

## Mid Murray Landcare SA

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### Activity Update April 2022

This activity update is for the month of April 2022. 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 from varied sources of funding including Grassroots Grants, the Iron Grass Grassland Project, Healthy Rivers Grant plus other small grants and contract work.

### 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. Volunteers Wayne, Andy, and Paul fixed up the fire pit after it sustained damage during one of the camps
3. Met a local landholder on site who collects scrap metal, he came and cleared out some stuff near the back shed to make it tidier for an extra campsite. This area was used for the first time to a family of campers over Easter. They really enjoyed the campsite.
4. Campers- over April we have had seven different lots of campers including two large groups of 30-40 people that booked the site out for several days.
5. Cambrai Primary School had their school photos taken at Meldanda and enjoyed an Easter hunt.
6. Aimee provided a tour for the Riverland Field Naturalists Group (11/04/22), they were very interested in the Dark Sky Reserve, we looked at the astronomical paddock and Meldanda's natural geographical light pollution barrier.



Figure 1 Riverland Field Naturalists Club, Meldanda tour

## Community Nursery

7. Volunteers Mick, David, Cryss, Brenton have continued with weeding and potting on seedlings. We had a big overhaul of the nursery getting the tube stock ready for the upcoming season.
8. Updated the nursery flyer to include prices.
9. Shared Berri Barmera Landcare post about cheap tree guards and stakes available.

## Committee & other

10. 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.
11. Sent out agenda, minutes, correspondence list, and financial report for April to the Committee, we held our monthly meeting at Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board Office in Cambrai.
12. Acacia Field Day was fully booked out and we had to change the link on the website to let people know, we may need to hold more of these field days in the future.
13. Successful Grant for a Murray-Darling Healthy Rivers Program Small Grants (Round 2) — *'Breaking the chokehold of Yellow Water Lily and other invasive weeds on the River Murray, lagoons and backwaters, of the South Australian Murray-Darling Basin, to vastly improve ecosystem health, indigenous values and recreational enjoyment'* \$95,612.00. Signed the grant agreement and sent off, this is a twelve-month project.
14. A parrot box that we had out the front of the office came off the tree and we saw inside that it has been nested in before, which is great.



Figures 2and 3 the parrot box that fell and the nest inside

## Seed production Areas

15. Rowena Danks - We have received the processed seed from our Seed Production Areas at Mantung and Whytes Well (*Billardiera cymosa* 1153gms, *Dodonea bursarifolia* 1273gms, *Halgania cyanea* 536gms). These will be grown next year for planting at seed production areas and revegetation projects.
16. Brian Teakle and I trimmed the *Lasiopetalum* and *Billardiera* plants in his seed production area to help keep them productive

## Honey Bees

Link local producers (honey and cropping/grazing) to National programs that support honey bee health or increased production.

17. Rowena Danks - I am currently drafting an article about the Discover Bees Project - a new project that is currently in the funding sourcing stage and is a partnership with Taxonomy Australia. The project aims to discover and document more native bee species in Australia. I am waiting on some information this project before I can complete this article

Host 1 workshop to improve knowledge and awareness of honey bee and other pollinator requirements.

18. Rowena Danks - I have arranged for a Bee Friendly Farming Introduction Webinar to be held on 18th May at 12:30. This will fall during World Bee Week. I have also made contact with the Almond Board to encourage them to be involved and to have growers attend. The Almond Board will be putting a Bee Friendly plantation at their demonstration site at Loxton Research Centre so that might be an interesting one to visit once it is established.

Anyone interested in participating can register here

<https://www.worldbeeday.org.au/listing/bee-friendly-farming-introduction-webinar/>

## Regent Parrots

19. Aimee Linke - signed grant agreement for 'Natural vs Horticultural – Regent Parrot use of the landscape – stage two' \$21,720.96, funding from Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board. Final Report for this project due 14<sup>th</sup> October 2022
20. Rowena Danks - I am currently drafting an article now that we are keeping the Poly Tell Us app active
21. **Regent Parrots - MD Healthy Rivers Grant** – Aimee supported a debrief session with some of the staff and volunteers that were involved with the River Census to assess how things went and what could be improved next time.

