

Riverland West Landcare

Funded projects for 2018 – 2019



15,000

Project ID: 009.2019

Addressing priority natural resource management issues in the Riverland West region through knowledge sharing and collaboration

Progress and develop priority projects addressing issues affecting natural resources in the Morgan to Overland Corner region as identified by local community members, specifically pest plant and animal issues and increased native animal intrusion/pressure.

Support and participate in the formation of Riverland Landcare for the development & delivery of effective and efficient cross regional programs & projects that protect, restore and enhance Riverland natural resources.

\$1,646

Project ID: 042.2018

Snake safety & reporting snake sightings

Encouraging the public to spend more time outdoors on walking trails around wetlands, will no doubt lead to increased snake sightings. The aim of the project is to provide snake safety messages while at the same time encouraging people to report snake sightings, particularly of the endangered Carpet Python, in the Riverland West area.

\$25,000

Project ID: 22.2019

Riverland Landcare – Develop & Deliver
Partnership project with Berri Barmera, Loxton Districts & Renmark Paringa Landcare

The project aims to develop & support a sustainable and productive landscape across the Riverland Region by increasing community skills and knowledge in NRM.

This will be achieved through facilitating the sharing of knowledge & information, building & maintaining partnerships with stakeholders in important NRM sites and provide opportunities to the community especially young people to learn and connect with nature.

\$481.55

Project ID: 094.2019

Recognising and celebrating young volunteers

The Waikerie Primary School Youth Environment Team (YET) partners with RWL in numerous projects. These volunteer students are seen as leaders at the WPS and within the community and will be our environmental leaders in the future.

This project will support and promote the group of young volunteers by providing embroidered polo shirts (featuring YET/RWL logos) for the students to wear whilst undertaking their roles as environmental stewards.

2019 Riverland West Landcare Annual General Meeting The year that was..



2018 - 2019

October

Pest animal and plant mapping from Morgan to Overland Corner – funded by NR SAMDB

- Landholders in this area were invited to report issues arising from the presence of pest animals such as goats, foxes, cats, rabbits and wild dogs
- Pest plant species such as *Opuntia* were also a target for reporting
- Reports of a wild dog sighted in the Taylorville area raised concerns with livestock farmers. The animal was later trapped and euthanized



Photo credit Natalie Stalenberg

Cadell wetland is selected to receive environmental water from the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder (CEWH) through the Nature Foundation SA (NFSA) Water for Nature program

- This facilitated the opportunity for RWL to work with several partners including NFSA, Cadell Community Tourism Association (CCTA), Central Irrigation Trust and most importantly, the CEWH and community members

November

The RWL Annual General Meeting was held on the grassed area at Hart lagoon

- Guest speakers included representatives from the District Council Loxton Waikerie and the Waikerie Apex Club
- Partnership opportunities were discussed, particularly the enhancement of Hart lagoon and an upgrade to the existing 5.5km looping walking trail





Photo credit Natalie Stalenberg

The Riverland West area celebrated another local landholder receiving environmental water through NFSA

- Ramon and Renee Thompson (ex RWL Project Officer and Committee member) were able to secure water for their Qualco property
- Only days after filling commenced several species of water birds were recorded

The day arrives for the parched Cadell wetland to commence filling with an initial 250ML of environmental water

- Once again, response from the birdlife once water started flowing into the wetland was fantastic



December

NR SAMDB Small Volunteer Grant #1

- Snake awareness signs were designed and installed along the Hart lagoon walking trail and entrance to the houseboat mooring area
- RWL were assisted by the Cadell Training Centre working group to get the signs securely into the ground
- Education of community member is essential, especially in regards to reporting sighting of the rare native Murray-Darling Carpet Python

January

The Hart lagoon downstream regulating structure is closed, effectively cutting the lagoon off from the main river channel

- A partial drawdown will begin to encourage fringing vegetation growth and a better chance of carp removal from the lagoon



The Peter Jacobs Trail brochures are released. This 2.4km looping trail is situated at Maize Island Conservation Park where the late Peter Jacobs dedicated a lot of his time to it's protection.

- RWL were very pleased to be able to support the project put forward by the River Murray Youth Council members who designed not only the trail but the information signs dotted along the walk

The MEGA Murray-Darling Microbat Project came to an end in mid-2019.

- 7 RWL community members took part in this project with one couple recording for an entire month along the River Murray.
- An exciting result of the project was the presence of the fishing bat *Myotis macropus* (listed as Threatened in SA) detected at four new locations along the River Murray.



Ramco lagoon regulating structure is closed and a partial draw down commenced.

- Due to above average temperatures (> 40° C) the lagoon began to dry far quicker than anticipated

March



Ramco is re-opened well ahead of schedule due to rapid evaporation rates of the water in the lagoon

- The abundance of bird life once water started flowing back in was quite amazing

April

The main lagoon at Cadell begins to draw down at a slow pace providing continued refuge for the many diverse waterbirds using the site



Photo credit Natalie Stalenberg



RWL will always try and work with/involve community members in local projects. This time, Taylorville residents assisted by removing dysfunctional carp screens from two separate culverts

- Both sites had screens that were ineffective in controlling the movement of carp
- One site attributed to the drowning of several turtles that became trapped during high flows

May

Hart lagoon is almost dry! The cracking across the wetland bed is great to see and will hopefully encourage seed germination resulting in food plants for the many water birds at the site





Bob Hawke
9.12.1929 – 16.5.2019

The Landcare community mourns the loss of Bob Hawke.

A true champion of the Landcare movement

NR SAMDB Small Volunteer Grant #2

- With the approved funding RWL were able to purchase polo shirts embroidered with both the WPS Youth Environment Team and RWL logos
- As ambassadors for good environmental stewardship, these t-shirts are a great way to promote the strong partnership between youth and Landcare within the school and broader community



June



Happy World Environment Day!

- Members of the Young Environmental Leaders attended a forum in Waikerie focusing on 'connecting with nature'
- Hart lagoon became an outdoor classroom for the day and artwork was created by students based on their experiences in nature

Riverland Landcare held an 'ideas day' at the Berri Plaza to help raise awareness and start a conversation about what the community would like to see happening in the Riverland in terms of conservation





Members of the Waikerie Primary School Youth Environment Team (YET) ventured up to Banrock for our annual tree planting event. Perfect weather conditions saw 250 tubestock, comprising over 20 species of plants, added to the new Botanical Garden section

A partnership was formed with the environmental organisation Fifteen Trees based in Victoria

- RWL were offered 300 local provenance tubestock to supply to a local grower
- Australian Vintage Qualco Vineyard were the happy recipients with the 300 plants kick starting a much bigger project earmarked for 2020

June/July

