

Activity Update July 2020

This activity update is for the month of July. 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. Meeting with Mel Nuske, Julienne, Jake McVicar, Dallis Von Wald and Aimee Linke to discuss Meldanda. More information is needed for the school community on the Dark Sky Reserve, Mel will organise a meeting to facilitate this. We will also move forward with updating the strategic plan for Meldanda which will allow for discussions on management, projects and visions for Meldanda.
2. Volunteers Andy and Brenton have been working on the sliding door at the back shed so it slides properly and is secure.
3. National Tree Planting Day with Cambrai Primary School, we planted some more plants in the Fire-retardant display garden, now that the garden is rabbit proof. Volunteer Sheralee helped out on the day and helped me finish off the plants and water them all in.



Figure 1 Cambrai Primary School National Tree Planting Day held at Meldanda

4. Volunteer Bob White fixed up some leaky irrigation and cleaned the facilities ready for guests.
5. Volunteers Greg, Sheralee, Sharon, Cryss, Andy and Brenton helped to tidy up the front Bushgardens by weeding and removing some of the dead plants.
6. Volunteers Andy and Brenton fixed up boundary fence to stop rabbits getting into front Bushgardens.
7. Volunteer Sheralee poisoned 9 boxthorns across the property.
8. We had the Yorke Peninsula Motorhome Club camp at Meldanda for 3 nights 24th -26th July. This club has camped there before and said they will return.
9. Volunteer Sharon finished replacing the bushtucker signs with temporary ones we re-printed and laminated.
10. Cambrai Primary printed us some COVID-19 signs that we put up at Meldanda, I developed a registration sheet for tracing people who stay on site.
11. Volunteers Andy Marshall and Brenton Jay picked up the new tank from Murray Bridge, this was funded through a Mid Murray Council grant.
12. Lachie Graetz for MMC sprayed the paths and carpark areas for weeds, having the right equipment to do large jobs like this really helps us out at Meldanda.
13. Irene Bugeja has been updating the Bushtucker list for Meldanda, it is an activity people can do to go and find certain plants around the property.
14. Had a camper stay at Meldanda on the 5th of July who was interested in stargazing.

Community Nursery

15. Volunteers Sharon and Cryss sowed *Callistemon brachyandrus*, *Callitris gracilis*, *Pittosporum angustifolium*, *Bursaria spinosa* and *Acacia oswaldii*.
16. Volunteer Sharon did some cuttings of *Rhagodia spinescens*, Sheralee trimmed plants in front garden and set up a trellis for the *Billardiera cymosa* and Cryss cleaned and bagged *Atriplex nummularia* seed.
17. Have still been having steady plant sales from the nursery.

Committee & other

18. Managed the office, volunteers, staff, and all necessary administrations including monthly accounts, reports and kept MYOB up to date.
19. Held our Committee Meeting at Roonka Scout Camp, thanks to Max Jongblood our host 9/7/20.
20. Put together a flyer to promote upcoming planting day at Wildwood Park Sanctuary on the 25th of August. Emailed it to contact list and posted on FB page 27/7/20
21. Prepared and sent off our progress report for Connecting Communities grant funding.
22. Prepared and sent a letter for consideration of weed control in some of the nature reserves in the Mid Murray Council region and sent to postbox@mid-murray.sa.gov.au for David Hassett to consider.
23. Volunteers Brenton and Royce travelled down south of Adelaide to Lonsdale to pick up a trailer load of droppers for the tree paddock project.
24. Supported a tree planting event for Wongulla Progress Association at the Marne Mouth.



Figure 2 Committee meeting Roonka



Figure 4 Flyer for planting day

River Murray International Dark Sky Reserve

25. The RMIDSR website is active, it still needs a few links to tourism pages.
26. Held the Dark Sky Committee Meeting on the 11th of July at Cambrai Council Chambers. Irene prepared the minutes and emailed out to the committee.
27. The next meeting will be held on the 14th of August at the Adelaide Planetarium with a focus on tourism opportunities and services.
28. Chris Tugwell spoke at Rotary Club Adelaide about the Reserve on 29/7/30
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cgLdYuu0cw&feature=youtu.be>
29. Volunteers Chris Tugwell, Terry Franklin and I visited the Armstrong Airfield to assess its potential as a location to use for the reserve, it has a lot of potential.

