



Lot 50–Kanyanyapilla, McLaren Vale
Bi-cultural Ecological and Cultural Regeneration
Newsletter No 6, June 2017

Hi Everyone

News

Planting, 2017 Season

Planting commenced mid-May but was then put on hold awaiting further rains which have now arrived. After the wonderful wet winter last year, this year has gone dry with May and June rainfall well below average. Planting will likely continue to about early August, the pace set by time, weather and volunteers available. About 800 seedlings from thirty species are to be planted this season. Calls for planting volunteers soon.



First planting team camp over. Like the jimjams as day wear

'Drop the Lot', Open Evenings

The four open evening events over summer-autumn were relaxed and most enjoyable with several people camping over. 'Drop the Lot' will be repeated next year.



Sunset, Drop the Lot, 3rd March, 2017 (panoramic photo courtesy Bryan Mason)

Winter Solstice Fire

A bonfire acknowledged the longest night; looking forward now to the gradual increase in daylight hours from 9 hrs, 48 minutes and 19 seconds to 14 hrs 30 minutes and 35 seconds on summer solstice.



One way to get rid of the olive prunings

'Adopt a Plot', Volunteer Assistance

One grove of plantings now has 'foster parents' which is great. If anyone else would like to look after an area on an ongoing basis, i.e. six months, a year etc., the assistance would be most welcome. The tasks involve weeding, watering, some planting etc. Areas could be the Culture Shack, Sandhill Shelter, one of the camp areas etc.

Timelapse and Drone Photography

We set up the time lapse camera at the Sandhill Shelter in March and after adjusting the camera angle decided that the location, although on top of a hill, didn't provide the best record. So with the help of Ian Preston a 4.2 metre tall metal pole has now been erected at Lorrie's Hut and Nick from Timelapse relocated the camera there in early June. The first two images from the new site are below. The ongoing images can be viewed at the Timelapse Adelaide website http://www.timelapseadelaide.com/?page_id=1462.



Time-lapse photo, 03.06.2017



Time-lapse photo, 08.06.2017

Nick also does drone photography and a late afternoon flight got this underway at L50K. A photo of the Sandhill Shelter from above is below. Further flights will occur every now and then.



May, 2017

Track Maintenance and Construction

Vehicle tracks that are receiving frequent traffic are requiring stabilisation to prevent long-term erosion. A covering of dolomite or quarry rubble along the wheel tracks is being laid by hand, trailer by trailer load. In some areas though more substantial work is required and the machines are called in.



Contrasting construction methods. The grate on the bobcat levels the surface and the wheels compact, the shovel in Lexy's hand and the boots on her feet do the same

The current vehicle crossing of the reed swamp is being closed this spring to enable the reeds to regenerate. The area shown in the centre of the latest time-lapse photos above will soon be thick reeds and before too long, Redgums and Silky tea-trees will make a presence. All vehicle access further west will be by way of the Branson Track along the old road reserve. Last winter the track was impassable at times so a gentle upgrade is well underway. Branson Track is being developed as a linear woodland in conjunction with Onkaparinga Council. The removal of woody weeds (olives, blackberries, boxthorn) is now well advanced and the whole length now regularly slashed and mowed by Council and myself to control ground weeds. Good stands of Kangaroo Grass have been found in the weeds, plantings undertaken by a winery neighbour, Treasury Wine Estates, several years ago are now well advanced and further upper canopy plantings are in the ground. There is a long term thought that this track may become part of a regional walking trail.



Branson Track

A new 4.2m farm gate has also been installed to enable heavy machinery/vehicle access off Branson Track. Old fence posts are being put upside down on the new as finials.



Fence post finials

Part of the approach to ecological regeneration is that where anything indigenous wants to grow let it grow; this relates particularly to the reeds and sedges. So a diversion track around sedge and reed growth along the swamp edge is also being built, bit by bit. About 130 tonnes of fill has been brought in and spread to create the base for the two tracks which are then being topped with quarry rubble and dolomite. The fill is mainly coming from house footing excavations at the Aldinga Arts Eco Village which otherwise would have gone to land fill. About a kilometre of track is required all in all, requiring a lot of tractor, bobcat and human labour.

Happening in the Hood

After two years of hanging around I've got to know my neighbours and I also take a keen interest in what's happening around me, it sort of reflects the broader region. Over the two years three houses and two farm sheds have/are being built and my farm shed is underway. Some other interesting things:

Vineyard Sheep Grazing

Several wineries, Wirra Wirra being one of the first, have been winter grazing sheep in their vineyards as part of an organic or bio-dynamic approach to wine making. My neighbour TWE is now running sheep in Logan's Vineyard on the northern boundary. Makes sense in reducing mechanical and chemical control of weeds and it provides an organic fertiliser as a bonus!



Sheep and Shiraz

Cellar Door-Restaurant

A cellar door-restaurant has opened on Branson Road in an already existing building just to the east of L50K. Along with a range of wines it has beer and cider tastings/sales. Susan and I had a quick look on the opening weekend, it was a happening place. The views from the restaurant over vineyards to the hills are quite engaging.

House Canopy

One neighbour has constructed a large shed-like canopy over their entire house and outdoor living area. The canopy shades the house in summer, stops frost settling on its roof in winter and provides a huge rain water catchment. A novel and inventive 'agricultural' approach to home improvements.

