

STAFF ACTIVITY REPORT OCTOBER 2016

1. Processed monthly accounts and took to accountant in Nuriootpa for processing. Met with accountant to sign documents for the BAS. Paid accounts as required
2. Prepared annual reports, agenda, minutes, audit report, venue hire, lunch, advertising and promotion for the Committee annual general meeting
3. Took a week off of work during the school holidays
4. continued editing the self-guided brochure for Meldanda , was granted an extension , took some more photos for it when the weather was sunny and provided copy of edits to designer
5. Finalised summary reserves spreadsheet for consultant Sue Suter and a list of priority nature reserves
6. Attended October MML Committee meeting
7. Supported a numbat survey at Yookamurra Sanctuary
8. Planted some more of the native grass seed orchard at Meldanda during the school holidays, we didn't get them finished but the Kersbrook Landcare Group were camping at Meldanda that weekend and finished them off for us.
9. Wetlands work – volunteer Darren Shield assisted Kate Mason and went out to Sugar Shack and did bird and fish monitoring. Two MACAI members assisted on one day, monitoring was done in Kayaks due to high water levels, long neck turtles, freshwater shrimps, prawns and few juvenile carp were caught
10. Darren assisted Kate Mason with a waterfowl survey at Wongulla for a waterfowl assessment project
11. Site visit with Nicola Barnes to look at Towitta Springs and other reserves along 3 Chain Road for potential weed control work. Met with environmental works contractor Amanda Pearce to discuss project, she visited some of the reserves and will provide a quote for weed control in 5 reserves
12. We have had two new Work for Dole people start, Don Morrison and Nathan Fitzpatrick who will be at Meldanda working under Darren Shield as a supervisor on Monday and Tuesdays for 15 hours a week. Have been busy repairing areas after flood damage. Tom Morrison has left for employment as a swimming pool lifeguard.



Figure 1 native grass seed orchard planting

13. Meldanda - Darren has completed the kangaroo fence on the grass seed orchard, supervising 2 volunteers that have helped with slashing and removing fuel loads in preparation for the upcoming fire season
14. Don Lester and I made video on the bat box project at Meldanda so we could show the Nuriootpa kindergarten some bats inside a box. We showed them the presentation talked about bats and then put some bat boxes together. It was a great session and the children had many questions
15. Artist - Tony Hannan has been busy with workshops for the Bush Stone Curlew shelter at Meldanda and it is great to see things coming along. We still need to finalise the development application with the council which Tony has in hand. Darren has also been helping Tony Hannan with this project
16. We held the Spiny Daisy Workshop at our Community Nursery with our volunteers, Tim Field from Banrock Station and Karen Bishop from RW Landcare. It was a great workshop and the team made just under 1000 cuttings, some will be planted at Meldanda in the translocation site, some in the display garden at Meldanda and some at Waikerie PS with Karen.



Figure 2 Spiny Daisy Workshop



Figure 3 Spiny Daisy cuttings

17. Ordered the roadside marker that went missing from Koch rd., it has arrived and I will get out there sometime to replace it
18. Communication MML Facebook – posted Spiny Daisy workshop flier, Biological control workshop flier, Dark sky project site visit flier, AGM flier, don't spray this tree sign and photo, spiny daisy workshop photo, Friends of Meldanda flier, Nuriootpa kindergarten bat talk photo. Also started up a Meldanda Facebook page
19. Went out to landholders property as part of the tree paddock protection project and took photos of the 10 trees he has guarded with a new app called Solocator which puts the direction and the longitude and latitude on there. It is a great app and you can email it to someone and it shows where the location is on a map. I also dropped off 10 more guards and he will protect some more regenerating trees.
20. Tanya Eyerer volunteered in administration at the office and spent the day going through all the reserve survey photos and separated out any riverbank photos that we can use for fact sheets etc

21. Held the Biological control agent workshop at Punthari, committee members Gavin Smith and Terry Franklin attended, farmer and Rangers to River NRM group representative Marcus Schnieder, Richard Kay and friend from Younghusband and local landholder Denis Quast, who said it was the best thing that happened to him all



Figure 4 Marcus Schneider



Figure 5 Denis Quast

year! Denis was very impressed that these agents are available to assist him with weed control on his property. We collected up buckets of coccineal to spread on the cactus at his place which is spreading down Saunders Creek from the upstream neighbours. I also met up with Denis a couple of days later and gave him some horehound plume moths and larvae for him to spread on his place, he was very happy. On the way back from the workshop Scott and I saw Marcus Schnieder on the roadside collecting some more horehound moths so we stopped to help him fill up his container to take home and spread around

- 22. Sharon White volunteering in the nursery prepared a sign for me saying “ do not spray or poison this tree” so we could put it up at Forest Lane Reserve where concerned landholder Cathie Davies keeps seeing a regenerating gum tree burnt in the 2014 Eden Valley fires being sprayed
- 23. Provided some species information for a project developer at Ponde
- 24. Worked at Friends of Lenger Reserve, as did Gavin Smith, we mainly cut grass to maintain some fire breaks. Also saw pest control contractor Kym Loechel about the rabbits at Lenger and he will spend some time there to assess the issue and provide a quote for control work
- 25. Meeting at Meldanda with Sally and Darren to discuss projects while Sally is overseas for a month
- 26. Communication – forwarded Landcare Association SA Newsletter to the committee and Mary Ann Reserve consultation flier
- 27. Identified a sugar gum tree for landholder in Cambrai who wants to have it removed, I pointed out that there was some good hollows on the tree and will inspect occupancy with a camera before the tree is cut down