



Mid Murray Landcare SA

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Activity Update November 2019

Meldanda;

1. Managed volunteers and administrations for Meldanda. Informed Cambrai PS of the monthly bookings. Both gas bottles have now been replaced at Meldanda and are registered under Landcare.
2. General maintenance by volunteers include repairs to bore pump, issues with solar battery system that operates the toilet lights, spraying ants around campground and watering.
3. Meeting with Michelle Holloway, Chris O'Keefe, Chris Tugwell, Irene Bugeja and Aimee Linke to discuss insurance at Meldanda, public liability and difficulties with applying for grants when property considered education department land.
4. Sent a thankyou letter and Certificate of Appreciation to Cambrai and Sedan CFS for burning the pile of rubbish at Meldanda.
5. We had to buy a new solar pump for the bore which cost \$2700.
6. Volunteers Sheralee and Cryss have removed some of the grass species that we will not be using for the INTG Project which include *Dicanthium sericeum*, *Austrostipa Mollis* and *Cymbopogon ambiguus*. They also collected seed from *Enneapogon nigricans* and *Athnosachne scabre*.
7. Volunteers also kept the facilities cleaned for visitor bookings. Bob and Sharon did a big clean and reorganise before the Dark Sky Event.
8. Cryss, Sharon, Sheralee and Aimee undertook the wild pollinator count in the Spiny Daisy translocation site, the only activity was little black ants.
9. Greg Kirk donated some building materials to our back-shed project and Bob helped him unload on a weekend day.
10. Laucke family used Meldanda for a celebration event.
11. 1st Manor Farm Scout Group camped overnight at Meldanda; they did a community service activity by spreading the mulch around the grasses Cambrai primary school planted.
12. Central Hills 4WD Club stayed at Meldanda for a weekend.
13. Had the septic tank pumped out at Meldanda.



Nursery;

14. Volunteers prepared materials for upcoming workshop, especially washing all the tubes. Have been still selling plants to the public.
15. We held a propagating workshop and sowed seed for *Acacias*, *Eucalyptus* and *Vittadinia*. We had a new volunteer join us who came to the possum workshop we held at Bowhill; he is interested to learn how to grow plants at home. We all had some yummy cake that Irene made for us from a zucchini grown in our wicking bed at the nursery.
16. Ordered some more tubes from Arborgreen since we are running low.
17. Brenton and Sheralee set up a new section of the nursery for all our seed production boxes
18. Volunteers have been busy propagating for the INTG project including; *Bulbine bulbosa*, *Arthropodium strictum*, *Thysanotus patersonii*, *Enchylaena tomentosa*
19. Collected our Trees for Life order from near Gawler



Figure 1 volunteers propagating tubestock in our nursery shed



Figure 2 volunteers enjoying morning tea and cake made from a nursery grown zucchini

Committee;

20. Kept committee informed of relevant correspondence, workshops, and other information. Managed the office, volunteers, staff, and all necessary administrations including monthly accounts, reports.
21. Held our AGM at Yookamurra Sanctuary and learnt about the survey work they have been doing out there.
22. Volunteer Mick Lowe has been out every week at the Marne Valley CP mulching plants and collecting tree guards.
23. Meeting with John Kobes to work out some issues we were having with sending emails to the contact list.
24. Rang Alan Reynold from Blanchetown Hall committee to see when it would suit to help them with their plant id signs, they are having a working bee soon that I will attend.

25. Did some work on the Blanchetown Implementation plan for Jake McVicar to present at the next Open Space & Recreation Committee meeting on the 5th of December.
26. Meeting with Lyn Carmichael our treasurer to roll over the financial year and start entering the monthly accounts.

Murray Darling MEGA Microbat Project;

27. There have been 2 documents completed as part of this project, the first one is a technical report that summarises the outcomes of the project and how it was achieved. The second document is the project handbook which is a guide for other people who would like to undertake a similar project, the how to. This project is officially finished, some of the project team are going to present at the upcoming Australasian Bat Society Inc. 19th biennial Conference that will be held at the Distinction Hotel in Te Anau, on the South Island of New Zealand, from 8 to 10 March 2020.
28. Attended a meeting Mt Barker with the project team to discuss potential papers on the project and the upcoming conference in New Zealand. Booked flights for the conference, Sylvia will cover the hire car and the share accommodation.

