



Mid Murray Landcare SA  
Mobile 0427 590 344: Email [admin@midmurraylandcaresa.org.au](mailto:admin@midmurraylandcaresa.org.au)  
[www.midmurraylandcaresa.org.au](http://www.midmurraylandcaresa.org.au)

### **Activity Update May 2022**

This activity update is for the month of May 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 maintained and cleaned Meldanda facilities, managed the irrigation and prepared firewood.
3. Volunteers Wayne and Paul planted more plants in the Fire-retardant display garden
4. Volunteer Mick spent the day chipping away at caltrop in the Astronomical paddock
5. Campers-. An Astronomer camped at Meldanda who was on an astronomy tour, he had travelled from the Gold-Coast and stayed overnight at Meldanda. He thought it was a great viewing site, no dew for his telescope.

### **Community Nursery**

6. Volunteers Mick, David and Brenton have continued with weeding and potting on seedlings, including sedges, native pines and hop bush.
7. Aimee has been busy putting together plant orders and promoted the nursery on social media.
8. Supported landholder Mark Metcalf with providing some tube stock for his heritage properties.
9. Supported Wildwood Park Sanctuary with some plants for increasing habitat and diversity.
10. Donated some mixed boxes of tube stock, 'Native Vegetation of the Murray Region' book and a bat box to Black hill Hall charity auction fundraiser.
11. Supported school student from Good Shepherd with fifty Ruby Saltbush that they will sell to raise money for the school and learn about business ventures. Also provided some information on the plant for their sales promotion.
12. Sowed some more *Leptospermum coriaceum* for Rowena's SPA project

## Committee & other

13. Managed the office, volunteers and all necessary administrations including monthly payment of bills, reports, invoicing, managing webpages and social media posts, scanned all receipts and reconciled monthly accounts in XERO.
14. Sent out agenda, minutes, correspondence list, and financial report for the month to the Committee, we held our monthly meeting at Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board Office in Cambrai.
15. Ordered some new tops of our volunteers.
16. Site Visit to Sedan Recreation Park with some members of the committee to look at a planting project they would like to do on site. We will support a project with the group on National Tree Planting Day in July to plant along their western boundary.
17. We held a field day at an Acacia orchard in Sanderston to showcase some of the edible Acacias that are being successfully grown in the region. The field day included a tour of the orchard, a tasting of Acacia seed products like coffee, bread and cake. There was a presentation on Acacias their commercial value, their biodiversity value, fodder value and shelter for both livestock and native fauna. We had nineteen people participate in the event with positive feedback including *"Fabulous"* *"Nothing could have been improved it was great"* *"hope there is another one soon"* *"well balanced and presented"* *"absolutely perfect"*.
18. Prepared and submitted final report for "Growing Acacias in the semi-arid zone of Australia" to Highways and Byways who funded the field day.



Figure 1 Acacia Field Day at Almond Grove Sanderston.

## Seed production Areas

19. Rowena Danks – *Leptospermum* seedlings are being grown at the Mid Murray Landcare Nursery and these will need another year to be ready for planting at the SPAs at Wynarka and Whytes Well.
20. Rowena - We have received the processed *Dampiera lanceolata* seed (from our Seed Production Areas at Mantung).

## Honey Bees

21. Rowena Danks - the Introduction to Bee Friendly Farming Webinar took place on the 18<sup>th</sup> May during World Bee Week. We had around 25 participants plus the Cambrai Area School. The school is now working with Aimee and I to provide a pollinator workshop for the students as a follow up to the webinar.

## Regent Parrots

22. Aimee - Supported Volunteer Celebration Event in the Riverland run by Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board, took up one of our volunteers on the day, the Regent Parrot Recovery Team project was highlighted on the day. We had a tour of a wetland that was flourishing with the watering regime it has, these wetlands provide a valuable source of food for the parrots and recruitment of Eucalyptus.
23. Rowena - On World Parrot Day – 31<sup>st</sup> May, I posted about the Polly Tell Us Project on the Regent Parrot Facebook Page and shared with local Councils and ABC Riverland to make our reach as broad as possible over the Riverland and Mallee regions.

