



Mid Murray Landcare SA

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Activity Update June 2020

This activity update is for the month of June. If you would like to be on our mailing list and receive this free update, please email Aimee Linke on the above email address or view on webpage.

Meldanda

1. Met on site with Mel Nuske, Chris O'Keefe and Michelle Holloway to discuss the draft lease agreement.
2. Have been seeking insurance quotes for the buildings and contents at Meldanda.
3. Volunteers Bob White and Brenton Jay have been working on the Fire-Retardant Display Garden fence to make it rabbit proof. It is now completed and has gates at both ends. We have plants ready for Cambrai Primary School to plant in there on National Tree Planting Day.
4. The koala has been seen back at Meldanda in the same tree.
5. Volunteer Sharon White took off the tree guards that were no longer needed on plants. We also weeded around the carpark entrance to get the main weeds around the plants. Volunteer Sheralee Warren sprayed weeds near the carpark entrance and Bushtucker garden. We also hand pulled the largest weeds that were forming seeds along the start of Bat Island and started weeding and tidying up the Bushgardens.
6. Volunteers Andy Marshall, Sheralee Warren, Greg Kirk, Cryss Filsell, Brenton Jay, Bob White and Sharon White all helped to revamp the Bush tucker Garden. We pulled out dead plants, finished off some paths through the gardens, added some native mulch from the site and reprinted the signs.



Figures 1 and 2 Bushtucker Garden Revamp.

7. Volunteer Bob White plumbed up the BBQ Area kitchen sink to run out onto a garden bed, instead of the concrete.
8. Volunteers Andy Marshall and Brenton Jay filled in the rabbit holes in the Bushgarden area, some rabbit shooting will need to occur as they have established in the garden.
9. Volunteers Bob White and Andy Marshall fixed up the boundary fence that was washed down when it flooded at Meldanda. They also moved the 'Service Vehicles Only' sign further up the track to prevent access up to the back-shed area and make normal daily activity easier.
10. Volunteers Brenton Jay and Bob White started fixing the sliding door on the shed up the back of Meldanda

Spiny daisy

11. One of the plants we have at the back of the nursery in the garden is sending up ramets.
12. The next meeting is planned for September at Overland Corner.

Community Nursery

13. Nursery sales have been very busy, we have sold out of most plants.
14. Volunteer Trevor Carmichael dug out the *Mentha australis* that took over one of our wicking beds.
15. Volunteer Royce Jay has almost done herself out of weeding work at the nursery.
16. Volunteer Sharon White did a stocktake of the nursery which is one of our audit requirements. Sharon also started washing the tubes ready for plant propagation.
17. Volunteer Seed collection event at Meldanda – we collected woody seeds including *Melaleucas*, *Hakea* and *Leptospermum*. We also collected some "Old Man Saltbush" *Atriplex nummularia* for a local farmers project.
18. Volunteer Sharon White potted on *Vittadinia blackii* that had germinated in the seeding boxes, a species we can use for the INTG project.



Figures 3, 4, 5 seed collection events at Meldanda with volunteers, collected *Melaleuca*, *Leptospermum*, *Hakea* and *Atriplex*.

Committee & other

19. Managed the office, volunteers, staff, and all necessary administrations including monthly accounts, reports and kept MYOB up to date.
20. Held our Committee Meeting at Sedan Recreation Park and council Dennis McCarthy showed us the Men's shed 11/6/20.
21. Put together plants for Wildwood Park Sanctuary Project and Bush tucker plants for Sam Stewart for Ngaut Ngaut.
22. Organised our next committee meeting with Max Jongebloed to be at Roonka Water Activity Centre, north of Blanchetown.
23. Put together an updated flyer for 'Simply Saltbush' publication and promoted on social media FB to try and sell some more copies.
24. Irene Bugeja started back in the office and inducted Royce Jay and acquitted the FRRR Grant.



River Murray International Dark Sky Reserve

25. John Kobes and Chris Tugwell have been working on the website for RMIDSR.
26. First Dark Sky Committee Meeting is planned for the 11th of July.
27. Some star gazers have camped at Meldanda and have had enquires from people to come to the reserve.

Microbats

28. Have invoiced for analysing the Pike Wetland bat data and have progressed about halfway through the Katarapko Wetlands bat data.
29. Have lent Anabat detector to landholders Les and Jayne Payne near Morgan.
30. Met Sam Chesson at Mt Pleasant to collect the bat detectors so I can analyse the data and provide a report on bat species at Gawler Buffer Revegetation Site. Analysed Sam's bat data provided a report and invoiced for the work.
31. Ran Sylvia Clarke through Anabat Insight and the decision tree I have been using to make analysing bat data faster. Also showed some interested Committee members at our last meeting at Sedan.



Irongrass Grasslands Project

32. Volunteers Cryss and Sheralee tidied up back shed so they could have clearer areas for drying the native grass seed they collected. We held an INTG team meeting at Meldanda and worked through the interview questions for landholders that will take part in the trials.
33. Andrew Fairney sprayed half the trial site with Bioweed Ultra on 03-06-20 which is meant to kill the seeds on the soil.
34. The trial site at Meldanda was sown with a native grassland mix on 18-06-20, we set up a rain gauge to keep a record of rainfall and a photo point site.
35. Kept up with watering the Seed Production Areas and maintaining the sites for weeds.
36. Harvested the grass seed orchard and cut back the *Poa labillardieri* which has now shot out nice green shoots.
37. Volunteer Sharon white sowed *Wahlenbergia communis* 09-06-20 in the nursery ready for planting in the SPA, they germinated on the 24-06-20.
38. Volunteers Cryss Filsell and Sheralee Warren harvested the *Ptilotus spathulatus* from the SPA, included a social media FB post.
39. We planted some *Arthropodium strictum* in the seed production area we had been growing in the nursery 15-06-20.
40. Volunteer Cryss Filsell weighed and bagged seed we had collected, including *Enchylaena tomentosa*, *Ptilotus spathulatus*, *Convolvulus remotus*, *Goodenia pinnatifida*, *Ptilotus nobilis*, *Enneapogon nigricans*, *Vittadinnia blackii* and *Bothriochloa macra*.



Figure 6 trial site sown at Meldanda



Figure 7 and 8 Cryss and Sheralee harvesting *Poa labillardieri* and *Ptilotus spathulatus* from the SPA's at Meldanda.

Western Pygmy Possum

41. Karen Bishop from Riverland West Landcare promoted the project by including a story in the Murray Pioneer 24/06/20.
42. Volunteer Sheralee Warren and I went up to meet landholders Les and Jayne Payne, near Morgan to drop off some WPP boxes and an Anabat detector.
43. Updated excel spreadsheet with box data ready to map all the locations.
44. Les and Jayne Payne sent in their box data details along with Sheralee Warren.
45. Request from landholder at Cooltong to be involved with the Citizen Science Project they had seen promoted through Riverland West Landcare.
46. Recorded a Radio Interview about the project for ABC Riverland with Matt Stephens and was played on the 1st of July.



Roadside Vegetation Management Plan (RVMP)

47. Irene Bugeja has been working on updating the Mid Murray Council's RVMP, we had a meeting with David Hassett and Russel Pilbeam to discuss the progress.
48. Have been busy out on the road with volunteer Sheralee Warren, we have finished all the sites up around Morgan and Mt Mary, so far about a quarter of the signs are missing and will have to be ordered and replaced.