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Al Walker
Lameroo

Supported by:
• South Australian Murray Darling
Basin Natural Resources
Management Board
• State Government of South Australia

Events

Young Farmers' Agronomy in Focus Expo
Tuesday 7th February 2012 at Karoonda.

Karoonda Farm Fair
Karoonda, March 30th – 31st 2012

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Please contact us on ph: (08) 8531 2066 or email: mmlap@internode.on.net

Thank you

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Welcome Rachel

Hi my name is Rachel and I have just started as a Field and Education Officer with the Murray Mallee Local Action Planning Association. My main role will be to facilitate the management of a native grass trial (funded through NRM Community grants) and woody perennial demonstration sites of Oil Mallee, Sandalwood and shrubby fodder species (funded through the Federal Governments Caring for our Country). I will also support Rowena Danks and Alanna Morgan with other ongoing programs such as the Mallee Futures Program.

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What's Inside

Resilient Farming Systems Using Productive Perennials in the SA Mallee



The Murray Mallee Local Action Planning Association will begin an investment project this year entitled Building resilient farming systems using productive perennials in the SA mallee. This project is supported by the Murray Mallee LAP through funding from the Australian Government's Caring for our Country initiative.

This project aims to encourage landholders to practice sustainable farming methods within the Murray Mallee region. It will also compliment the success of an earlier project established by the Murray Mallee LAP, PIRSA farm forestry and Land owners David and Heidi Setchell where oil mallee species were established on a demonstration site in Halidon in the SA Mallee in 2007.

This earlier project saw 7000 Eucalyptus loxophleba ssp lissophloia commonly called "Lox Liss" or "York Gum trees" being planted in a 5 hectare paddock which had previously been used for cropping and grazing. It follows on from the successful use of oil mallee species in Western Australia where plantations have been established for harvest while also addressing land management issues such as soil salinity and erosion. The current project will see a further three Oil Mallee and three Sandalwood best practice demonstration sites established on farms in the SA Murray Mallee.

These sites will be spread throughout the region to illustrate how plantations perform under varying conditions. The long term goal is to demonstrate the potential for Australian woody perennial species to improve production gains whilst addressing NRM issues. Sandalwood sites will include a mixture of native species, including some leguminous fodder shrubs. After the harvest of the Sandalwood, the majority of these shrubs will remain.

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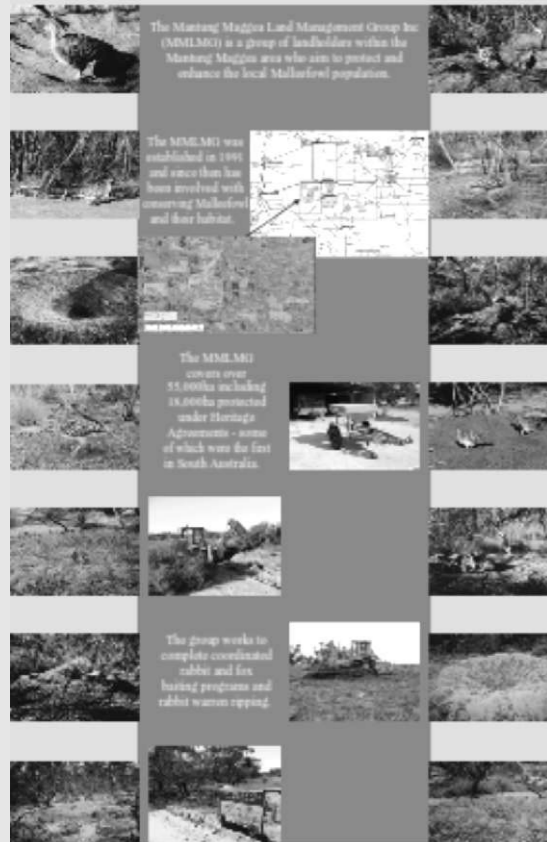


Barbara Martin
0437 914 066



MANTUNG MAGGEA LAND MANAGEMENT GROUP

Conserving Malleefowl since 1991



Funded under the Heritage Agreement Grants Scheme

Renmark Malleefowl Forum 2011

South Australian Malleefowl conservationists from the SA Murray Mallee attended the 4th National Malleefowl Forum earlier this year in Renmark. The event was held from the 29th July to the 1st August, and brought together 140 researchers, Malleefowl protection and conservation groups, ecologists and extension staff from all over Australia.

