



Mid Murray Landcare SA

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Activity Update February 2021

This activity update is for the month of February. 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. These projects are made up of several sources of funding including Grass Roots Grants, a WIRES Landcare Grant and the Iron Grass Grassland Project plus some other small grants and contract work. Rowena Danks formerly from Murray Mallee LAP is supporting the delivery of some of these projects.

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 watered front Bushgardens and the Fire-Retardant Plant garden. Andy cleaned and sprayed the toilets for insects, cleaned BBQ area, maintained gardens and paths, cleaned gutters.
3. We had a farewell BBQ for two of our volunteers Bob and Sharon who will not be attending regular volunteer days anymore. They will be sorely missed but we are glad they live locally so we can still catch up with them.
4. Chris Tugwell (Chairman), Aimee Linke and Grace Love (new SGC Chairman) met at Meldanda to discuss the management of Meldanda.

Community Nursery

5. Volunteers Brenton and Mick have been busy propagating plants in the nursery, including *Eucalyptus*, *Acacia*, *Atriplex*, *Setaria*, *Cratystylis*, *Convolvulus*, *Themeda* and *Myoporum* species. They also potted on some *Minuria leptophylla* (Minnie Daisy) and native grasses.
6. Volunteer Mick has also started trimming back some of the plants in the front garden and collecting seed. Volunteer Royce weeded some boxes of plants. Volunteer Trevor emptied some old pots of soil.
7. Supported landholders from Mannum with identifying 2 different plant species on their property.

Committee & other

8. Managed the office, volunteers and all necessary administrations including monthly

payment of bills, reports, managing webpages and social media posts, scanned all receipts and reconciled monthly accounts in XERO. Met with Treasurer to do accounts.

9. Supported monthly meeting, we held it at Meldanda on 11th of February. Sally Arnold brought along a joey and a baby wombat.
10. Edited the Roadside Vegetation Management Plan document and sent the draft through to council staff. Invoiced for work to date.
11. The work ute has unfortunately needed to have the clutch replaced.



Figure 1 Baby Wombat - Wildwood Park Sanctuary

River Murray International Dark Sky Reserve

12. We held our Dark Sky meeting in the Cambrai Council Chambers on 12th February.
13. The new telescope pads have been installed around the reserve.
14. Two interpretive signs are being developed for Swan Reach CP to contain general, environmental, and dark sky information. A camping area is also being developed and a new online booking system due to an increase in visitor use since the announcement of the reserve.

Irongrass Grasslands Project

15. Prepared some native grassland plants and seed to assist with stall display for NAIDOC week celebrated in Clare.
16. We have had 16.5mm of rain on the trial site at Meldanda in February.



Figure 2 Kilograms of seed cleaned, collected, and packed ready for storage.

17. Volunteers Sheralee, Cryss and Aimee collected seed from the SPA's; including *Setaria constricta*, *Chrysocephalum apiculatum*, *Convolvulus remotus*, *Arthropodium fimbriatum* (Chocolate lily), *Minuria leptophylla*, *Goodenia pinnatifida*, *Enneapogon nigricans* (bottlewasher grass), *Themeda triandra* (Kangaroo grass). Volunteers Cryss, Sheralee and Andy helped clean, weigh, and bag up all the seed we have been collecting. We made a trip up to Mt Pleasant to put all the seed collected in proper seed storage facilities managed by Seeding Natives.
18. We delivered 29kg of seed we had collected, plus some other seed that had been purchased from other contractors for the project.
Volunteer Andy cleaned out the back storage shed ready for this seasons seed collection and sprayed it for insects.
19. Landholder Georgie Keynes topped up the water in the wicking bed trial 02/02/21 and volunteer Brenton filled them up on the 25/02/21, both reported they were looking good.
20. Supported Anne Brown with 2 landholder interviews north of Truro.
21. We planted into the SPA *Maireana excavata*, some infills of *Minuria leptophylla* (Minnie Daisy) and *Arthropodium strictum*, I thought all the *Arthropodium* were dead but when we augured into the holes, we came across lots of tubers which we planted.



Figure 3 and 4 *Arthropodium strictum* (Vanilla lily) tubers. We planted them in the SPA.

22. Landholder meeting with Brian Teakle, Nicola Barnes and Andrew Fairney to discuss *Themeda* trial in a fenced seed production area, not on weed mat 24/02/21.

Western Pygmy Possums

23. Updated data entry for project, some coordinates with the mapping side of the project are incorrect and we will need to sort this out.
24. Gary Taylor picked up Endoscope Camera to check the 20 boxes at Moorundee.
25. Rowena picked up sd cards from the 2 cameras landholder Peter Lee has had on his property. We were surprised by the snake and hope it didn't get a feed. This is the same box we believe the possums are nesting in. We posted this photo on WPP FB Page. Rowena posted a great video of some of the photos taken with the camera, which had footage of bats still using this same box, see link below
<https://www.facebook.com/rowena.danks/videos/10159344239032704>.



Figure 5 Eastern brown snake inspecting bat box.

WIRES

26. Met with Philip Jones to get back the Anabat detector he borrowed to use at his property near Bower. Analysed his bat results, he had 6 species, he is going to borrow it again to get some more calls to confirm call of the Little-Pied bat.
27. Met with landholder Ken Jaeger to set up 4 Western Pygmy Possum Boxes, we put some up just out of Truro in Peppermint Box/Blue gum country and also near Frankton on Levi Creek.
28. Made contact with landholders near the Tothill and Hallelujah Hills to do a recce trip before the upcoming Waterhouse Workshop in April.

Murray Mallee Landcare Projects

29. Rowena Danks and Aimee Linke audited Seed Production Area (SPA) at Brian Teakle's (Teakle's) and Rita's Porkers (Porkers) 03/02/21, there is one SPA left to audit.
30. Rowena sent off draft report on the SPA audits to Landscapes SA and it will be a working document.
31. Rowena Danks and Aimee Linke had a field trip to Brian Teakle's SPA to do some maintenance and we also managed to collect some *Lasiopetalum behrii* (Pink Velvet Bush) and *Lasiopetalum baueri* (Slender Velvet Bush) seed from this site. 24/02/2021.
32. An online workshop on pollinators is being planned for May and this is aimed at the Mallee region, however it will be relevant for Mid Murray landholders. More information will be sent out as the date is confirmed. But in the meantime, the planting guide is accessible to anyone interested and can be downloaded see below
33. [SF001-B-Pollinators-8pp-Mallee.pdf \(whenbeefoundation.org.au\)](#)



Figure 6 Rowena Danks and Brian Teakle, SPA near Karoonda.