

Activity Update September 2019

Meldanda;

1. Managed volunteers and administrations for Meldanda. Informed Cambrai PS of the monthly bookings.
2. Irene submitted the grant application to upgrade the facilities at the back shed.
3. The Cambrai CFS has been out to assess the rubbish up the back and will schedule in a time to burn it as a group training event.
4. We had our first committee meeting up in the back shed and the committee thanked the volunteers for all their efforts in cleaning up this space.
5. We had the new blinds installed in the recreation hall which was possible through an FRRR grant.
6. We removed a tree outside one of the doors at the recreation hall to improve access, we may need to consider removing some of the other trees around the fire ring as they look dead and will pose too much of a fire risk.
7. The new signs to reduce speed and switch to parking lights have been installed, as well as directional signs to the Astronomers Paddock, this was thanks to a small volunteer NRM grant.
8. Volunteers erected a nib up at the back shed to provide a protected area to have BBQ's.
9. College Park Scout group camped at Meldanda for 2 nights.
10. Sheralee and I put out some markers up the back of Meldanda for the Cambrai Primary School to start building the rammed earth walls out of old tyres to define some new camps spots.
11. Mt Barker Joey Scouts camped at Meldanda for a night.
12. Sheidow Park School camped at Meldanda for 2 nights.
13. We had a walking group from the Barossa come out for the day and Kevin Schubert showed a group around.



Figure 1 shelter area for BBQ's up at the back shed constructed by volunteers

Nursery;

14. Provided 40 shrubs for a windbreak at Rockleigh Old school hall site.
15. Put together a variety of different seed types for Sheree Bowman to use for an educational session in the Riverland.
16. We had a new volunteer start to help out in the nursery on Monday's her name is Chryss Filsell from Younghusband.
17. Started seed increase of some species ready for the INTG project.



Figure 2 seed increase of grassland species

Committee;

18. Kept committee informed of relevant correspondence, workshops, and other information. Managed the office, volunteers, staff, and all necessary administrations including monthly accounts, reports. Held our monthly meeting up at the back shed of Meldanda, it was cold, raining and noisy.
19. Meeting with treasurer Lyn Carmichael to work through end of financial year accounts processing in preparation for audit.
20. Volunteer Mick Lowe has been out every week at the Marne Valley CP mulching plants and collecting tree guards.

Murray Darling MEGA Microbat Project;

21. The MEGA Microbat Project has been selected as a finalist for the Australian Government Partnerships for Landcare Award. We have been invited to attend the 2019 State Community Landcare Conference and Gala Dinner where the official presentations and announcement of the winners of the 9 State Landcare Awards categories will take place.

The Gala Dinner is being held in Bordertown at the Tatiara Civic Centre, on Tuesday 29 October 2019. We have offered the free ticket and accommodation to Dr Kyle Armstrong from the SA Museum who was part of our project team since we are already attending to present on the River Murray Dark Sky Reserve.

Increasing productivity of Irongrass grasslands;

22. Spent 3 days at Poonthie Ruwe monitoring the 150 established quadrats during the first week of September, it was very physically challenging with all the work being done on your knees.
23. Meeting with Nicola and Andrew to plan out the setting up of the additional seed orchard at Meldanda and the native grassland demonstration trial.
24. Spent 6 days mapping grasslands north of Burra, where we get to see some amazing plants as pictured below and met some great landholders.



Figures 3, 4, 5, 6 Sundew, Swainsona, Native Carrot and Common sunray

INTG Trials (separate contract)

25. Have had discussions with project team whilst in Burra about potential trial opportunities.

Western Pygmy Possums in the Mid Murray/Murray Mallee region

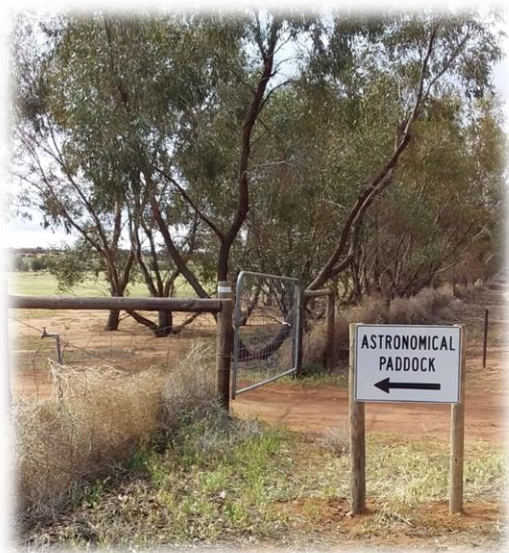
26. Booked the Community Hall at Bowhill for the next workshop which will be held on the 26th of October. Murray Mallee LAP has started promoting again. Don Lester has got all the box kits ready.
27. Went out with landholder next to the Swan Reach CP on Sleeper track to set up 2 possum boxes.
28. Have started receiving data of boxes set up with their locations.



Figure 7 setting up possum boxes with landholder

River Murray Dark Sky Reserve

29. Received a revised draft from designer of logo for the reserve.
30. Meeting with Chris Tugwell, Deb Alexander, Julie Bates, Jake McVicar and Aimee Linke to discuss pending approval of Dark Sky Reserve application.
31. Irene submitted a community event grant through the MMC to hold an event at Meldanda at the end of November for the Dark Sky Reserve



Figures 8 and 9 new directional and safety signage

Spiny Daisy Project

32. We had our first flower on a spiny daisy that has germinated from seed, this is very exciting.
33. We planted out some spiny daisy in the garden at work, some of the plants that have germinated from seed.



Figure 10 first flower from a plant originally grown from seed, second generation.

Mid Murray Council;

34. Python signs have been produced and delivered ready for installation at Towitta Springs and Mannum Waterfalls. Irene acquitted this small grant for us.