The forum covered the National Recovery Plan for Malleefowl, the National Malleefowl Database, a state-by-state roundup of achievements, the role of fire and of community groups in protecting Malleefowl, the role of Genetics/Adaptive Management, Remnants and Landscape-scale Restoration Projects and much more.

Presentations by two Murray Mallee volunteer groups were a highlight of the event as they showed the huge amount of work being done in the area and the knowledge gained by these local landholders who care for and protect Malleefowl and its habitat.

Lew Westbrook from the Browns Well Landcare Group presented the work he has done on his own property to protect Malleefowl, including the monitoring of mounds use motion detecting cameras and the establishment of the Browns Well Landcare Group who carry out fox control programs to protect the birds.

Malcolm Johns of the Mantung Maggea Land Management Group spoke about Twenty years of Malleefowl Conservation by the group that first started its work when it fought hard to protect what we now know as Bakara Conservation Park. He spoke about the coordinated pest control programs run by the group, observations of the birds over time and the challenges they still face in the protection of Malleefowl. The group also presented a poster on their work.

Other presentations included insights into predator and competitor control programs run by community land management groups, research in to the effects of locust control on Malleefowl nesting success, a captive breeding program run at Monarto by Zoos SA, and movie footage of nests in SA regions.

The forum provided the opportunity for people from the different Malleefowl preservation groups to meet and share their experiences and knowledge about this valuable work.

Funding for landcare group members to attend this event was provided by the Supporting Land Management Groups to Achieve Landscape Scale Conservation in the SA Murray Mallee project.



From left to right: Rowena Danks (MMLAP Project Officer), Adrian Growden (SAMDBNRM Board), Lew Westbrook, Trish Westbrook, Malcolm Johns, Doff Short, Chris Grant (Department of Environment & Natural Resources), Henry Short, John Spiers

Tree Planting Day At Lameroo

The Murray Mallee LAP and the Lameroo Community School, held a 'Tree Planting Day' on September 29th at Jason and Tracey Dowd's property near Lameroo. The tree planting was designed to help the Reception/Year One students learn about things they can do to help conserve the environment. Together we planted 86 trees and shrubs, and learnt about how vital trees are to our environment, to our animals, and to us. The students learnt that they produce oxygen, filter the air and provide shelter and food.

The students learnt how to plant a seedling; first digging the hole, moistening the soil, removing the seedling and roots safely from the container, planting it the right way up with a small circle of earth packed down around to direct rainfall to the plant. They covered the plant with a protector to shelter it from wind and animals. The plants were watered, making sure to be careful not to drown them - setting them up so that they are ready to adjust to their new home.

Everyone was very excited to get their hands dirty and to learn more about taking care of the environment in which we live. The overwhelming sentiment of the day was, we had FUN! The reception/year one students are looking forward to participating in more planting days in the future, and coming back to look after their project, watering the plants and seeing them grow.

Many thanks go to the Lameroo Community School Reception/Year One's, teacher Sally Heath, and landowners Jason and Tracey Dowd.

