



Lot 50–Kanyanyapilla, McLaren Vale

Bi-cultural Ecological and Cultural Regeneration

Newsletter No 24, Autumn-Winter, 2022

Hi Everyone

I'm combining two seasons, autumn and winter, into the one newsletter as sorry, I just didn't get one out in autumn, been flat strap. An explanation of sorts: the 10 year plan (or aspiration) for L50K has two five year phases. The focus of the first, 2015-19 was the basic and very necessary ecological regeneration and infrastructure development. The second, 2020-2024 is to be more politically, culturally, scientifically and socially active. There is now a third phase planned, 2025-2029, which is consolidation and preparation; consolidation of all activities and preparation for a climate change challenged world. I'll write about this in a future newsletter.

The p, c, s & s activities, along with the ongoing e r & i d have kept me fully, to overly, occupied as I will outline. Much of this is now in collaboration with Karl Telfer and his gaining tenure last year of the adjacent bi-cultural heritage site has been one precursor to the elevated level of activity. L50K as a concept spans both sides of the fence and is now truly bi-cultural. It has certainly changed the way we work and an evolution is well and truly underway, as probably will be the format of this newsletter.

Traditionally the autumn newsletter is also a review of the previous year and this newsletter partly fulfils that. So here's what's been going on; a wonderful array of activity, structured along p, c, s & s lines.

Political

I often speak of the system of governance, and by that I mean those who govern us and those who we choose to do so, and the institutions that administer policy and serve us. It is a collaboration whether we like it or not. I also believe in participatory democracy, just turning up once every 3-4 years to vote is not enough; ongoing participation and advocacy within the democratic and institutional processes is I believe not only required but essential.

State Politics - Election

Prior to the State election we had a visit from Leon Bignell, M. P. for Mawson along with Susan Close, now Deputy Premier and Minister for Climate, Environment and Water and Kyam Maher, now Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Attorney-General. We had wide ranging political and cultural discussions, particularly the concepts of a bi-cultural landscape and the need for cultural mapping of the Aboriginal cultural landscape. Research and writing on this has been historically underfunded and underdone.



Kyam, Leon, Susan, Karl at L50K

Karl and I are most pleased, chuffed even, that the State Government announced in the recent budget a \$450,000 allocation over 3 years for the Aboriginal cultural mapping of the Onkaparinga and Yankalilla council areas. This is a first and a pilot project of the concept on a larger scale. We look forward to the process and outcomes.

Amy Williams, Liberal candidate for Mawson, also visited and again similar discussions. We look forward to continue working with Amy. The better informed all sides of the political process are, hopefully the better the outcomes.

Federal Politics - Election

Marisa Bell, Labor candidate for Mayo, visited in May and similar discussions. Rebekah Sharkie, the continuing member for Mayo has visited on a previous occasion. We have been liaising with her office since before the election on a tree planting project at L50K, see Queen's Jubilee later.

A political comment. I think it is clear that the vast majority of Australians want action on climate change mitigation (and reversal of ecological degradation), the four major parties all have degrees of but differing policies and means and ways. The new Labor Government now has a mandate. However, it does itself and many electors a disservice by not recognising it is only in government due to the Greens vote, it is an informal coalition. The Liberal Party has the honesty to recognise a coalition with the Nationals. The ALP received 52% support two party preferred. It however received a primary vote of 32.58%, a DECLINE of 0.76%. The Greens received 12.25%, an INCREASE of 1.85%. The ALP only wins many, if not the majority, of its seats with Greens support (haven't been through electorate by electorate). The ALP received 4,776,030 first preference votes, the Greens 1,795,985 which is nearly 40% (38%) as many as the ALP. The term minor part is a furphy.

I find it tiresome that Chris Bowen, Minister for Climate Change and Energy is already bagging the Greens on climate action. Fair enough to have some disagreement and policy nuance but respect for the population (1.8 million Greens voters) that strongly advocates for climate change mitigation and adaptation (and got you across the line electorally) is appropriate and required. Lift your game, Bowen. I think it is clear a less adversarial style of politics is demanded by voters of all persuasions; we want our grandchildren to enjoy the planet and not the failures of party and personal ego (ditto to all Ministers). Prime Minister Albanese seems to be adopting a conciliatory and inclusive tone, may that leadership style prevail in all parliamentary parties (some hope!!).

It is interesting that the Liberal Party now holds only 27 seats nationally, Independents and the Greens have half that many with 14. However, the Liberal National Party of Queensland brings 21 seats to their party table along with the Nationals 10.

PS. I certainly don't agree with all Greens policy (nor the other three parties) but everything else is subservient to the mitigation of climate change and ecological degradation and the disastrous impacts on all life (and cultures and economies etc.) of inaction. Our nation enjoys so many benefits but at an ecological cost. Since colonisation our actions have been ecologically degenerative. Thinking and action must now be regenerative. Let's just get on with it.

Cultural

Lots of activity on the cultural presentation and educational side:

The Governor

At the invitation of Karl, Her Excellency Frances Adamson and husband Rod Bunten spent half a day with us in April. Again wide ranging discussions during a walk and talk over L50K. We are particularly pleased that the Head of State made the time to visit L50K.



