



# Mid Murray Landcare SA

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## Activity Update November 2020

This activity update is for the month of November. 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 whipper snipped a track up to bat island and hand weeded Bushtucker garden and the fire garden. Volunteers Bob, Andy and Brenton did general maintenance and watering at Meldanda.
3. Volunteers saw the koala back at Meldanda again on the 17<sup>th</sup> November.

## Community Nursery

4. Volunteer Sharon White propagated some *Myoporum montanum*, *Hardenbergia violacea*, *Eucalyptus*, *Swainsona tephrotrica*, general maintenance including weeding, watering and unblocking sprinklers.

## Committee & other

5. Managed the office, volunteers and all necessary administrations including monthly accounts, reports and updated our webpage. Spent a couple of hours in a Zoom training session with auditor on the XERO software program
6. Held our Annual General Meeting at Meldanda and welcomed 2 new committee members David Bennett and Sally Arnold, we had one member retire Brian Taylor who had been on the committee for 23 years.
7. Volunteer Mick Lowe has been fulfilling his volunteer requirements at the Marne Valley CP with mulching and tending to the revegetation site.
8. Landcare WIRES project – started the progress report.
9. Volunteered a day to work with Ann Prescott to collect herbarium specimens of native grasses at 2 different sites.
10. Meeting with Kitty Schiansky and Jake McVicar to talk about the Grass Roots Grant and Christians Reserve.
11. Acquitted Small Volunteer Grant 061.2020 'Meldanda Organic Weed Control'

12. Acquitted Small Volunteer Grant 062.2020 'Volunteer Education at the microscopic level'
13. Acquitted Small Volunteer Grant 057.2020 'Supporting Wildwood Park Sanctuary Animal Rescue'
14. Project final report for 109.2019 'Community Wildlife Monitoring in the Mallee' was accepted and approved.
15. Provided some information on native tree and large shrub species to consultant who is supporting the Keyneton Progress Association with Main street streetscaping project.



Figure 1 Annual General Meeting looking at Seed Production Areas at Meldanda.

## River Murray International Dark Sky Reserve

16. We held our Dark Sky meeting in the Cambrai Council Chambers on 13<sup>th</sup> November.
17. Chris Tugwell completed all the school sessions about the Dark Sky Reserve, there has been great interest from Swan Reach School to be more involved and would like an observatory there.

## Irongrass Grasslands Project

18. We have had 10.25mm of rain on the trial site at Meldanda in November. Contractor Andrew Fairney sprayed the caltrop that was coming up in the trial site on the 18/11/20.
19. Volunteers Brenton and Sheralee went to the wicking bed trial site to fill the barrels up with water and make sure the float system was working properly.
20. Nicola Barnes was our guest speaker at our AGM and talked to the group about the project and we visited the seed production areas.
21. Volunteers Sheralee, Brenton, Cryss and Aimee collected seed from the SPA; *Walwhalleya*, *Austrostipa*, *Rytidosperma*, *Enneapogon*, *Anthosachne*, *Ptilotus spathulatus*, *Geranium retrorsum*, *Minuria*, *Goodenia* and *Chyrsocephalum*. Tried the blower vacuum

for collecting seed and it is too difficult for the volunteers to use so bought a smaller unit that is easier for them to handle.

22. Volunteer Cryss Filsell helped out recording while Jo Clarke and Aimee Linke did the 3 days monitoring the Poonthie Ruwe site.
23. Set off to set up the trials north of Burra, only to be turned around thanks to COVID State Lock-down. We collected some seed before we came back to make it worth something.
24. Spent a week in Burra with extra helpers; Kate Graham, Nicola Barnes, Sarah Barnes, Rowena Danks and Aimee Linke to get all the trials set up north of Burra. We also collected seed opportunistically.

## Western Pygmy Possum

25. Picked up remote camera that was lent to landholder at Wellington East. There was some great photos of fauna but no WPP, there was one of a White-striped freetail bat.
26. Site visit to landholder's property Sheralee Warren to inspect her boxes.
27. Lent remote camera to landholder Peter Lee to set up on one of his WPP boxes.



*Figure 2 White-striped Freetail bat inspecting WPP box.*

## Roadside Vegetation Management Plan (RVMP)

28. Site visit with council staff Keiren Glen and John Kain to look at the proposed turn-out points for the Murraylands road upgrade from Stott Highway heading towards Sturt Highway.

## Microbats

29. Dropped bat detector to Barry Wright at Burra, he will set it up in Mokota CP so we can see what bat species may feed over grasslands.