Here are some thoughts on the tree-planting experience, from these enthusiastic young students;

'First you dig the hole out and put the water in and then you put the tree in. Then you put the dirt in. I enjoyed digging the hole. I dug lots of holes'. Charlie Warner

'Trees are fun. They are still little sometimes. I enjoyed it because I dug some holes'. Bryan Goodrich

'You always need to put water in before you put the trees in. I like it when you mix up the mud'. Verity Beddome

'Trees are important for the environment and they are fun to plant'. Jack Humphrys

'I liked planting the trees because I got to learn the different names of trees. I learnt that you had to put bamboo in the trees. I learnt that you had to put bamboo in the tree guard and then put the tree guard around the tree to keep it safe'. Chloe Abbott

'You need to put a tree guard to keep it safe from animals'. Jonte Haywood-Batchelor



Teamwork



Landowner Tracey Dowd with some of their little helpers. Supported by the South Australian Murray Darling Basin NRM Board and the Australian Governments Caring for our country Program.

'When paper gets wasted trees get cut down, then we won't have any trees'. Peter Carn

'My favourite part was when you put the tree in the hole'. Jack Secomb

'I learnt that you have to put a tree guard and you put water in the hole first'. Breeanna Drummond

Bushy Tails Tales from the Flora Fella!



Male Golden Whistler. Paul Walbridge

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Prior to starting with the MMLAP I was working at Greening Australia where I was involved in youth programs (Green Corps) as well as coordinating a FarmReady course on the Carbon Farming Initiative. I also spent many years at Warrowong Sanctuary as an education coordinator. I have a degree in environmental management and have been involved in conservation, land management and environmental education for 15 years.

I live on a small property in the Adelaide hills with my son and partner where I enjoy the open space and have carried out several revegetation projects. I have been lucky enough to work in the Murray Mallee before on various projects with Greening Australia. I am looking forward to getting to know the area even better and working with community members towards a sustainable and prosperous region.

Rachel

The Thickheads - great singers, have you hear them? Sounds like a name for a band doesn't it? Well I actually mean the birds called "Whistlers" whose scientific genus name is "*Pachycephala*", which is Latin for "thick head" they have large heads, sure, but that's a bit harsh I think!

Anyway, they are some of the most beautiful birds in the bush. They are beautiful in appearance, tho may be hard to see, but also have beautiful voices - the names don't really do them justice either way! We have 4 different kinds in our neck of the Mallee: the Golden, Rufous, Gilbert's and the Red-lore - however the latter is in pretty serious trouble & hanging on in only a few locations. There are about nine species in Australian territories and about 30 species overall.

The Whistlers mainly eat insects, spiders, other small arthropods and sometimes seeds or fruit. They also tend to breed in monogamous pairs (so they say!) and both sexes incubate the eggs and care for the young. The female builds a fragile, cup-shaped nest from twigs, grass, vines and other materials, bound and attached to a tree fork with spider web and one or two broods may be produced in a season.

The Whistlers can be found in forests, woodlands and shrublands, with a shrubby understorey - though the Red-lore variety prefer mallee with Porcupine grass understorey.

Rufous & Golden Whistlers can sometime also be found in gardens and farmland with some trees, as well and in remnant bushland patches. Look 'em up on: <http://birdsinyourbackyards.net> & listen to their calls - keep your eyes & ears peeled when you are out and about and I hope you get to hear one! You'll see that the males are the colourful ones, while the female luck-out in that department - bit different to us I dare say! We can do our bit by looking after our bushland and keeping pests, especially rabbits, and bushland weeds under control.

Cheers Phil Barron
Barron Environmental, PO Box 1047, NAIRNE SA 5252
ph: 0435 546 069 email: pbarron@chariot.net.au

Volunteers are vital!

Volunteers underpin the management of natural resources in the SA Murray-Darling Basin. Whether individual volunteers, members of small volunteer community groups, volunteers on committees or short-term volunteers visiting our region, the state of our environment without these important people does not bear thinking about!



Volunteers planting in the Mallee

To ensure that volunteers and the organisations that work with them get the best possible support, the SA MDB NRM Board, in partnership with Volunteering SA & NT, and in close consultation with volunteers and other stakeholders, has recently developed a regional NRM volunteer strategy.

