



**Lot 50–Kanyanyapilla, McLaren Vale**  
***Bi-cultural Ecological and Cultural Regeneration***  
**Newsletter No 4, November 2016**



**Landscape Patterns, November, 2016**

Hi Everyone

**Open Day, 2016**

Well the Open Day presentations were certainly ‘subject to change and weather conditions’.

After a warm Saturday and balmy evening, Sunday Open Day was just ‘difficult’ weather wise. Heading south Sunday morning the clouds darkened and we arrived to see one of the gazebos erected Saturday a tangled mess of aluminium and canvas, a spidery prop from a sci-fi film. And then the morning rain squalls really set in followed by howling wind, fortunately accompanied by patches of sunshine. It was great though to watch the dancing grasses and reeds.

It was heartening that about seventy people still came along over the course of the day. We found spots (relatively) out of the wind for the presentations which were well received but the sunset fire was definitely cancelled.



**Rob Malone giving his presentation on pasture management**

So thanks to the presenters and everyone who braved the conditions. I certainly was warmed by the many conversations and the Fox Creek wines were very well received. The chilled Vixen Sparking Shiraz still hit the spot for many on a rugged up day. Must be good stuff; try it when you can.

## 'Drop the Lot' Open Evenings, 2017

The weather on the Open Day confirmed a background thought; to have additional times to come along and enjoy the Willunga Basin and L50K. So, first Friday of the months **February, March, April, May 2017** from 4.00 pm onwards will be open evenings. No structured events, just stroll, yarn, wine, dine, watch a sunset or even a sunrise if you want to camp over.

So 'drop the lot' and come along. Details in the new year.

## News

### Shorthand, L50K

Writing or speaking 'Lot 50-Kanynaypailla' several times in a sentence is at times a handful or a mouthful. So L50K is the abbreviation I'm using. There is now a L50K sign on the Pethick Road fence; made out of Redgum, flattened salvaged copper pipe and Bunnings numerical discards (50 cents for a copper number so I bought the lot).



LOOK, there's L50K

### Planting, 2016 Season

It ended up being close to 1,500 seedlings going in with the last just in the ground. A late donation of nearly 300 swamp edge species extended the planting season. Forty-two people, aged 3 to 77, undertook the task. Special thanks to Ian Preston, Steve Poole and Michelle Glover who came out to plant several times.



Georgina Williams, Nganki burka, planting a Karra River Redgum seedling

Some of the early season plantings are just jumping out of the ground, doubling or even trebling in size already. Here's hoping for a normal summer, not too hot and not too dry, to get these kiddy-winks well on the way.

By the way, a kiddlywink, not kiddy-wink, is a Cornish beer shop. Pass the pasties please.

### Archaeological Research

Winter brought field work to a halt which gave archaeologist Keryn Walshe the opportunity to undertake desk research and catalogue the artefacts. Keryn's presentation and the selection of artefacts on display at the Open Day were very well received. More news on the finds as preliminary findings are confirmed.



Archaeologist Keryn (yellow shirt) with volunteer assistants, Ian, Storm and Tony lunching at the Culture Shack

### John Hodges Bequest

Those of you at the Open Day saw the magnificent, museum quality artefact display and storage cabinets in the Culture Shack. They were kindly donated by John Hodges of Birdwood, who sadly passed away several weeks ago. John has gifted several more furniture items to the L50K project; a large 19<sup>th</sup> century bookcase, his timber desk, aluminium artefact transport cases and other useful items.



One of the artefact display and storage cabinets, Culture Shack

John was an academic and university administrator and many of the items came from Adelaide University when progress dictated they be discarded. Outside of work John was an expert in porcelain and had a fine collection, he also had a long term interest in archaeology and had volunteered on several excavations.

My gratitude to John for his gift and thanks to his wife Maureen who continues to assist. Thanks also to Steve Poole, Susan Schuller and Byron Glover for assistance with the relocation of the (heavy) items requiring three trips to Birdwood. And thanks to Keryn Walshe who introduced John to the L50K project. Sadly John was not able to visit.

### Feral Olive Tree Removal

The City of Onkaparinga has committed to a second phase of feral olive removal along Branson track (unmade road reserve) as well as control of other woody weeds. Weed eating along the track has already taken place.

The Department of Planning Transport & Infrastructure (DPTI) has also commenced removal of feral olives along the Victor Harbor Road boundary. Fire prevention grass slashing will also be undertaken.

My thanks to Onkas and DPTI, a feral olive free locality is in sight. Some olives adjacent Lorrie's Hut and Honey Myrtle camp are being retained as production and shade trees. Any feral seedlings can readily be controlled.

### Weed and Grass Management

This winter and spring brought an absolute profusion of weeds and grasses. As property management changes, different weeds get their turn in the sun, the most persistent being Capeweed, Mustard Weed, Artichoke, Salvation Jane, Dock and Fat hen, and not to forget the notorious Three Corner Jack. Over ten hours of heavy duty slashing by tractor this spring was being overwhelmed by regrowth and many, many hours of slashing with the walk-behind just doesn't cope.

