

## STAFF ACTIVITY REPORT SEPTEMBER 2016

1. Processed monthly accounts and took to accountant in Nuriootpa for processing
2. Prepared staff reports and agenda for the Committee meeting
3. Started editing the self-guided brochure for Meldanda and will seek the input of the School Governing Council when we get the next draft back. Requested an extension for this small grant
4. Meldanda logo was finished in time for the Meldanda reunion and we were able to get some t shirts printed for the day. Prepared an attendance sheet for the day. We had 97 people come through and Sharon White did an excellent job on the day selling plants from the Cambrai Community Nursery and made \$277
5. Surveyed the reserves around Blanchetown on 01/09/16
6. Met a new landholder who has moved in near Lake Moody on Pine Hut rd. and was after some advice on weeds
7. Surveyed the reserves around Mannum 02/09/16 and associated scanning and file management
8. Paid accounts as required
9. Picked up our bat education kit from Mt Pleasant NRC and Don Lester has borrowed the Anabat detector to compare calls with the older unit at Meldanda
10. Meeting with Scott Hutchens on 02/09/16 to plan our biological control workshop
11. Organised with Don Lester to deliver 23 bat boxes (kits) to the Barossa Bushgardens for Paracombe Primary School to pick up from there. The school will put them together and provide some feedback on the outcomes of the project.



**Figure 1 Plant stall in the Meldanda Community Bushgardens at the Meldanda reunion manned by volunteer Sharon White**

12. Went out with Mark Grieger on the 01/09/16 to take some photos of the project site before the saltbush was planted as part of the *Erosion management using Saltbush demonstration site* project. Went out to Mark Griegers again on 08/09/16 to get some photos of them planting the saltbush for the demonstration project, Mark will provide a summary of the experience he encountered and then I will put together a summary report so it is ready for a demonstration day in the future. Paid Mark final invoice for this project and rang Tony Randall to inform him that the project had been successfully completed



**Figure 2 Mark Griegers photo point set up**



**Figure 3 Planting the saltbush**

13. We had a new Work for Dole lady start, Tanya Eyre's who will do 15 hours a week between the office and the nursery, she as inducted by Irene. So we currently have Bob and Sharon White doing 15 hours a week in the nursery and Darren Shield and Tom Morrison doing 25 hours a week at Meldanda and Dino Costa was due to start this week as well (currently 95 volunteer hours a week)
14. Dropped of some posters to Popsy Marks for the Museum in Swan Reach
15. Communication – Forwarded the Boards Communique and the Discovery Circles Newsletter to the Committee 09/09/16 and the Drift 29/09/16
16. Had a report from landholder Mark Metcalf that a roadside marker was missing from Koch rd., I rang Greg Hill and he went out to investigate, I will order another roadside marker number 54 to replace the missing one
17. Started entering data into summary spreadsheet for the reserve surveys and spoke to the consultant Sue Suter about the comments and columns she requires information for. Took Thomas Wagenknecht Student Planner for the MMC out with me to do some reserve surveys around Younghusband 27/09/16 so he could see the data collection process. Thomas will assist with data entry into the spreadsheet as I physically don't have the time.
18. Put together a flier about White Weeping Broom in the MMC area as it is flowering at the moment and is particularly an issue in sandy areas and needs to be controlled. The flier was going to be included with the MMC Rates newsletter but Greg Hill organised for it to be a Facebook post
19. Posted Instagram photo inside one of our bat boxes at Meldanda from Don Lester and we have 2813 members of our Bats for Biodiversity Facebook Page (another 113 since last month)

20. Had an enquiry from Kersbrook Landcare Group who are keen to camp out at Meldanda and do some work out there
21. Rang Greg Hill in relation to Gavin Smith and the reasons why he was unable to do volunteer work at Little Ann Reserve in Mannum 9/9/16
22. Spent all of Saturday the 10<sup>th</sup> preparing Meldanda for the reunion day, thought I would be doing some outside work but unfortunately the inside of the recreation shed was filthy so I spent the day cleaning and scrubbing walls. Worked at the reunion day on the Sunday the 11<sup>th</sup> we were very fortunate with the weather, there was a great turnout and it was great to have Gil Hollmaby there from Butterfly Conservation Society SA and Don and Dennis and partners at bat Island for people to talk to



**Figure 5 Don and Helen Lester with bat boxes**



**Figure 4 Gil Hollamby Butterfly Garden**

23. Received some information from MADEC about wage subsidies for Darren Shield and currently the maximum subsidy that is available is \$6500 for 12 months if we employ Darren for 30 hours a week
24. Corrected mistakes in last month's committee minutes and reposted onto website
25. Went out to Meldanda with Irene and our volunteers Bob and Sharon to show them where the eremophilas were in preparation for the workshop. Put together a workshop flier for the Eremophila cutting workshop and promoted through networks and on Facebook. Irene ran a really good workshop at our Cambrai Community Nursery with 9 people and we had 2 new ones from Sedan who saw the workshop information through the Cambrai Area School newsletter, so we will continue to use this as a means of communication. All the workshop participants took home an *Eremophila longifolia* that they potted themselves
26. Dropped the portable toilet back to Mannum that we borrowed from MMC for the Meldanda reunion – thank you MMC for the loan
27. Hosted the WETWOG – Wetlands Working On Ground meeting in Mannum at the Pretoria, it was a good to catch up with the lower murray people who are involved with wetland work. Gareth Oerman our current wetland project officer who does the monitoring is leaving for another job with EBS, we had an update on the Frogwatch workshops and spoke about plans for the Wild Wetlands Day that will be held at Riverglades in April next year. I sent off some information to participants post meeting about the Feathermap project which we will hopefully incorporate into some bird monitoring later in the year