The strategy identified 8 key objectives for improving volunteer management relating to improving recognition, increasing recruitment, ensuring effective communication, providing adequate funding, ensuring volunteer safety and wellbeing, establishing effective governance systems, developing knowledge and skills, and ensuring that technical support is available. Recommendations were also made about how the various groups and stakeholders involved could best work together to achieve these objectives.

Since the strategy's release a range of new initiatives have been introduced across the region including volunteer celebrations, a program of training for volunteers and volunteer managers and a volunteer small grants program (the next round of which will open in early 2012 with a closing date of 31 March 2012).

For more information on volunteering or for a copy of the volunteer strategy, contact Miranda Leckie on (08) 8532 9100 or visit the website www.samdbnrm.sa.gov.au.

Calculating your car's CO2 output

In the new car showroom all cars wear a sticker that shows fuel consumption and CO2 emissions. On this sticker carbon dioxide emissions are expressed as grams per kilometre.

When dealers prepare a car for sale this sticker is routinely removed and the information is lost to the new owner, however it can be calculated easily with two pieces of information.

Firstly, the Australian Design Rules (ADR) fuel economy for your vehicle is available at www.greenvehicleguide.gov.au. The Green Vehicle Guide shows three fuel consumption figures for your vehicle - Urban, Extra Urban (country) and Combined. Generally the combined figure is the one to use.

Next you need to know the fuel type that your car uses. Each of the three major fuel types has its own factor. They are:

Petrol 23.8 Diesel 26.5 LPG 16.1

Now you can calculate the carbon dioxide output of your car.

For a petrol Toyota Camry with a combined ADR fuel consumption of 8.9 l/100km the calculation is:

$$8.9 \times 23.8 = 212 \text{ grams per kilometre}$$

For a diesel Volkswagen Golf with an ADR fuel consumption of 5.6 l/100km the calculation is:

$$5.6 \times 26.5 = 148 \text{ grams per kilometre}$$

For an LPG powered Ford Falcon with an ADR fuel consumption of 13.9 l/100km the calculation is:

$$13.9 \times 16.1 = 224 \text{ grams per kilometre}$$

From there it is easy to calculate the total amount of CO2 produced each year in kilograms by multiplying the result by your annual distance travelled then dividing by 1000.

For the Camry above travelling 15,000 km in a year the total CO2 produced would be

$$212 \times 15,000 / 1000 = 3180 \text{ kilograms or } 3.18 \text{ tonnes of CO}_2$$

See, not hard when you know how.

Steve Coombe, EHMPCCG

Fumigation Training Day for the Mantung Maggea Landcare Group



Kim Zidarich and Malcolm Johns demonstrating how to use a fumigator to fumigate a rabbit warren.



The Murray Mallee Local Action Planning Association and the South Australian Murray Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board (SAMDBNRMB) recently held a Fumigation Training Day with the Mantung Maggea Land Management Group at the Mantung hall. Kim Zidarich from TAFE SA was the instructor for the day, and arranged a course based around the group's coordinated rabbit and fox control programs. Seventeen people attended the course.

The course covered the different methods and chemicals to use to remove pests from the farm, including Chloropicrin, safe handling and use of 1080 Oats and 1080 Fox Baits and the use of alternatives such as Pindone, safe handling of Aluminium Phosphide and Chloropicrin, and the use of carbon monoxide cartridges. Also included were components on the safe use of personal protective equipment, how to read material safety data sheets (MSDS) associated with pest control products, the safe handling of the products and how to assess the risk of each product.

A barbeque lunch was provided by the group before a practical demonstration on Malcolm John's property at Mantung demonstrating the fumigation of a rabbit warren using a power fumigator and Aluminium phosphide. Adrian Growden (SAMDBNRMB) demonstrated the correct techniques for placing fox baits down the burrows. Question time followed, with much discussion contributed by all participating members on the high value of the information provided, and its relevance. Many thanks to Kim Zidarich for her expert instruction and guidance throughout the day, to TAFE SA, to the SA Murray Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board, and to the Mantung Maggea Land Management Group.