## River Murray International Dark Sky Reserve

22. Chris was a guest speaker at Mannum Combined Probus at Mannum Club to approximately 40 people
23. Andrew costed possible planisphere signs (from Black Hill sign person) also seeking design from Carol Redford, dark sky person in WA
24. Chris has had discussions re next July Dark Sky cruise (including Ngaut Ngaut



- presentation and camp oven meal); probably Martin, David, Chris and Don speaking
25. Chris had a meeting with Emma from Council re Dark Sky arts festival
  26. Bill Nehmy has had talks with SA Water & Viterra re possible art works on pipeline and silos
  27. trademarks for name and logo (Jake @ Council)
  28. potential meeting with head of Space Agency re sponsorship/opportunities (thanks to our architect Graham Hardy)
  29. enquiry from Women in Agriculture group re dark sky talk in August
  30. request from Soroptimists (Murray Bridge) to help with their annual Science Day @ Murray Bridge Town Hall in October, including Mobile Planetarium (thanks to Maude's sister Carol)
  31. Chris received a proposal for Dark Sky internship with Torrens University, discussion with Design Department re mobile display
  32. council seeking interest for people on their Council Dark Sky committee
  33. ASSA held their meeting at Meldanda and one of the attendees took a photo of the milky way using a Samsung Galaxy 10

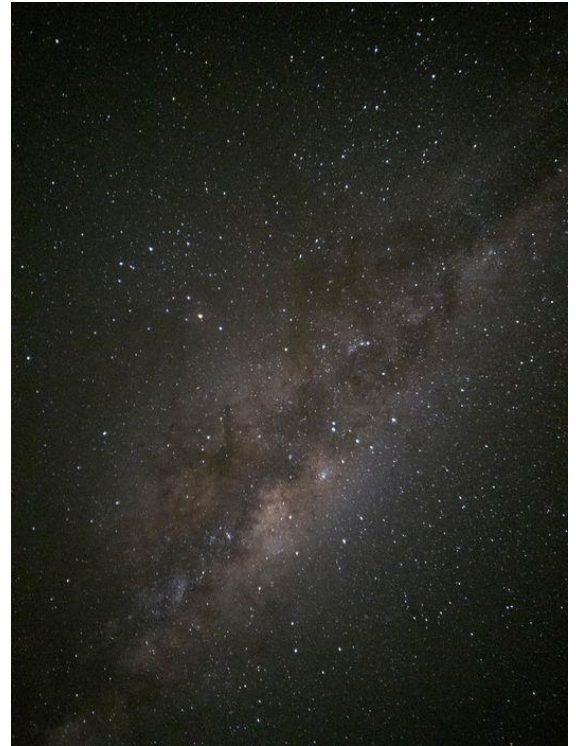


Figure 4 Milky way at Meldanda

## Irongrass Grasslands Project

34. Rainfall at the trial site in April was 8.5mm
35. SPA – Sheralee and Mick vacuumed up more *Convolvulus remotus*. Cryss and Sheralee have been collecting seed from *Crysocephalum apiculatum*, *Setaria*, and *Enneapogon*.
36. Wicking bed – Georgie Keynes topped up the wicking bed trial 180 litres 01/04/22
37. Organised threat abatement work with 'Bush Regeneration' contractor, the work covers five different sites. (1) Cotton bush and Fountain grass control at Mannum Waterfalls in the grassland area only, (2) Saunders Gorge follow up on Cotton bush work, (3) Radiata Pine control at Holm Hill Clare and Gilbert Valleys Council Reserve, (4) Aleppo Pine and Lincoln Weed at Burra Mines Goyder Council land and (5) Horehound at Mokota CP.
38. Team Meeting with Nicola Barnes, Anne Brown, Kate Graham, Andrew Fairney and Aimee Linke to reflect on the field days, update on the trials, plans for spring field walks and other monitoring.

## Western Pygmy Possums

39. Rowena Danks- shared a photo of a Lesser Long-Eared Bat found in a WPP box at Gluepot by Tim Pascoe on FB
40. Rowena is waiting to hear how Donna Pruse went with her monitoring of boxes using the endoscope
41. Organised and held a workshop with the Waterhouse Group at Gluepot Reserve. Rowena, Aimee, Zoe and Don travelled to the reserve on Saturday morning the 2<sup>nd</sup> of April with the ute loaded with forty bat kits. We met local volunteers on site Tim Pascoe and Dennis Matthews, Ian Falkenberg welcomed everyone to Gluepot Reserve and provided a talk about its history. Dennis Matthews fired up the blow torch to test out a theory on the smell of the timber used on the boxes and if that changes the time possums start using the boxes. The Waterhouse Club assembled the forty kits then Tim Pascoe provided a tour of the reserve. We got to see where some of the boxes had been installed and saw some great scorpion burrows and a Mallee Dragon.



Figure 5 Dennis Matthews burning the timber      Figure 6 Waterhouse Club and Gluepot Reserve volunteers with finished boxes.

42. Don and Aimee went to visit Sally Arnold and installed three more possum boxes and set up some remote cameras on two. The possums are starting to build nests and we are hoping to catch some footage of them.