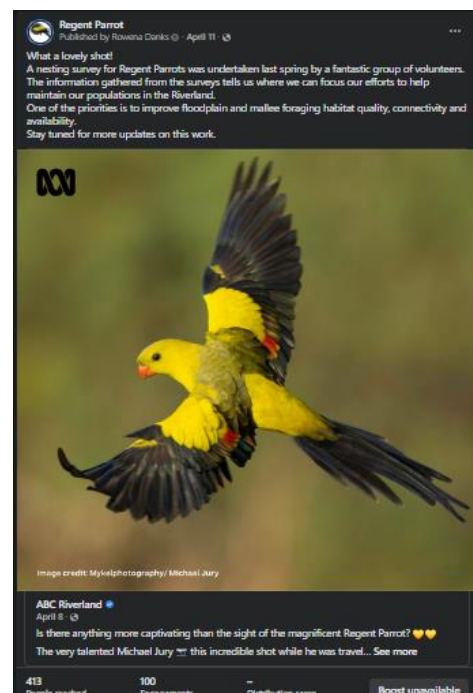
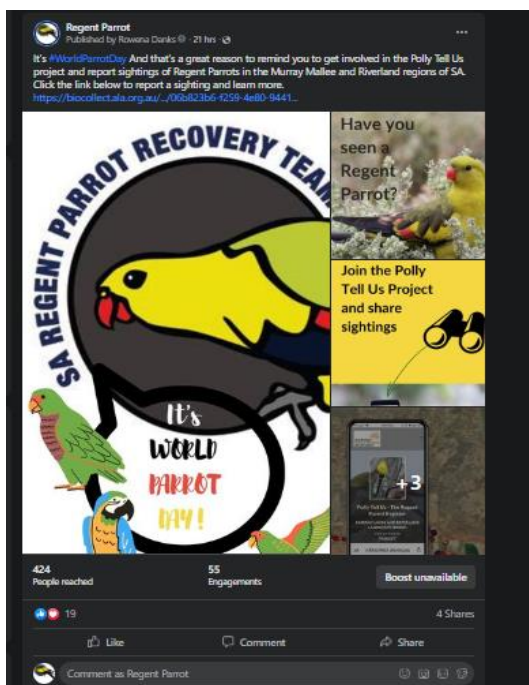


Figure 2 and 3 Facebook posts by Rowena for the Regent Parrot projects

**Regent Parrots - MD Healthy Rivers Grant – *Building contemporary understandings of Regent Parrot persistence within the South-Australian Murray-Darling Basin to enable improved on ground recovery actions***

- 24. Rowena - Landholders have been contacted and site visits have been carried out at 2 sites. More site inspections are scheduled for early June.
- 25. Rowena - A forage planting will be established to best utilise this remnant corridor as perches and to attract Regent Parrots towards the native plantings and away from the Almonds during fruiting season
- 26. Rowena - I have been working with two native plant nurseries, Riverland Native Plants and Berri to Barmera Landcare who have grown seedlings for this project. They have provided a list of plants ready for picking up in June for delivery to landholders.
- 27. Rowena – I have visited a large Almond Orchard that is open to incorporating supportive practices. This site will now also be a decoy crop site for the Decoy Crop project. Melissa Burford also joined me on this site visit and she will be supporting the work at this site.

**Regent Parrot Decoy Crop Project *‘Natural vs Horticultural – Regent Parrot use of the landscape’***

- 28. Rowena - Melissa Burford and I have visited two sites that could be used for decoy crops, that will use native species and or sorghum, millet and sunflowers. Communications have also been made to select a larger site to establish a decoy crop.
- 29. Rowena - Phil Barron has been engaged to provide technical support for the establishment of the decoy sites as he has both revegetation knowledge and also knowledge of birds and their behaviour.



Figure 4 Almond orchards near remnant vegetation.



Figures 5 and 6 damage done to Almonds and to dripper lines by Regent Parrots and Major Mitchell Cockatoos.