Microbats

30. Still working my way through Katarapko Wetlands bat data and have one more night to go. 
31. Have lent Anabat detector to landholders Barry And Maureen Wright who live at Burra, Don has made some bat boxes, so we gave them one to install.

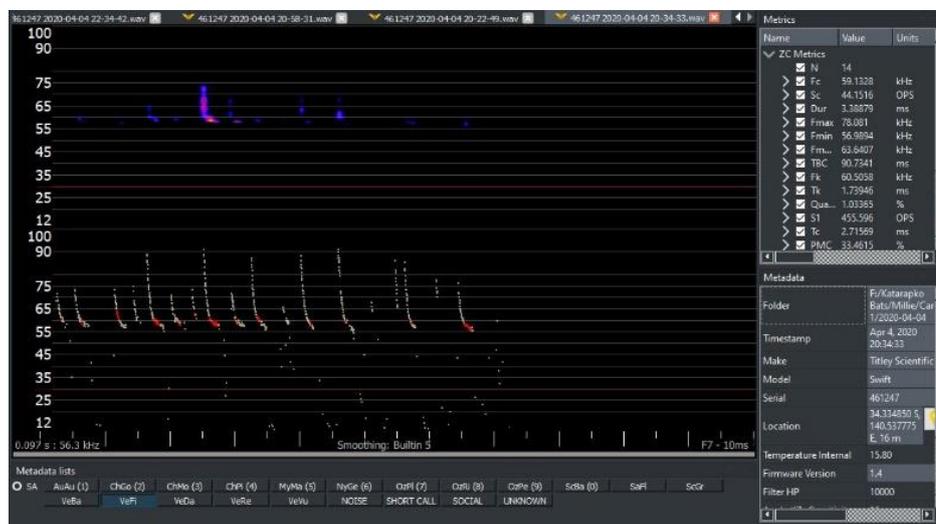


Figure 3 an example of a bat call from Katarapko, *Vespadelus findlaysoni*

Irongrass Grasslands Project

32. Volunteers Brenton, Cryss and Andy harvested and tidied up *Enteropogon acicularis*
33. Volunteers Cryss and Sheralee and I have been weeding both seed production areas, Sheralee sprayed weeds around the edges.
34. Volunteers Cryss and Sheralee and I have been planting replants in the grassland plants seed production area.
35. Andrew Fairney picked up some of the plants we had left over from the seed production areas to use as replants at his sites.
36. Volunteers Andy, Greg and Brenton have made trellises for both the *Convolvulus remotus* and *Glycine rubiginosa*