This project is supported by the Murray Mallee LAP, through funding from the Australian Government's Caring for our Country.

Pinnaroo Show 2011

The Murray Mallee Local Action Planning Association recently attended the Pinnaroo Show. We provided a wide array of information, including:

- Biodiversity
- Perennial vegetation
- Fodder blocks
- Agroforestry
- Educational events
- Native fauna and flora
- Erosion and dryland management
- Malleefowl conservation
- Local land management and landcare groups
- Funding for natural resources improvements
- Pest control
- Newsletters
- 'The Mallee In Flower' by Ian McCann

And much more.

We were joined by Greg Sweeney representing Caring for our Country and the Coorong District Council with a number of forage shrubs, discussing forage shrub options, and possibilities for mixed species shrub stands and supplementation.

We spoke to in excess of 90 showgoers including landowners and residents from the area. The day turned out to be wet and overcast, but didn't seem to hinder the steady flow of show-goers who roamed the show grounds.



MMLAP Officer Alanna Morgan holding the fort at the Pinnaroo Show

Plan to Plant Indigenous Stewardship for the Bush

An exciting new addition to the SA MDB NRM Board website was launched recently. The "Plan to Plant Indigenous" interactive vegetation identification tool has been designed to assist small developers, local government and landholders to quickly identify what vegetation community their site is in and what native plant species commonly occur in that plant community.

The web tool enables people to click on where they are located on Google maps, and the tool provides a description of the vegetation community and a species list of commonly occurring plants that they can use for revegetation planning, for ordering and purchasing from nurseries and for landscaping.

The printable species lists identify which species are commonly available at nurseries, and which part of the plant community they form from over-story through to ground layer plants. When using the information provided through the Plan to Plant Indigenous tool, site specific conditions such as elevation, slope, aspect, soil type and rainfall may affect the accuracy of the information provided.

The tool is not intended to provide detailed site information or revegetation information for large developments, but rather to assist landholders to consider the first steps towards planting vegetation that is local to the area, will survive local conditions and will add to the region's biodiversity.

The Board intends to continue to build on the web tool to cover more areas of our region in the future. Plan to Plant Indigenous is available at:
<http://samdbnrm.sa.gov.au/Biodiversity/DrylandBiodiversity/PlantoPlantIndigenousGuide.aspx>

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This will not only demonstrate their value as a forage species but also create vegetation corridors and help reduce the risk of soil erosion by stabilising sandy soils and creating wind breaks.

While Mallee plantations have obvious environmental advantages such as reducing groundwater recharge, improving soil health and providing habitat they also have the potential to lead to a wide range of other benefits. Oil mallee species can be used to build effective carbon sinks whilst providing a harvestable product with potential for a wide range of uses such as renewable fuel sources, bio char, and eucalyptus oil.

Australian Sandalwood is a semi-parasitic plant and also has the potential to provide an income stream for farmers. Not only does it produce an edible nut but the timber is highly valued in Asia where it is used for incense. Oil can also be extracted from the plant for use in the cosmetic industry.

Both Oil Mallee and Australian Sandalwood are suitable for planting in the SA Mallee area as they are well adapted to low rainfall. The additional trees and shrubs to be incorporated into the plantation will be local native species. These will act as hosts for the Sandalwood and further increase biodiversity while demonstrating their use as fodder.

A major component of this project will be to involve the farming community in field days and workshops to demonstrate how this combination of agroforestry, revegetation and fodder production can build resilient farming systems.

This project is also supported by South Australian Natural Resource Management Board (SAMDBNRMB), PIRSA, and The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), all of whom are providing funding or technical advice. Three landholders will also support the project by providing the land on which the plantations will be established.

For more information contact Rachel Williams email feofficer@internode.on.net
ph: (08)8531 3075 or 0407 189 907



Wild Rosemary *Dampiera rosmarnifolia*.
Photo courtesy G. Dean.