## River Murray International Dark Sky Reserve

30. Chris has had discussions with Bill Nehmy re dark sky mural on Mannum pipeline (funding from SA Water)
31. Chris has had a meeting with Jake McVicar re trademarks
32. Chris attended Tourism Forum in Mannum
33. Chris provided pics to Tourism SA for Dark Sky tram & ad campaign
34. Chris has had discussions with Torrens University faculty re internship beginning in June
35. Chris attended Country Arts SA workshop re Dark Sky Festival funding
36. Chris has had a discussion with Bill Nehmy re SA Tourism Commission application
37. Held the Dark Sky Committee meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup> of May via Zoom.

## Irongrass Native Grasslands Project

38. Rainfall at the trial site in May was 47mm
39. SPA – Sheralee, Cryss and Aimee collected the last of the seed for the season which was the *Atriplex semibaccata* and *Wahlenbergia luteola*.
40. Started compiling the list of seed collected this year at the Meldanda seed production area, volunteers have been busy cleaning and weighing the seed. Posted about this on the Meldanda FB Page.
41. Aimee - Site visit to a property near Burra with Kate Graham, Lucy Clive and Nicola Barnes known as Tiliqua to scope out the upcoming Lomandra planting day, this will be a joint project with Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board and Nature Foundation



Figure 7 and 8 volunteers at Meldanda cleaning the native seed collected from the SPA's

## Western Pygmy Possums

42. Aimee - Put together a presentation on the WPP project for Sylvia Clarke to present at Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board's volunteer celebration at Wellington.
43. Aimee visited Sally Arnold to change over the batteries and SD cards in the remote cameras. Volunteer Don Lester is going through the footage and trialling a way to reduce the light that is captured reflecting off the boxes in the night photos.
44. Aimee - Provided landholder Ellen Krahnert 3 WPP boxes for her property near Sedan. Ellen sent back her data sheets and photos of installed boxes.
45. Les and Jayne Payne inspected their boxes up near Morgan with no signs of activity.
46. Aimee - prepared a monitoring sheet for landholders taking part in this project
47. Rowena followed up with Lew Westbrook and Brian Teakle about their WPP boxes in May – no activity.
48. Rowena - On 1<sup>st</sup> June I shared a post about the Hills and Fleurieu WPP project back in 2019 which shows a video of WPPs at Newland Head Conservation Park.

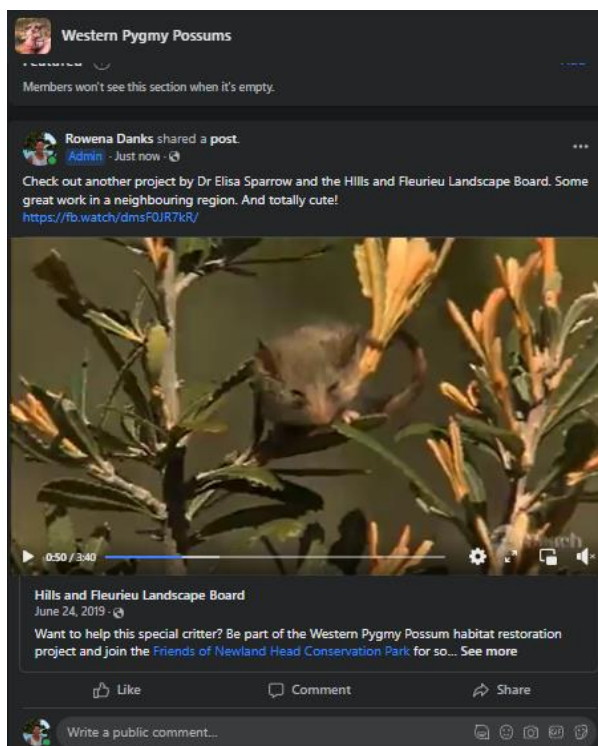


Figure 9 and 10 Rowena's FB Post about the Hills and Fleurieu WPP and a newly installed box near Sedan