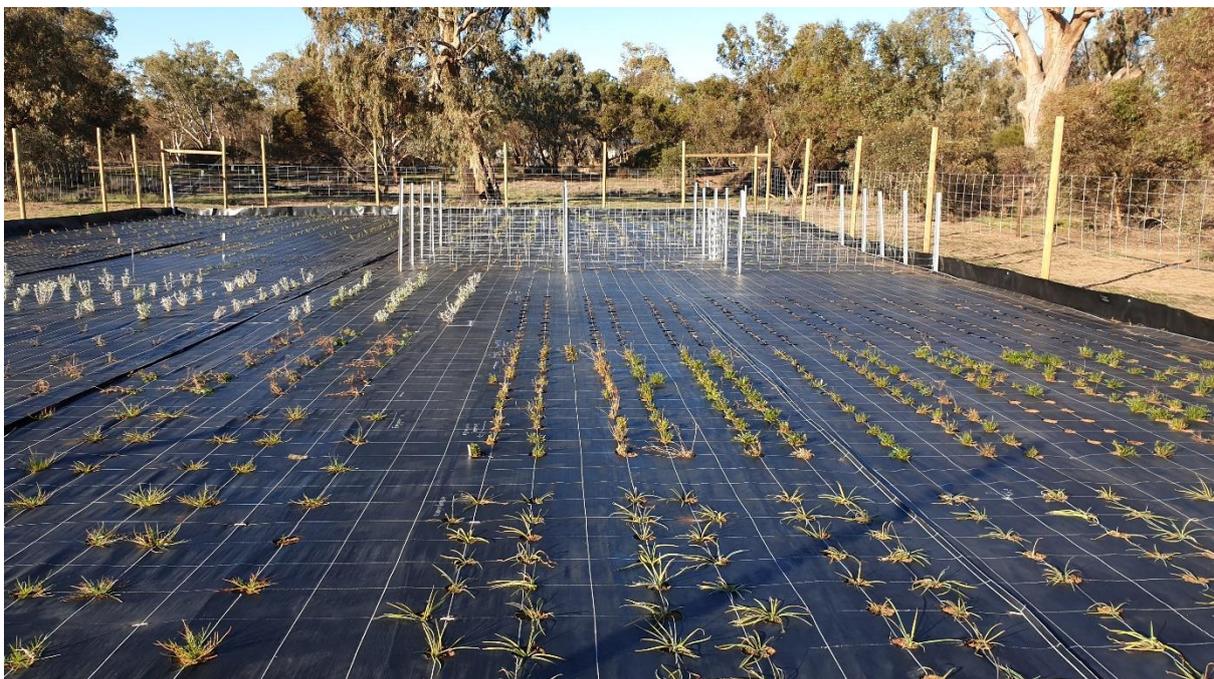


Figure 4 new trellis for the *Convolvulus remotus* in the grassland plants seed production area.

37. We had some birds attack the *Crysocephalum apiculatum* and *Eryngium ovinum*
38. Rainfall on 28/07/20 was 0.5mm in the new gauge, have set 2 rain gauges up together as the readings we were getting in one was very different to the surrounding neighbours.
39. We collected a small amount of seed from *Goodenia pinnatifida*, *Arthropodium fimbriatum* and *Convolvulus remotus*.
40. Volunteer Cryss, weighed and bagged *Digitaria brownii*, *Enteropogon acicularis* and *Bothriochloa macra*. We recorded the seed to date into the Excel spreadsheet and put it on the shared Dropbox site.
41. Volunteers Cryss, Sharon, Sheralee and 3 school girls helped clean grass seed in the back shed.



Figure 5 bird damage to plants in the grassland plants seed production area

Western Pygmy Possum

42. Picked up some more possum boxes from Don Lester in Tanunda for participants in the Riverland West area
43. Met with Karen Bishop from Riverland West Landcare and dropped off some WPP boxes to her, we had 5 landholders interested in taking part in the project. One landholder will put some up in Taylorville station.
44. Sylvia Clarke and I visited Brenton Tucker at Wellington who has a native plant nursery and his property backs onto Mowantjie Willauwar, a Nature Reserve. Brenton has already had several encounters with WPP at his place, he has a lot of Banksia's, Hakeas and other nectar producing plants. We set up 3 boxes for him and Sylvia set up a camera to see if we can capture any activity. 30/7/20
45. Volunteer Don Lester and I visited Barry and Maureen Wright at Red Banks Conservation Park near Burra. We inspected a WPP box that had been up for several months. We gave Barry and Maureen 2 more boxes that they will put up in the Park. 29/7/20.
46. Made contact with Gary Taylor about having some possum boxes installed at Moorundee.



Figure 6 Barry and Maureen at Red Banks CP



Figure 7 Sylvia Clarke setting up a camera on a WPP Box

Roadside Vegetation Management Plan (RVMP)

47. Irene Bugeja has been through comments provided by Russel Pilbeam and will organise a meeting with him when he is back from leave.
48. Went up to Waikerie to meet with Riverland West Landcare project officer Karen Bishop who came out on site to map the Roadside markers in her region. 15/7/20
49. Volunteer Sheralee and I went out on the other side of the river near Greenways Landing and Old Loxton road to do the last of the roadside markers 24/7/20. We have finished surveying all the existing roadside markers.
50. Ordered the 19 Roadside marker signs that were missing, they should take about 2 weeks to come in, then we can go out and put them up. 27/7/20