Slashing weeds at the right time to prevent seed set is a strategy that lessens the need for chemical control in the future. It is a long term strategy, the slashing has to be timely and oft repeated to be effective and this is expensive with contract slashing.

So a major decision and investment has been made; the purchase of a Toro ride-on-mower big enough to handle the L50K conditions. An on-site trial of a machine was undertaken and it's up to the task. This will considerably advance the overall land management and revegetation program and enable some targets to be achieved earlier than expected in the ten year plan. The machine will also help considerably in the reduction of the fire hazard fuel load. A grass fire now would be just disastrous, the plantings are too young to recover from fire as they would when they are mature.

And after 30 hours riding the 'bull', the place is the 'best its ever been'.



Toro and tray on the transport trailer

Thanks to Brenton, Aldinga Mowers and Cycles, for demonstrating the machine and providing his best deal for purchase.

### Sedge land Management

In conjunction with NRM a trial weed control in the sedge lands was undertaken. The selective herbicide Fusilade was used on clumps of sedges highly infested with various weeds/grasses. Fusilade does not impact on the sedges, only the grasses. And so far so good. The Toro is also assisting in that sedges hidden in long grass are more readily seen than on a tractor and can be easily mowed around. Within 12 months the sedge lands will be vastly improved and also ready for more mid and upper canopy planting next season.



Rejuvenating sedges

### Pethick Road Swamp Crossing

As you will have seen from winter water updates, Pethick Road is submerged when there are high flows along Maslin Creek. The road however also acts as a weir in low flows and impounds water on the upstream (eastern) side causing localised, unwanted standing water and not allowing low water volumes to naturally drain to the west into the downstream sections of the reed swamp.



Pethick Road under water (looking south)

A submission has been made to City of Onkaparinga for the reconstruction of the swamp crossing to improve environmental water flows, improve road safety and reduce road maintenance. Two options are pertinent; a system of under road culverts that allow continuous water flow, or a lowered road level. The first is most expensive and the second has both advantages and disadvantages.



Example of Option 1: Under road culverts



Example of Option 2: Lowered road floodway

Council has provided a preliminary response, Option 1 is unlikely (too expensive), Option 2 possible but not a priority. Full investigation and community consultation is required to progress either option, neither of which

would likely be scheduled for some years in the capital works priorities. So this will be an ongoing discussion with Council.

But just imagine either option with the road verge lined with towering River Redgums amongst tall reeds. The grove of feral ash on my side has been poisoned and about 15 Redgums planted near to the road; just have to wait now.

### **History Snippet**

#### **Birdwood or Blumberg, Cambrai or Rhine Villa?**

The recent trips to Birdwood bring to mind the 1917 *South Australian Nomenclature Act* by which provision any place name or geographic location 'of enemy origin' was to be wiped from the map, such was the anti-German sentiment in World War 1. Even the Attorney-General, Hermann Homburg, born in Norwood in 1874 to parents who had arrived twenty years earlier, was forced to resign from the Ministry!

A committee was formed, nearly seventy localities identified and alternative names proposed. Blumberg, Hahndorf, Klemzig, Lobethal, Petersburg were soon to disappear; proposed new names were Aboriginal; Perroomba, Yantaringa, Yaralin, Marananga, Nullya. But then, but then, the pollies stepped in and Birdwood, Ambleside, Gaza, Tweedvale & Peterborough became the order of the day. Some have since reverted, some haven't.

I come from Cambrai on the Marne River, formerly Rhine Villa on the Rhine River South. The river was named by German mineralogist Johann Menge, 'not because of any similarity of this river to that in Germany, but because I convinced myself that this valley will once yield a similar quantity and quality of wine as that in Germany, as soon as it shall be cultivated.' Well, that didn't quite happen.

The name Cambrai was used to commemorate the first decisive tank battle in human history in November 1917 at Cambrai, France, on the Hindenburg Line. It was however, another bloody and pointless offensive on the Western Front. So I really come from Tanktown.

My parents were the publicans; my early childhood was in the Cambrai Hotel (pronounced Caambraay). I managed to stay in the Cambrai Hotel (pronounced Combrey) in Paris near Gare du Nord train station in 2014. Reckon I'm the only person on the planet who has stayed in both.

Although the Nomenclature Committee went over the map with 'a fine tooth comb' there were two place names that escaped the Act. One was Reinthal, a small settlement that did not progress about 5 kms north east of Rhine Villa; there is a cemetery there now and my partner Susan's great, great grandfather is buried there.

And the other was?? Let me know if you know.

### **In Closing**

Susan and I have just relocated to the Aldinga Arts Eco Village where Susan has designed and built a house. We're 5 kms as the Yellow Tailed Black Cockatoo flies and 7.5 kms door to gate from L50K. Much easier travel than the 40ks from Goodwood. Reckon I've commuted 30,000 kms between Goodie and the Vale. That's driving around Australia (Highway 1) nearly twice. Didn't see a thing.

Well that it's for now and another calendar year is soon to be behind us, the aspirations of new one ahead. Again my thanks to all who are supporting the L50K project.

Hope to see you at a 'Drop the Lot'.

Cheers

Gavin

### **Contact and Information**

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### **Project Partners and Supporters**



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