

## STAFF ACTIVITY REPORT AUGUST 2016

1. Set up a resources display at the Cambrai Communiity Library which included Frogs and Frogspotter (Frogwatch project, Citizen Science Change Exchange workshop, Meldanda Reunion, volunteering, Feathermap project, Ferals in the classroom (Powerpoint about pest management). The Feathermap project was also put up as a display on the Swan Reach Ferry
2. Conservation Volunteers Australia Green Army Team picked up our trailer and 500 tree guards and tubestock we grew for the Sugar Shack project to plant
3. Processed monthly accounts and took to new accountant for processing, received reports back on time for meeting. Prepared accounts for auditor, Gavin Smith kindly took all our books to Stirling to for auditing, they will be back in October ready in time for the annual report
4. Prepared staff reports and agenda for the August Committee meeting we held in Mannum Council chambers
5. Set up Feral Goat Scan group to allow Mid Murray Landcare SA to be a group to map and enter sightings of goats in the region
6. Walked around Meldanda and took about 100 photos of everything to provide the designer with a variety of photos for the brochure self guided brochure we are developing as part of a Volunteer Small NRM Grant we receieved. Dropped off to Amy Herman from Splitpants Productions text, logos and photos to start the selfguided brochure for Meldanda
7. Received the new logo design for Meldanda and sent to the Cambrai Area School and school governing council for their comments, as long as we acknowledge the Cambrai Area School on promotional material in association with the Meldanda logo they are happy with it, so will organise some shirts ready for the Meldanda reunion
8. Attended the Meldanda Schools Tree Planting Day on 02/08/16, we provided some plants to support the event, great turnout and as usual Toyota supported the day with tree guards
9. Signed contract with staff from Employment Directions and MADEC for our new volunteer placements. Our first 25 hour a week placment has been working out really well. Invoiced MADEC for a payment for hosting WFD people
10. Purchased 3 new first aid kits so we were compliant with health and safety for our volunteers at Meldanda and also in the nursery/office



**Figure 1 Resource Display Cambrai Community Library**

11. Meldanda Committee Meeting 03/08/16 – see attachment for meeting minutes
12. Finalised my work contract for the next 12 months which was signed at an executive committee meeting on 12/08/16 and included the work I will be doing for the Mid Murray Council and the community lands project
13. Promoted the upcoming Frog Watch workshops we are supporting in Mannum and Swan Reach. The workshop in Mannum we held in the Pretoria Hotel on 12/08/16 and we had about 10 community members attend, it was great to see some of the frog species. The workshop in Swan Reach was held on the 30/08/16 in the Swan Reach Hall and we had 7 community members, as well as a request for a workshop to be held at the Swan Reach school. The workshops are presented by Regina Durbridge from GWLAP who is funded by Natural Resources SA MDB
14. Irene in the nursery has contributed to the Meldanda plantings projects, the Sugar Shack project, managed volunteers every Monday, propagated winter species including *Bursaria spinosa*. Irene also contributed to the development of induction material for OH&S, inducted all volunteers, worked with three volunteers on basic plant propagation and nursery maintenance, provided species advice for an 'External plantings application' that was to be submitted to the MMC for roadside plantings
15. Gavin and I had a trip to Murray Bridge to pick up a car load of soil for the nursery and some plants. Have had issues with the trailer plug which Gavin has kindly sorted out. Also got 2 new tyres for the car and had a "major service" 40,000km which took about 3 hours
16. Posted Instagram photo on bat boxes from Don Lester and we have 2700 members of our Bats for Biodiversity Facebook Page
17. Surveyed Reserves around Mannum on 05/08/16 with Gavin Smith. Surveyd rservees around Walker Flat 16/08/16. Surveyd rservees around Scrubby Flat and Wongulla 22/08/16. Attended Open Space Project Team meeting all day in Mannum 23/08/16
18. August wetland monitoring – new volunteer Darren Schield supported wetland officer Gareth Oerman with the following wetlands; 8<sup>th</sup> Devon Downs, 16<sup>th</sup> Morgan's Lagoon, 17<sup>th</sup> Sugar Shack, 18<sup>th</sup> Noonawirra, 24<sup>th</sup> Sweeney's, 31<sup>st</sup> Morgan's frogs. Darren has recently come over to be registered as a volunteer with our Landcare Group instead of the Red Cross shop, he has also been a great asset to projects at Meldanda and we may be able to have him as a registered supervisor at Meldanda to help out with some of our other Work For Dole (WFD) placements
19. Sent staff activity report, nursery work program and Meldanda reunion flier to the Ranges to River NRM Group for their meeting. Donated a bird book to be a part of the raffle prizes for the Meldanda reunion event on the 11<sup>th</sup> of September
20. Put together 5 weed action plans for Boneseed, White weeping broom, Wheel cactus, Bridal creeper and Boxthorn for landholders at Devon Downs where we have mapped the endangered plant *Dodonaea subglandulifera* as part of the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Landcare Grant. Proudced some maps of the mapped plant and inlceded it as part of the weed action plans. Sent final report for this Landcare Grant to the Australian



