



Mid Murray Landcare SA Incorporated

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STAFF ACTIVITY REPORT JANUARY 2017

1. Prepared final report for the 'Mid Murray threat abatement and restoration works' project which included rabbit control at the 90Ha Lenger Reserve and weed control of 25Ha over 5 MMC Reserves; Towitta Springs is a 1.7Ha site in the foothills at Towitta and has a natural spring and creek system, Forest Lane aka Rothe Reserve is a 12.95Ha reserve that has had some weed control done in the past and interpretive signage through EHMPCG, Pine Hut Road Reserve is a small reserve of 1.214Ha on Pine Hut Creek. The main concern at this reserve was all the pepper trees that had recruited after the 2014 Eden Valley Fires and knowing that it would be a seed source to keep spreading downstream. Gerschwitz Road Reserve is situated off 3 Chain Road it is comprised 2 parcels totalling 5.8Ha, very open long reserve that would make a nice walking track. It too was affected by the 2014 Eden Valley fires with some of the large gum trees dying from the impact and Kannapa Springs is a 3.54Ha reserve off 3 Chain Rd and was part of the historic stock route, there has been some past weed control work mainly pepper trees and willows clogging up the spring. This reserve was also impacted by the 2014 Eden valley fires but has shown some really good regeneration of natives and also includes a number of rare plants. It also looks promising to get some more funding for this type of work next financial year
2. Work for dole activities have worked with Employment Directions supervisor to update all the placement forms and included that all participants need to have a police clearance, especially if working at Meldanda.
3. Meeting on site 19/01/16 with president from the Bowhill PA Shane McGrath, shop owner Mandy and Cr Jeff Hall to provide some advice on plant selections for projects at Bowhill. I prepared a species list and some basic site map drawings and plant locations.
4. Meldanda Committee Meeting held on the 17/01/17 with Sally Gethin-Jones and Darren Shield, on ground projects were discussed. I put together a certificate of appreciation for people who help out at Meldanda which included the schools logo, Meldanda's new logo and the Landcare logo. We have given one to Mark O'Brien and the works depot in Cambrai for their support with mulch and gravel, Luke Stewart (Dawn's son) for delivering a load of potable water and Peter Graetz for his assistance with broad acre weed spraying.
5. Meldanda - Sally and the volunteers have been very busy weed spraying all the summer weeds, particularly caltrop. Sally alone has used 180 litres of glyphosate in the month of January and they just keep germinating! Ants on pathways is also another thing that Sally is trying to get under control with Coopex, some nests are proving very difficult to control.
6. Meldanda volunteer Don Morrison has been weed spraying, preparing cuttings of Myoporum species, tidying up the Bush gardens and fixing the fence that was washed out during the floods.

7. Meldanda volunteer Darren Shield has been mowing paths, weed spraying, watering new plantings, tractor slashing, mowed the butterfly garden, put up the donation box, mowed the Frisbee golf course, cleaned up the camp area and prepared for the Cambrai Primary School BBQ and weeded the native grass orchard.
8. Meldanda – went shopping for materials that were required like blackboard paint, new leaflet holder, screws for bat boxes, sink plug and another visitor book.
9. Nursery – have been selling a few plants out the front of the office and it helps people to realise there is a nursery behind the building. Volunteers Bob and Sharon have been propagating Pigface for the Sugar Shack project. Weeded and re-organised the nursery under Irene’s supervision.
10. Prepared a draft Memorandum of Understanding for the School Governing Council which outlines the items we discussed back in December regarding the trial management of Meldanda.
11. Meeting with Nicola Barnes on 18/01/17 to get some more tree guards and stakes for the ‘Tree Paddock Protection Project’. Landholder from Keyneton picked up some droppers to go with the guards he already has 23/01/17. I will GPS the locations once he has installed them.
12. Meeting with Barbara Endersby from Cambrai PS to get the worksheets for Meldanda, a mobile phone and a contact for Faith High School who use the orienteering course each year at Meldanda.
13. Meeting with teacher Caroline Lewis 19/01/17 from Kersbrook PS who wanted some information on bats.
14. Posted some information to landholder near Lake Moody on her remnant vegetation and weed control advice for Silver Leaf Nightshade.
15. I had meeting with Meridee Jensen 24/01/17 when we worked on the spreadsheet to prioritise the community land parcels for the first land management plans to be written on the reserve priorities for land management plans.
16. Have been assisting Sylvia Clarke with a Citizen Science grant application which will be driven by the SA Museum and, if successful, will help to support my position and increase delivery of the bat monitoring project.
17. Don Lester did the bat box surveys at Meldanda 24/01/17 and one of the boxes had about 16 bats all piled in together.
18. Attended the welcome BBQ for new teachers, students and principal at Meldanda on 24/01/17, Russel Peate also attended and was very proficient at serving up the sausages.
19. Meldanda – the Bush Stone Curlew shelter development application has finally been approved by the council. I scanned the documents and sent them to Country Arts SA.
20. Local farmer called into the officer from Redbanks and enquired about support for tree planting, he wants to create some shelter belts to increase biodiversity and replace some of the plants that died during the drought – we will grow between 200-500 plants for this landholder.
21. Supported MMC Open Space and Recreation Advisory Committee meeting 31/01/17.
22. Site visit to Sleeper Track Road to see a property where a goat farmer needs some advice on what to grow where he is losing soil. In the past he has piled up stones but has discovered it has increased his soil erosion. I will post him a list of suitable plants as his intention is to direct seed.

Plus I have enjoyed a few weeks leave and a long weekend!

