxes of plants we ordered from Kersbrook Landcare Nursery to support the National Tree Planting events this year.
- j. Supported National Tree Day planting with Keyneton Primary School, landholder Helen Deans and the Mid Murray Council. We planted 77 shrubs along Robertson Road to enhance the vegetation corridor from the foothills to the Mallee, we planted in bare areas near farming land. The next planting day will be held on the 10th of August with the community for National Tree Planting Day, we will continue our efforts on Robertson road.
- k. Donated some plants to the Nildottie Cemetery that the locals have been tidying up.
- l. We had a new volunteer start with us at the nursery from Black hill who is interested in learning more about native plants.
- m. Donated some plants to the Memorial Garden at the Sedan Recreation Park, Irene coordinated and helped plant on the day, CEO Russel Peate also helped out.



Figure 2, 3, 4 National Tree Day planting Robertson road supported by Keyneton PS, Barossa Toyota, and Mid Murray Council

3. Committee;

- n. Took 2 weeks annual leave, headed outback along the Darling, Lightning Ridge and Balranald.
- o. Kept committee informed of relevant correspondence, workshops, and other information.
- p. Managed the office, volunteers, staff, and all necessary administrations including monthly accounts, reports.
- q. Applied for an SAMDB NRM Community Grant 'Carpet Python Conservation Collaboration' This project will build on the growing knowledge and community interest in carpet pythons that has been gaining momentum over the past three years. Recent

work in the Eastern Mount Lofty Ranges, supported by Natural Resources SAMDB, has highlighted that the Murray Plains is a potential “hot spot” for this threatened species and that there are distribution knowledge gaps along the Murray River, south of Blanchetown. Mid Murray Landcare SA proposes to continue working in partnership with Natural Resources SAMDB Threatened Species and NRM Education Officers, as well as with Zoos SA, python enthusiasts, volunteers, landholders, local schools, and community members. The project aims to increase knowledge and awareness of carpet pythons, gather historical sighting information, and promote evidence-based conservation outcomes to better protect this species.

- r. Had the ‘Simply Saltbush’ flyer updated, and the Native Vegetation Council is going to promote the book to their consultants, staff, and the State Herbarium. Nadine Brown also picked up a box of books to sell.

3. Mid Murray Council;

- s. Furthered the Sustainable Recreation Management Plan for the Mannum Waterfalls with Irene Bugeja. Irene met on site with David Hassett to seek some costings to further the plan.
- t. Started preparations to commence the Blanchetown Nature Trail project and other priorities in the District Plan.

4. Microbat Project;

- u. Attended ‘Bat Club Meeting’ in Mt Barker, the University of SA staff that were involved with the project have moved onto new positions but will honour their initial support of the project until it is complete, especially the social evaluation side of it which is their main area of expertise.
- v. Dr Kyle Armstrong has reached a stage with the development of call analysis that we can start sorting through all the collected data and reporting back to participants. We will meet at the resource centre in Mt Pleasant and start processing on the 15th of August. We will continue to meet weekly until all the data has been processed.
- w. Dr Annete Scanlon compiled some of the social evaluation data already collected and put together a summary; there were a total of 201 people who completed the MEGA Murray-Darling Basin Microbat Survey. Respondents represented more than 30 local councils, four local councils represented more than 50% of respondents, they included: Mid Murray Council (17%); Alexandrina Council (16%); District Council of Mount Barker (12%); Rural City of Murray Bridge (8%). Most respondents were female (63%); 38% were part of a land management, primary producer, or volunteer group. General opinion of microbats was positive, with 70% of respondents reporting to like or love them. Just 6% of respondents disliked microbats.
- x. We also did an evaluation of all the project officers that have been involved with the project to see what improvements we could make and their level of interest to be involved again next season. All officers would like to participate if they are still employed, due to lack of funding.