



Lot 50–Kanyanyapilla, McLaren Vale

Bi-cultural Ecological and Cultural Regeneration

Newsletter No 2, Feb. 2016

Hi Everyone

It is now a year since the project began on-ground, having acquired the land 17 Feb. 2015. How fast a year can go by!! The concept though has been many years in developing, including finding the appropriate land, and it will be many years in coming to fullness. Thought it worthwhile to reflect on what has evolved over the year by sharing some photos. Other than some rough horse yards there were no facilities onsite and very little land management had been undertaken for many years (decades).

But before the photos here's the:

Other News

Let's Talk About the Weather, 2015

In 2015 rainfall was 418mm (16.7 inches), well below the annual average rainfall for McLaren Vale of 500mm (20 inches). So rainfall was down 82mm (over 3 inches). Coupled with the warm to hot spring and early summer the soil moisture level was well down and the place had 'dried off' by early January, more than it did for the whole of last summer.

2014 rainfall was also 418mm. How's that for consistency!! Long term in 2003 rainfall was 612mm and in 1994 only 327mm. Just for the record the hottest January day was 44.6 on 28.01.2009. Phew.

The weather recordings for McLaren Vale are taken at Pirramimma Winery on Johnston Road only 1.5 kms to the north and 55m above SL so statistics pretty accurate for Lot 50.

In 2015 Adelaide fared worse with only 395mm, about 73% of the long term average (530mm) and state-wide rainfall was about 13% below average. South Australia's mean temperature for 2015 was 0.8°C above average, making it the seventh-warmest year for the State.

Extra hand watering of last winter's plantings has been required but so far survival is around 85%. There is no water supply available at Lot 50 so all water comes down on the back of the u beaut Toyota ute. Start to get a bit envious of the neighbour's 'purple pipeline' bringing recycled water from Christies Beach sewerage treatment works. But the first tank, of several in the pipeline, is being installed to catch rainwater off Lorrie's Hut.

And then to start 2016

Unseasonal rain late January/early February provided a 57mm summer saturation (over 2 inches). Why is water depicted as blue when it turns everything green? Revised colour coding and artistic vision required. Pasture and lawn grasses looking splendid, seedlings putting on an extra spurt as only rain allows.

Revegetation

Everything is gearing up for the 'big plant' of several hundred seedlings this winter; weed control, selection of sites, planting patterns and plant propagation by NRM and TFL well underway (I've seen the Sheoaks *Karko* grown by TFL volunteer Rina Rossi, looking good).

In conjunction with NRM also looking at controlled burning of a small area this year to assist the re-establishment of grasslands with Kangaroo Grass *Themeda triandra* initially.

The grove of ash, along with a few feral almonds and olives, in the swamp along Pethick Road is being eradicated (drill and fill) with assistance from NRM. As well as several mature trees there were over 30 saplings and still numerous seedlings to be hand grubbed. The area will be replanted with one of my favourites, the River Redgum *Karra* which in years to come will provide a wonderful road edge and link to existing Redgums further along the swamp. About 20 Redgums were planted along the swamp edge in 2015 and they are doing well, a few up to a metre already but spindly.



Pethick Road Edge, 2016



Pethick Road Edge, 2036 (dare we imagine)

Revegetation Assistance

If you are on the volunteer list look forward to an email in several weeks. I would like to set up teams to tackle the planting task. It will take several sessions.

History Research (Cultural Mapping)

Cultural mapping is ongoing with snippets included on the website. In late 2015 contact was made with a descendant of William Blacker who leased the property in 1872 and then purchased it in 1879. The property was then held by his family until 1957. This has brought more details to light and more leads to follow up.

Other Events-Projects

I'm including other events or projects in the newsletter which may be of interest to you.

Palmer Sculpture Biennial, 2016

The opening of the Palmer Sculpture Biennial is on Saturday 5th March, noon to 7.00pm with the formal opening at 1.00 pm. From 4.00 pm there is Verandah Music with five great acts. The Biennial is part of the *Palmer Project – Art and Ecology*, at sculptor Greg Johns' 160 ha (400 ac) property, Davenport Road, Palmer. For ten years I was joint coordinator of the Biennial and Palimpsest Projects with Greg and assisted him with the development of the Palmer Project. For further information on the Biennial see <http://palmersculpturebiennial.org/archives-2/>.

Fox Creek Wines, McLaren Vale, who support Lot 50-Kanyanyapilla, also support the Biennial, part of their ongoing contribution to arts and cultural activities. Please support them in return.

Now to the photos:

Year 1: Before and After

Pepper Tree Corner





Fleurieu Folk Festival Breakfast



Open Day, 2015

Architectural Expressions



Lorrie's Hut



Hut Site



Sandhill Shelter



Sandhill Shelter Version 1



Swamp Deck



Culture Shack and Garden (art and artefacts)



And another gate

Events and Activities



First Campfire



First Open Day Gathering, 22 November 2015



Bestowing of Kaurna Name - Kanyanyapilla: Georgina, Gavin, Karl and nephews at the Open Day



Youth Camp Over



Karl and Cultural Instruction - Wodli and Dance Ground

Land Management



Pasture Mowing



Hay Raking



Heavy Duty Weed Slashing



Petite Weed Slashing



Victor Harbor Road Fence Line (before)



Victor Harbor Road Fence Line (after)



Hay Away (to Anacotilla Springs, Second Valley)



Best Performing Plantings - Sheoak *Karko* and Golden Wattle *Minno* (just add more water *kauwe*)

Family



First Visit (Grandkids)



Kicking the Ball



Walking the Dogs



Planting the Trees

In Closing

One year down and nine to go in the ten year regeneration program. It has been a fully occupied 365 days. More detail of what's happened can be found on the website lot50kanyanyapilla.com.

This coming winter will see the 'big plant' (commencing late April) and spring will herald the second Open Day (by which time there will be a new shed)!

Thanks again for your interest and support for this project, and a special thanks to the project partners and supporters below.

Cheers



Gavin

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Project Partners and Supporters



Original Green Company