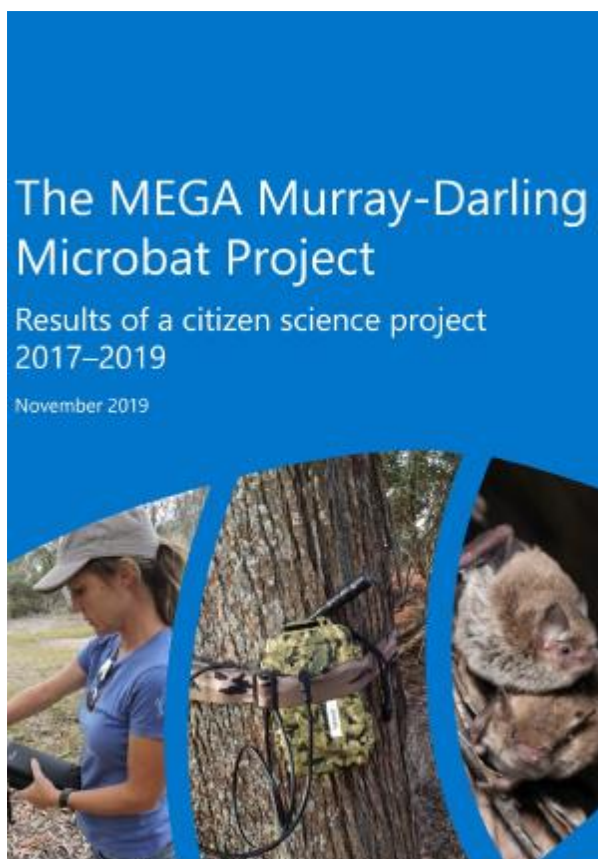


Figure 3 technical report on project results

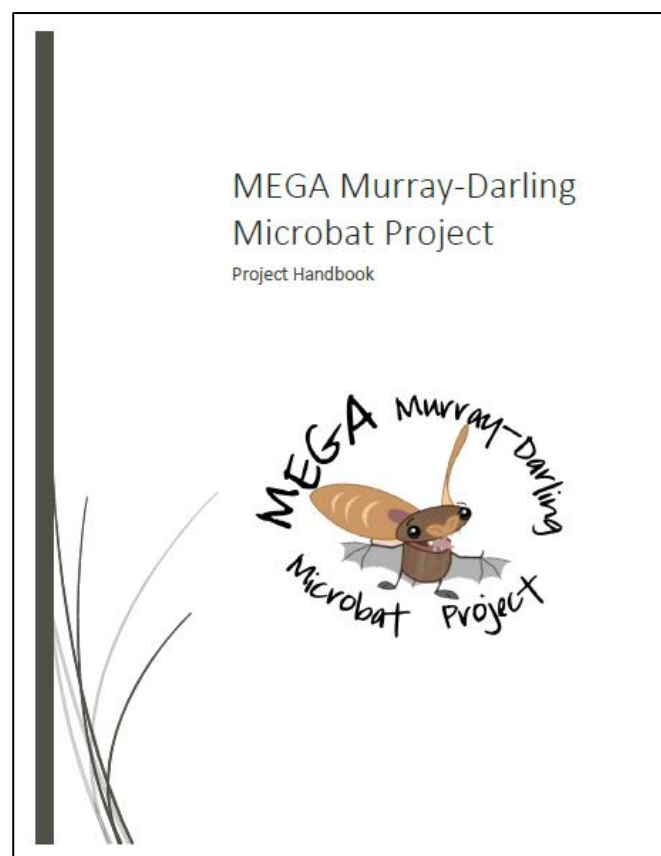


Figure 4 manual on how to implement project

Increasing productivity of Irongrass grasslands;

29. Poonthie Ruwe monitoring over 3 days, we had a student help us on one day and he did the photo points. Also saw another 5 lined earless dragon which is remarkable.
30. Sent in some invoices for this project for the monitoring work that has been completed.
31. Spent a day at Meldanda with Andrew Fairney, Sheralee and Brenton trenching and digging in the poly-belt for the new Seed Production Area.
32. INTG monitoring with Nicola Barnes (12-131119) finished off the 10 permanent sites, which included one north of Burra up near Hallett, one near Point Pass and Callington Hill.
33. Picked up fencing materials from Murray Bridge that we can use on setting up the seed production area at Meldanda.
34. Seed collection with Nicola so we can propagate species to increase seed production (281119).
35. Meeting with landholder Marcus Schneider to discuss Summer Workshop ideas. Some properties still have some summer active grasses and one thing we would like to promote to farmers is the year-round green that can be achieved with a diverse mix in the grassland.
36. Had a planning meeting with Nicola Barnes in Mt Barker 21st November -looked at including bat monitoring into the project.



Figure 5 Earless dragon at Poonthie Ruwe



Figure 6 Andrew Fairney trenching



Figure 7 Brenton and Sheralee putting in corner dropper

Western Pygmy Possums in the Mid Murray/Murray Mallee region;

37. Registered the location of boxes at Lenger Reserve and checked them with an inspection camera which was easy to use. Was helped by Kate from Kansas, who is travelling and working in Australia.
38. Communicating with workshop participants about the project, their boxes and data.
39. Meeting with Don Lester to discuss the project and what materials we might need for more box workshops.
40. Meeting with Sylvia Clarke to see what extra funds we can secure for supporting more workshops and equipment.
41. Have had box photos coming in, including ones from Hiltaba Nature Reserve, which is Nature Foundation SA property, property near Swan Reach CP and one from up the river nestled in a Banksia tree. It's great to see the different habitat photos.