**Figure 2 Frog Watch Workshop Mannum**

Government online reporting portal and all supporting documentation. Will post out a letters and weed action plans to key landholders at Devon Downs, see map attached of mapped endangered plant

21. Hosted the Spiny Daisy Recovery Team Meeting at Meldanda, it was an all day meeting and I showed the team the site for the translocation that will be propagated this year and planted next year as well as the site for the display garden of this critically endangered plant
22. A local scout group spent the weekend at Meldanda and planted 100 trees (see Sally's report) they also borrowed our gps units to map the rabbit warrens
23. Updated webpage, there were issues with the latest minutes that I uploaded not showing as the current ones. Also promoted upcoming workshops on the webpage as well as managing our social media
24. Assisted Gavin with getting materials and forms ready for 'Sustainable Living Workshop' that Gavin presented at our nursery on the 16<sup>th</sup> of August, we had 8 people attend with some good feedback. We will run another similar workshop in November but make some bigger sized beds
25. Identified Onion Weed, Cape Weed and Wild Turnip for local landholder via phone photos. Also identified a Fierce Thornapple for a landholder that dropped off a specimen, passed on the details to Scott Hutchens so he has a record of this plants location
26. Attended Swan Reach Progress Association meeting 15/08/16 to discuss and start planning the land management project they would like to do with the money donated from the Swan Reach and Districts Landcare Group. Met one of their committee members Popsy Marks on the 30/08/16 to look at some projects and woody weeds they want removed. Will write up a plan for Zadows Corner, behind the Swan Reach Hall, Len White Reserve and inform the council on some road safety issues and general plant maintenance
27. Spoke to Joel Taggart -Manager, Development Services and also Jake McVicar, Senior Development Officer - Planning for MMC they also had a letter from Bev and David Connel about the Lake Carlet development and will organise a letter of response from the MMC and also our group
28. Organised the sign for the Aminya Project which reads ' Butterfly Attracting Garden Supported by Mid Murray Landcare SA' and has our logo, the MMC logo and National Tree Planting day logo



**Figure 3 Spiny Daisy Recovery Team meeting Meldanda**



**Figure 4 Wicking bed workshop**

29. Hosted the CARE Team meeting in Mannum at the Pretoria, it was a good meeting with most LAP/Landcare groups represented. We had a run down on how our final reports were perceived by the Grant Assessment Review Panel and an update by the Wetlands and Floodplain new Team Leader Darren Willis. After the meeting we had a tour of the Museum at Mannum which was great and a



**Figure 5 Care Team after talk on PS Marion**

sustainable agriculture talk on the PS Marion by 2 local Aboriginal women, Cynthia Hutchinson and Anita Hunter which was excellent

30. Posted 10 more Simply Saltbush books to Trees for Life
31. Attended another on ground meeting at Meldanda on the 26/08/16 mainly to discuss the upcoming reunion and the proposed logo for Meldanda. Stayed on and worked with volunteers to plant in the 'Fire Retardent Display Garden', pulled some weeds and realigned entrance path
32. Phone call from landholder in Eden Valley who had the 2014 fires go through his property. He is keen to get some tree guards as part of the 'Paddock Tree Protection' project we are supporting. I am organising with Nicola Barnes to get 10 guards to him and then we will gps their location, measure the height of the trees protected and take photos. The tree guards will protect naturally recruiting seedlings from grazing cattle
33. Chris Grant is the new Natural Heritage Manager at National Trust, replacing Janet Pedlar and would like to work with us if possible to see if there are ways to shore up the Friends of Lenger Reserve and support for the considerable weed issues there. Chris would also like to increase visitor numbers to keep a regular presence up as there are problems with trail bikers busting in when it is quiet there. Will look at meeting Chris to discuss potential projects at Lenger Reserve with some support by Gavin Smith

*This report was prepared by Aimee Linke Project Manager for Mid Murray Landcare SA 30/08/16*