



Mid Murray Landcare SA

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Activity Update October 2020

This activity update is for the month of October. 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. Managed the volunteers, camp bookings, provision of materials and equipment and all necessary administrations including invoicing and banking for Meldanda. Kept neighbors informed of any camp bookings.
2. Volunteer Andy gave the recreation hall a spring clean, vacuumed and mopped the floors. Andy also cleaned the toilets, including the portable one near the Astronomical paddock.
3. We had some families camp at Meldanda who wanted to see the Dark Sky. We also had a father and daughter camp.

Community Nursery

4. Volunteer Sharon White propagated some *Minuria leptophylla*, *Acacia glandulicarpa*, *Santalum spicatum* and *Olearia muelleri*, Royce pulled the papery seeds out of the *Hakea Leucoptera* woody pods, Bob fixed up kinked pipe, Sheralee potted on *Bothriochloa macra* and Cryss weeded the front garden.

Committee & other

5. Managed the office, volunteers, staff, and all necessary administrations including monthly accounts, reports.
6. Held our committee meeting at Meldanda, updated our webpage, added new people to our contacts list.
7. Was successful with a Grass Roots Grant to support Landcare activities in the region for 12 months through Murraylands Riverland Landscape Board. Sent off the signed contract and invoice.
8. Wildwood Park Sanctuary new brochure has been sent off for printing, this small grant project is now completed.
9. Had another book order from Arid Lands Botanic Garden for 30 Simply Saltbush books.
10. Was successful with a Grass Roots Grant from Northern and Yorke Landscape Board to run some workshops in their region on native grasslands and grazing naturally.
11. Volunteer Mick Lowe has been fulfilling is volunteer requirements at the Marne Valley CP

with mulching and tending to the revegetation site.

12. Completed and sent in our final report for Connecting Communities grant and all the supporting documentation to Murraylands Riverland Landscape Board.
13. Prepared and had approved our AGM flyer, posted it on social media, sent to contacts list and advertised it in the Leader.
14. Landcare WIRES project - site visit to landholder James Huppatz property which is in between Marrabel and Hamilton. Ann Prescott and Aimee did a species list for James, it is a beautiful property with over 70 species including a rare *Echinopogon ovatus* – Hedgehog grass.



Figure 1 Ann Prescott and James Huppatz

River Murray International Dark Sky Reserve

15. We held our Dark Sky meeting in the Cambrai Council Chambers, it was hard for some committee members to hear on Zoom.
16. Meeting with Justin Porter to gauge his interest in support the Dark Sky Committee with taking minutes at our meetings.
17. Chris Tugwell started the school sessions about the Dark Sky Reserve, he will visit all the 5 schools in the region.

Irongrass Grasslands Project

18. We have had 43mm of rain on the trial site at Meldanda in October.
19. Volunteers Sheralee, Brenton, Cryss and Aimee collected seed from the SPA; *Ptilotus spahtulatus*, *Geranium retrorsum* and *Minuria leptophylla*. We also planted some more tubestock of *Minuria leptophylla*, *Whalenbergia communis* and *Eryngium ovinum*.
20. Cryss and Sheralee stuck down the edge of the weed mat where it joins to stop seeds and dirt getting trapped underneath. The site was also weeded and watered.
21. Volunteers Cryss sorted, cleaned, weighed some seed and Sheralee sprayed the weeds around the SPA's.
22. Site visit with Nicola Barnes to assess the Truro Quarry site for a trial. There was some good quality grassland with lots of *Setaria constricta* which is a Summer active grass we don't get to see much of. Nicola and I also visited Matthew Dietrich's property to assess the proposed trial site, the area was of a high quality *Lomandra effusa* grassland.
23. Site visit with Nicola Barnes to Dare Hill and Arthur Simpson's to survey and map the grassland. We also worked on some of the landholder interview questions and put some seed collection bags around some *Swainsona* sp.
24. Worked with Kate Graham to do the 10 long-term monitoring sites across the region and we had a university student fly a drone to get some images of all the LTM sites.
25. Volunteers Bob and Andy spent days securing the fence posts at the SPA Meldanda, they had to re-dig the holes and concrete in the posts.
26. Site visit with Nicola Barnes to Mark Hales to select a site to set up the trial.
27. Met on site with Georgie Keynes and volunteer Brenton Jay to set up the wicking bed trials.



Figure 2 setting up wicking bed trial with Georgie Keynes and Brenton Jay

28. Organised new grant agreement with Jo Clarke in preparation for monitoring Poonthie Ruwe.
29. Site visit with Andrew Fairney from Seeding Natives to Matthew Dietrich's to assess proposed trial site to see if the direct seeder could work on the site. We chose another location that had smaller scattered *Lomandras* with less rocks. Also looked at the site with Kate Graham on the way back from monitoring up north to see if the chosen site was suitable.

Western Pygmy Possum

30. Caught up with Lou Westbrook who has borrowed an endoscope camera to inspect his boxes up near Billiat CP.
31. Alex Emmins took some possum boxes for her property at Palmer and some nectar plants to provide a food source.
32. What we thought was scats of a WPP in a box were sent to an entomologist and the result is inconclusive but is thought to be scats from a cockroach! Not the exciting find we thought.

Roadside Vegetation Management Plan (RVMP)

33. Irene Bugeja has finished the draft plan and we are waiting on arranging a meeting with MMC Russel Pilbeam and David Hassett to review and get to the next stage.

Microbats

34. Analysed Barry and Maureen Wrights bat data from Burra and Redbank CP.
35. Alex Emmins took some bat boxes for her property at Palmer.