Figure 8 Kate from Kansas using inspection camera



Figure 9 Banksia tree near the River



Figure 10 Hiltaba Reserve



Figure 11 near Swan Reach CP

River Murray International Dark Sky Reserve;

42. Got the accreditation! Officially recognised by the International Dark Sky Association as the 15th International Reserve in the world and is called the River Murray International Dark Sky Reserve.
43. Chris Tugwell our chairman has been busy with lots of media in relation to the announcement.
44. The increase in the project was evident with traffic on our webpage, John Kobes has provided some data on the changes from the 1st of November to the 10th which can be seen in the table below. On the 1st of November it was 11.31MB, on the 5th it was 128.6 MB, 6th 414.24MB and on the day of the announcement which was the 7th it went up to 1.53GB, this huge spike in activity, seen as the blue line on the other graph, meant that John had to redirect the webpage to its own server to cope with extra demand.
45. Ordered some more t-shirts and hats to promote the reserve which can be purchased through our Landcare group.
46. Community Event Celebration was held at Meldanda on the 29th of November, we had the local tennis club cater for the event. The plans of looking through telescopes was thwarted by not nearly enough rain. The cold weather made it nice to be toasty warm inside the hall. We had an interesting mix of people attend from local tourism operators, wildlife researchers, astronomers, local landholders, council staff, Rodney Harrex the Chief Executive of the South Australian Tourism Commission (SATC), Mayor Dave Burgess, Tim Whetstone the South Australian Parliament Member for Chaffey and is the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development in the Marshall Government.
47. We also registered the River Murray International Dark Sky Reserve as a business under Mid Murray Landcare SA.

	All Traffic
1	11.31 MB
2	22.45 MB
3	17.68 MB
4	160.43 MB
5	128.6 MB
6	414.24 MB
7	1.53 GB
8	1.64 GB
9	1.78 GB
10	786.34 MB

Figure 12 Webpage activity after announcement

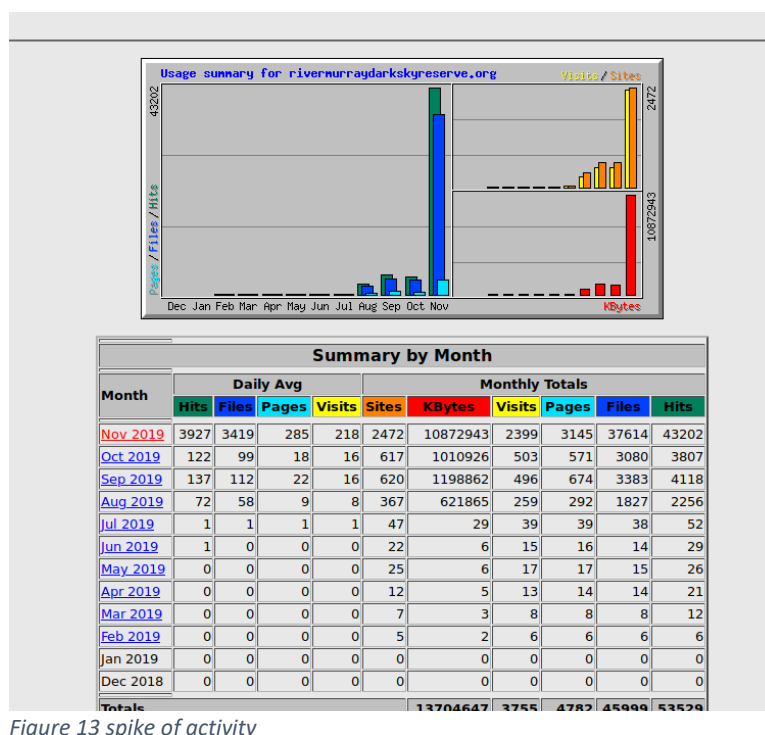


Figure 13 spike of activity



Figure 14 models Epi and Jake for 21.9 merchandise

Merchandise available

T-shirts \$26.00

Caps \$20 – 2 styles, baseball or military.

Order through Mid Murray Landcare SA

Details	Sizing							Technology
Sizing								
LADIES	8	10	12	14	16	18	20	
BUST	43.5	46	48.5	51	53.5	56	58.5	
SP LENGTH	61	63	65	67	69	71	72	

Details	Sizing		Technology									
Sizing												
ADULTS	2XS	XS	S	M	L	XL	2XL	3XL	4XL	5XL	6/7XL	8/9XL
CHEST	48.5	51	53.5	56	58.5	61	63.5	66	68.5	71	76	81
SP LENGTH	64.5	67.5	70.5	73	75.5	78	80.5	81.5	82.5	83.5	85.5	86.5