Yarning on the swamp Deck

And it was Polly whispering in my ear prompting me what to say to the Governor.



Getting the Polly prompts with the Governor, something about

The Governor recently initiated the upgrading of flag poles at Government House so that the Australian, South Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags can now be flown simultaneously and permanently for the first time. A ceremony to mark the occasion was held on 27th May as part of Reconciliation Week during which the Governor stated she would be working toward a cultural mapping project of the Government House site, see: <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2022-05-27/aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-flags-permanently-fly/101104308>.

Universities (more in Science below)

University of SA

Bachelor of Outdoor and Environmental Leadership

Scott Polley, Senior Lecturer, Outdoor Education and collaborator Stephen Muecke, Emeritus Professor of Ethnography, UNSW, Sydney, visited to explore onsite education potential for students and professional development opportunities for outdoor education teachers. A weekend field trip and camp over for students is now being planned for later in the year.

Flinders University

College of Education, Psychology & Social Work

Ruth Ratcliffe, Lecturer in Education, visited to explore onsite education potential for students and staff. Early days but great potential.

University of Adelaide

School of Social Sciences

Also had a visit from Dr Bill Skinner and Assoc, Prof Georgina Drew, Anthropologists. University of Adelaide regarding their research project *Hydro-social Adaptations to Water Risk in Australian Agriculture*. They are focussing on three wine growing areas, Langhorne Creek, McLaren Vale and Barossa.

School of Architecture and Built Environment

Early discussions are underway with Jo Russel Clarke, Landscape Architect & Senior Lecturer, for visits by undergrad and post-grad students.

Schools, Early Learning, Youth Groups & Others

Tatachilla Lutheran College, Tatachilla

The entire Year 11 cohort has come over in batches of 20 or so for a 90 minute walk and talk with Karl and myself. Five students then volunteered for half a day mulch moving and another group have made three bench seats out of old pallets. The visits were most productive and an ongoing association with TLC is anticipated.



Teacher Grant Wildman and students oil staining the seats – the final touch

Wirreanda High, Morphett Vale

Several students, along with teachers, from the WAVE program (Wirreanda Adaptive Vocational Education) spent a school day at L50K learning about the bi-cultural landscape and ecological systems and planting just over 100 seedlings. Not only did the students leave behind a good impression of their work and learning attitude, they left several bird boxes and bee hotels to be installed on both Karl's and my side of the fence.



Karl speaking with the group around a fire

Acacia Bush Pods

Bush Pods is nature led learning with professional educators and a group is here every school week, rain or shine, based amongst the sedge-line Redgums. And soon it is to be two groups.



And they had an overnight camp over with their families and others

Montessori Children Centre, McLaren Vale

"Monti" visits every term and they have all sorts of adventures, mulching and watering seedlings being one. Mud pies another favourite. Their visits are a delight. I'm curious how some backpacks are almost as big as the child.



Bucket by bucket mulch is moved by little legs and happy hands

YACCA Environmental Youth Group

Youth And Community in Conservation Action (YACCA), based in the Willunga Environment Centre, are undertaking a several month long program at L50K of ecological and bi-cultural engagement. There have been several weeding sessions along with three bi-cultural learning events. And 500 seedlings are now being planted. More on this project next issue.

Australian Institute of Landscape Architects (AILA), SA

Karl and I were interviewed by landscape architect Paul Harding in a national Zoom presentation in March. This is being followed up by an AILA visit in early July as part of its Connection to Country program.

Adelaide Symphony Orchestra

At the invitation of Karl a 'get to know you' visit from Vincent Ciccarello, Managing Director and Elizabeth McCall, Learning & Community Projects Manager. Early days, nothing in mind yet, but the imagination is fertile.

Other People & Projects - Several visits from people looking to undertake their own regeneration projects and wineries exploring Aboriginal cultural recognition and inclusion.

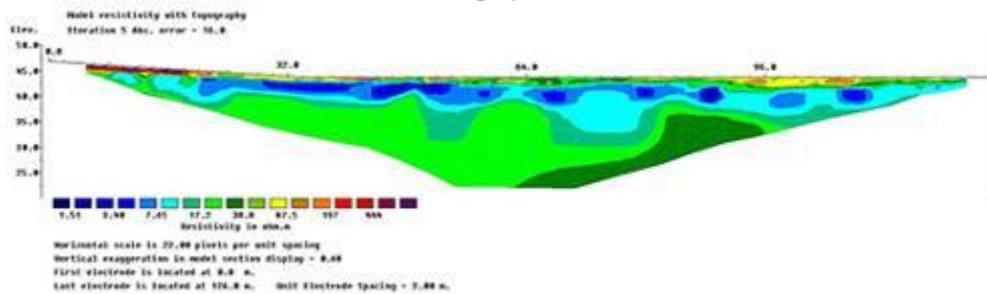
Science

Paleo climatology – Paleo ecology Research Project

I mentioned in Newsletter 21 that we had commenced a research project on past climates, and hopefully flora, with 3.5 metre deep core sampling of the swamp floor. Pleased to let you know we have been successful in obtaining Australian Nuclear Science & Technology Organisation (ANSTO), Lucas Heights, funding for radiocarbon dating and other analysis. The team from Earth Sciences, Adelaide University have now been joined by Ian Moffat, Geo-Archaeologist from Flinders University who has just undertaken a cross section, sub surface mapping of the swamp sediments using Electrical Resistance Tomography (ERT). Full interpretations down the track but I understand the sediments are about 5 m deep with some deeper pockets. How long that took to deposit awaits carbon dating.