28. Site visit as part of the Marginal to Mainstream project to Peter Royals property and Meldanda to look at the native pasture trials, we went out with consultant Tim Prance, contractor Chris Steinert, native grass experts Bob Myers and Andrew Fairney and Senior Project Officer Ranges to River, Nicola Barnes. There was a lot of plant growth due to the season which made it difficult to easily spot the native grass seedlings but at both paddocks we did see *Microlaena stipoides*, Weeping rice grass which was encouraging. It was decided that the paddock at Meldanda needed to be grazed to help reduce some of the seed set, Meldanda volunteer, Darren Shield fixed up the fence that intersects the paddock and put the gate on and local farmer, Peter Graetz has taken 100 sheep in there and will

graze each paddock separately and keep records of grazing days

29. Posted some more bat brochures to Liz Crane from the Department for Environment in NSW

30. Updated Antivirus software on main computer and laptops, sent Tricia Curtis copy of Weed Action Plans requested at last committee meeting, requested project variation for Connecting Communities Grant to not do the snail and native bee workshops

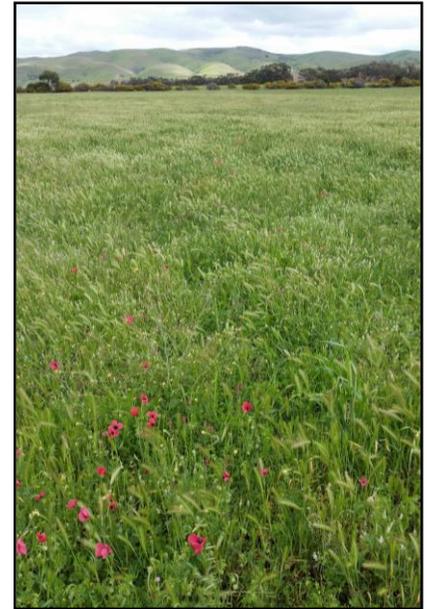
31. Had a meeting with principal of Cambrai Area School, Jan Love, about Meldanda. Attended School Governing Council Meeting to discuss Meldanda and realised the communication abyss with the Meldanda Committee, Mid Murray Landcare SA and the School Governing Council. We will endeavour to communicate better with them and not rely on the school to be the communication link

32. Had a meeting with Peter Graves and Joel Taggart and spoke about the Dark Sky Project and the potential for councils involvement and support. They were very interested and thought it was something that should be discussed at the Open Space & Recreation Advisory Committee meeting

33. Identified plants for landholders (fumitory, dandelion, Calandrinia, burr medic and thistle)

34. Gavin Smith kindly picked up the rest of our soil from EHMPCG nursery and dropped it off at our nursery in Cambrai, thanks Gavin

35. Our Seed Production Workshop that was scheduled for the 29/09/16 at Meldanda had to be cancelled due to the storm event, we had 26 people booked in for it. We have rescheduled for the 6<sup>th</sup> of December, so hopefully it wont be too hot!



**Figure 6 Lots of growth Meldanda paddock**



**Figure 7 *Microlaena stipoides* – weeping rice grass**

36. Went out to landholders property as part of the tree paddock protection project we are supporting, with Nicola Barnes and dropped off 10 guards and helped landholder start putting them on. The tree guards will help to ensure there are gum trees across the landscape for future generations, they will protect naturally recruiting gum trees from cattle grazing
37. Communication – promoted Yookamurras Open Day, Mallee Fowl Walk and Biological Control Agent Workshop. Posted Tree Paddock Project on Facebook
38. Posted new project page on Mid Murray Landcare SA Website about the Bush Stone-curlew Project Shelter for Meldanda. Tony Hannan the artist that will be responsible for creating the shelter and the workshops was available for the day at the Meldanda reunion, when he marked out the shelter site and set up some demonstrations of the wattle and daub panels. The development application has been



**Figure 8 Tree paddock protection project**



**Figure 9 Tony Hannan demonstrating the weaving**

submitted to the council and we need this approved before the funds can be release from Country Arts SA. The first workshops will start in the second week of the school holidays. Tony has met with the staff rom CAS school to discuss their involvement with the project and also with artist Ali Devit- Lansom and the role she will play with workshops. Had a meeting with Tony on the 22/09/16

39. Reviewed the fact sheet for riverbank slumping that the MMC is developing, I will provide some photos for the fact sheet and some description on what a healthy and unhealthy bank looks like
40. Don Lester surveyd the Bat Boxes at Meldanda on the 23/09/16 and the bats that are normally in one box had all moved to another. Don and I will also get together to put together a video on the bat box project that can be used to show school and kindy children about the project. We have been requested by Nuriootpa kindergarten to give a talk to the students and put together a bat box, they would like to put one up in the park opposite the kindy and are keen to see some footage inside a box
41. Attended Open Space & Recreation Advisory Committee meeting in Mannum on the 27/09/16
42. Attended a meeting with Jarrod Manuel Community Development Officer for the Mid Murray Council on 27/09/16 as he is intersted in setting up some good partnerships with youth activities, most likely at Meldanda. He is also interested in the Dark Sky Project
43. Sent ammendments to Amy Hermann the designer for our new pull up banners and said we would like to get a sandwich board and one pull up banner and that I requested an extension
44. Site visit to Lenger Reserve 30/09/16 with Chris Grant and the Friends of Lenger Reserve to look at potential involvement with the reserve and delivering some threat abatement work out there, Gavin Smith came along