



Mid Murray Landcare SA

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Activity Update March 2025

This activity update is for the month of March 2025. If you would like to be on our mailing list and receive this free update, please email Aimee Linke at the above email address, or view it on our webpage. These projects are from varied sources of funding including the Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board's Grassroots Grants and contract work.

Support the objectives of Mid Murray Landcare SA.

1. 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.
2. Sent out monthly activity update, agenda, minutes, correspondence list, and financial report for the month to the Committee.
3. We held our monthly committee meeting at the Cambrai Community Library.
4. Applied for Grassroots Grant Application 'Mid Murray Landcare 2026' to support the Landcare Committee and its objectives, continue to support Meldanda, Cambrai Community Nursery, landholders and volunteers, the River Murray Dark Sky Reserve and Citizen Science Projects in the Region, like Microbats, turtles, pygmy possums, and Regent parrots.

Support volunteer activities at the Cambrai Community Nursery, provide support to landholders, groups, and schools with land management projects.

5. Provided support to eleven landholders or groups with site visits or project support or plant identification including two site visits, one to property near Ridley CP and Sophie Thomsons new property near Sedan.

6. Volunteers have been weeding, de-mossing and potting on native grass seedlings, spreading flax lilies, staking some redgums to get them more established for a MMC project.
7. Provided support to Keyneton PA with a Grassroots Grant application for on ground works at the reserve.
8. Loaned out cat and fox traps to landholders.



Figure 1 Property visited near Ridley CP.

Manage Meldanda on behalf of the Cambrai Primary School Governing Council

9. Continued with managing the volunteers, camp bookings, provision of materials and equipment and all necessary administration managing the booking page, cleaning, watered, fixing leaks.
10. Camp bookings - we had twenty-one camp nights for March, forty-five adults and ten children, with seven of those booking the Astronomy Paddock.
11. Volunteers and Aimee prepared and painted the recreation hall at Meldanda before the new lino and carpet was laid. It has given the facilities a nice new facelift, thanks to money we had donated to us from the former Murray Mallee Local Action Planning Committee Inc and Brian Teakle for recommending us as a worthy project to support.



Figure 2 Volunteers preparing Recreation Hall for painting.

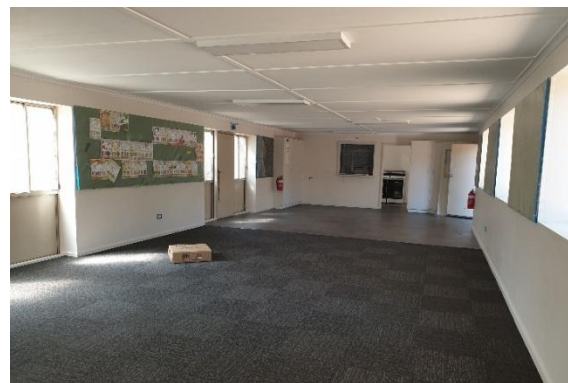


Figure 3 Recreation Hall after painting and new floor coverings installed.

Support the River Murray International Dark Sky Reserve Committee and Mid Murray Council with projects to maintain dark sky accreditation and education on the impacts of light pollution. Chris Tugwell

12. Discussions with Council re LED streetlights (suggestion from Leila that light numbers could be reduced).
13. Caravan & Camping Show 6m x 3m display donated, need to find somewhere to show it; Meldanda?
14. Attended the Australasian Dark Sky Alliance (ADSA) Conference in Melbourne, more than two hundred attended, including council and government representatives, twenty speakers over two days, industry workshops on day three, many positive connections, representatives from all six Australian dark sky places (three from SA).
15. Met with new President of Dark Sky International; she is from New Zealand and the first from the southern hemisphere.
16. Discussion with Council-appointed street lighting consultant, further meeting to come.
17. SA Power Networks have confirmed lights will be seventeen watts, checking cost of 'smart' chip.
18. SA Power Networks in discussions with Department of Infrastructure and Transport for 3,000K lights on main highways.
19. Thanked Victorian Dark Sky Association in person, for their help and support.
20. Discussion with Blue Mountains and Airey's Inlet groups regarding Dark Sky applications.
21. Discussions with John Goldsmith and Quinton Tucker from WA regarding Dark Sky art works.

Support Citizen Science projects in the region to engage landholders and volunteers in Water Watch activities, Turtle Conservation and Feral Goat projects.

22. There were fourteen sightings submitted to FeralScan for March with approximate one hundred and twelve goats seen from six observers, along the river, wetlands and out in the Mallee country.
23. Posted a flyer about the Marne Saunders Microbat Project on Keyneton and Cambrai social media sites.
24. Bat detectors have been lent out to six different landholders in March, they have all been returned and the data will be analysed by

Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board intern Maisie Byrne. Detector locations included Keyneton, Black Hill, Moculta, Sedan, and Cambrai. Provided two bat boxes to a landholder with bats in a building.

25. Submitted an abstract for the 2025 National Landcare Conference on the Western Pygmy Possum Project, hope to present the YouTube Video on the project.
26. Supported landholders from Caloote with Grassroots Grant application for turtle nest protection fencing project.



Figure 4 Bat detector deployed.

Marne Saunders



Microbat Monitoring

Do you want to find out what bat species are flying over and feeding on insects at your place? We want to know too!

Borrow an acoustic bat detector and find out.

Contact Aimee Linke on 0427 590 344 or email admin@midmurraylandcaresa.org.au



Figure 5 Flyer for bat monitoring.

Murray Darling Carpet Python Project – Aimee Linke.

27. Contacted Moorunde Wildlife Reserve to see if we can collaborate with them on the reserve using detection dogs to help locate pythons.
28. Boat searches for the pythons in the cliffs with Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board Scott Hutchens, Melissa Burford, and University student Harrison Kent around the Bowhill area.
29. Habitat assessments for three previous sightings including one near Bowhill, Purnong road and one on MM Council reserve near the Mannum ferry.
30. Spoke to and emailed contact for Morgan Dockyard about having signs put up on the ferries in the project region to help collect sightings of the Murray Darling Carpet Python.

31. Habitat assessment of recent python sighting near Shell Hill area, it was found in their outside bathroom, we are all extremely excited about this and the landholder has agreed to let us use the detection dogs on the property to see if we can locate it.



Figure 6 Murray Darling Carpet Python photo courtesy K. Wills.

Native Grasslands Project 2023-2026 – Aimee Linke

32. Collected the SD cards from the four trial cameras, a kangaroo had pulled away some of the rocks I had put at a gap under the northern Stiff-stay fence but not sure if they had got in, will have to wait for the photos to be reviewed.
33. Some plants were still alive and growing in the fenced areas even in these drought conditions, Twining Glycine (*Glycine rubiginosa*) and Berry Saltbush (*Atriplex semibaccata*) was setting seed.
34. Moved the location of all the cameras to be closer to the trial sites and capture less of the animal activity that occurs outside of the fenced trial sites.
35. Seed production areas have continued to be watered, and ants controlled.



Figure 7 *Atriplex semibaccata* setting seed.



Figure 8 *Glycine rubiginosa*.