The Sky Above

You can sky dive, take a helicopter ride, fly in an open cockpit bi-plane or try an ultra-light in the skies above L50K. The parachutists land at nearby Leconfield Wines for a glass or two of bubbles. You can tell when there is to be a jump as for several minutes beforehand there is the drone of the plane's engine as it fights gravity to lift 1.5 tonne of metal and about 400 kg of humans to the jump height of 9000 ft. or higher. On one occasion a 4WD rocked up at the front gate 'Have you seen a parachutists land near here?' the driver enquired. 'Nope' my reply but I guess he must have found the wayward one sooner or later.

The Ground Below

Part 1

Other than foxes there's no below ground activity at L50K but there could have been nearby at Sellicks Hill. In 1991 a spectacular cave was discovered during operations at the Sellicks Hill quarry, then operated by Southern Quarries (SQ). The cave was surveyed and documented by cavers at the request of SQ but then SQ denied further access. On the eve of the 1993 State election (10th December) SQ blew up part of the cave known as the Big Room, timing the destruction with the period of change in government, Labor to Liberal (the State Bank election, a week for the new Government to be formed and total newspaper focus on that).

The State Heritage Authority quickly provisionally listed the remains of the cave to enable a full assessment of its heritage value but in March 1994 the new Environment Minister, David Wotton, directed that the cave be delisted as its preservation would be contrary to the public interest, i.e., quarrying would be hindered. All sorts of Parliamentary enquiries and Court cases followed but the outcome was still the same. Susan Marsden, known for her basic camping and not glamping at L50K, was acting as Chair of the Authority at the time and remembers the incident well. I've never seen a photo of the cave but it would be great to see what we lost.

Part 2. What is below the ground at L50K? Next time.

Day on the Green

As well as parachutists, Leconfield Wines also hosts the music event *Day on the Green*. A couple of times a year an entire concert venue is trucked in and assembled only to be dismantled a few days later. In between bump-in and bump-out the likes of Cyndi Lauper, Blondie, Hunters & Collectors and the B52s strut their stuff come rain or shine and we get a sound whiff at L50K if the wind is right.

On one occasion we were at L50K and a stretched limo appeared out of Logan's Vineyard only to be stopped by the locked gate. Out popped a very high heeled and flustered young lady 'How do I get to Day on the Green?' the panicked question. Could have sent them back through the vineyard they had entered by mistake to find the public road but did the gentlemanly thing and unlocked the gate. Turned out it was Natalie Imbruglia putting her make-up on in the back seat.

Feral Olive Removal

There is another, but much smaller, registered Aboriginal heritage site about a kilometre to the west of L50K, part of the same greater cultural complex and also on the remnant dunal system. The land owners came along to one of the Open Days and we had a good yarn. They are now removing feral olives from their site in conjunction with NRM and the McLaren Vale Biodiversity Project, a joint initiative of the Friends of Willunga Basin and the McLaren Vale Grape Wine & Tourism Association. See <http://www.fowb.net/biodiversity-project.html> for info on the project.

So, all in all a range of happenings in the hood.

History Snippet

I mentioned Queen Adelaide last newsletter and that it was her bloke, King William IV, who signed the Letters Patent, 19 February 1836, authorising the establishment of the Province of South Australia. This founding document read in part:

William the Fourth by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland King Defender of the Faith **To all to Whom these Presents shall come Greeting** **Whereas** by an Act of Parliament passed in the fifth

year of our Reign entitled "An Act to empower His Majesty to erect South Australia into a British Province or Provinces and to provide for the Colonization and Government thereof"

Now Know Ye that with the advice of Our Privy Council and in pursuance and exercise of the powers in Us in that behalf vested by the said recited Act of Parliament We do hereby **Erect and Establish one Province to be called the Province of South Australia**—And we **do hereby fix the Boundaries of the said Province** in manner following (that is to say) On the North the twenty sixth Degree of South Latitude On the South the Southern Ocean—On the West the one hundred and thirty second Degree of East Longitude— And on the East the one hundred and forty first Degree of East Longitude including therein all and every the Bays and Gulfs thereof together with the Island called Kangaroo Island and all and every the Islands adjacent to the said last mentioned Island or to that part of the main Land of the said Province **Provided Always that nothing in those our Letters Patent contained shall affect or be construed to affect the rights of any Aboriginal Natives of the said Province to the actual occupation or enjoyment in their own Persons or in the Persons of their Descendants of any Lands therein now actually occupied or enjoyed by such Natives ...**

So if South Australia has boundaries, Aboriginal people have the right to occupation and enjoyment of their lands. If Aboriginal people don't have the right to occupation and enjoyment of their lands, South Australia has no boundaries. Which is it? The *South Australia Act 1834* did however describe the lands as 'waste' and 'unoccupied'. This is an unresolved legal quandary and there are ongoing moves by some in the Aboriginal rights movement and legal fraternity to bring this to Court. For a fuller discussion see; Berg, Shaun (Ed) (2010) *Coming to Terms: Aboriginal Title in South Australia* Wakefield Press, Adelaide

Here's Karl Telfer, Senior Custodian, and I with Their Respective Majesties at Government House a few years ago. The hire shop didn't have outfits to match for us in stock.



King William and Queen Adelaide

Speaking of borders, did you know that Victoria not only nicked the Formula 1 Grand Prix but 1,800 sq. kms of South Australia? More on that next History Snippet.

In Closing

Nothing more.

Cheers

Gavin

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