Jon Tyler, Ad Uni, & Ian Moffat, Flinders, setting up the ERT and sub-surface cross section map below



All good stuff; this detailed climatological analysis has not been done in the region before and will have multiple applications in both the physical and social sciences. Be a few years before we have conclusive results.

Mushroom Survey

Secondary school student, Alice, a member of the Youth Environmental Council South Australia is undertaking a mushroom survey as part of her self-directed environmental project. Nine species have been identified.

Archaeological Outreach Program

Our regional archaeological research with Dr. Keryn Walshe quietly continues with further sites identified.

Social

Well probably not enough happening on that side of things. Manage to get in quarterly 'Pie & Wine' lunches with old mates. And the Southern Basket Cases (weavers if you wondered) spent two sessions at L50K, some weavers utilising materials collected on site. And I got a wonderful woven sedge fruit basket.



Weaving in the comfort of the Shelter Shed with the Nectre radiating winter warmth and aromas

Oops, almost forgot, did manage to get my 70th (or platinum jubilee, sound familiar) birthday and L50K 7th anniversary celebration in last March.



Best be more of this!!

News

Wind Damage

Overnight on Saturday 4th June a severe wind gust or 'mini tornado' swept through a strip of L50K felling or snapping several trees, young and old, and breaking limbs from many others. It was an extraordinary site on the Sunday morning, Branson Track was blocked and tree limbs and debris were all around. Would have been an impressive but scary experience to see it happen.



Just snapped



Karl with 15m felled gum

Funding - *Plant a Tree for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee*

The former federal Government initiated a program of planting trees to acknowledge Queen Elizabeth's 70th or Platinum Jubilee. Every electorate in Australia was allocated \$100,000 for projects in that electorate. Pleased to say that L50K has received funding to plant 500 seedlings, stage a commemorative event and install commemorative signage. The commemorative event will be later this year with the planting next year with multiple groups associated with L50K invited to participate. Our commemorative event will also refer to the constitutional role of the Crown in the colonisation process and the relationship with Aboriginal peoples, explain the Letters Patent 1834 to 2001 and the changing role over time of the Monarch and since 1973, the Queen of Australia.

Victor Harbor Road Duplication - McLaren Vale to Willunga

If you live or travel down this way you can readily see that there are major road works underway on both Main South and Victor Harbor Roads to provide four lanes. Large swathes of land have been acquired to enable this new super smooth speedway to the south.

Planning for a next stage, the duplication of Victor Harbor Road, McLaren Vale to Willunga is now underway. One way or another this will impact on L50K as the VHR is on the western boundary. There is the potential that a 500 metre strip of land could be compulsory acquired for road widening. Representations have been made to the Department of Infrastructure and Transport (DIT) and the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs regarding this. Preliminary discussions are to be held with DIT and/or its contractors, Fleurieu Connections Alliance (FCA) soon. FCA is currently undertaking the road duplication works for Main South Road, Seaford to Aldinga, as well as VHR, Seaford to McLaren Vale.

Other Stuff

Pethick Track & A Mountain of Mulch

Pethick Road is the road that runs north–south past L50K. Pethick Track is that section of the road that is closed, running north of Branson Road up to Johnston Road. It has long been abandoned as a trafficable road and is now fully infested with olives and other woody weeds, but with some remnant vegetation. Working with Council we are clearing the Track, bit by bit. Full story next issue but we've just taken delivery of about 175 c.m. of olive mulch.

History Snippet

South Australia's Jubilee 150 and the Tjilbruke Dreaming Track, 1986. Not enough space this time so held over.

Seasonal Cycles

Seasonal planting is well underway, another 1,200 seedlings to be in the ground my side of the fence soon. And another 300 or so Karl's side. And thanks to Tree Hugger and Naked Wines for funding 10,000 seedlings in the region and Biodiversity McLaren Vale for organising the propagation and distribution; L50K is getting 800 all up this season.

I did some writing for this newsletter on winter solstice, a celebratory fire obligatory but turned out to be just a candle on the kitchen table. Heading towards longer days and summer now, minute by minute.

Time to watch the rain and yes, the grass trees slowly grow.

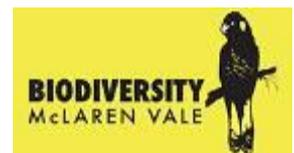
Cheers Gavin

Contact and Information

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Project Partners and Supporters



Timelapse Adelaide

Magnificent River Redgum *Karra* in the L50K swamp

