



Lot 50–Kanyanyapilla, McLaren Vale

Bi-cultural Ecological and Cultural Regeneration

Newsletter No 7, September 2017

Hi Everyone

News

Planting, 2017 Season

Done and dusted, well, done and rained on. Below average rainfall for May (32 mm, av. 61 mm) & June (26 mm, av. 78 mm) delayed most planting but above average for July (120 mm, av. 83 mm) and August (104 mm, av. 57 mm) compensates and hopefully gets the 1,000 seedlings settled. NRM provided 700 seedlings, another 175 were donated by Paul Rosser and Fiona Ryan, thank you, Council provided 30 for the Branson track and I had 100 sedges carried over from last season.

And thanks to the 26 people who assisted in the plant out this year. It is sometimes said that tree planting is for one's children and grandchildren and I agree. Well my grandchildren have assisted in the planting over the last two years so if they are doing it for their grandchildren we are looking well into the future. Who can even imagine what the world will be like in 2070 and what the revegetation at L50K will look like!!



Son Tim and grandson Aiden planting this year

There's no rain gauge at L50K but rainfall records are pretty easy to get as the Bureau of Meteorology recording station is just a block north at Pirramimma Winery and statistics are on-line. The winery was founded in 1892 by Alexander Johnston and is one of a few old McLaren Vale wineries still in the same family hands.

And all this July/August rain meant, much to my surprise and delight, **water in the swamp** again this year, **twice**.



All in a Day's Work

It's an old saying, but what do you get for a day's work? Dollars and/or satisfaction? Some days the tasks may seem tedious and repetitive, other days, there's big bangs for your bucks.

On 11th July, Steve Poole, permaculturist, and I got a highly visible and rewarding return for a day's effort pruning the old almond tree on the corner back into shape. There were boxthorns and olives strangling the base, deadwood everywhere and the tree wouldn't have been pruned for decades. After six trailer loads of prunings, a wonderful spiralling trunk was revealed along with an old road side milk box, which has now received new old cladding. There used to be a dairy adjacent and the box was for the locals to collect their milk.

Thanks to Steve for volunteering a day's effort and skill.



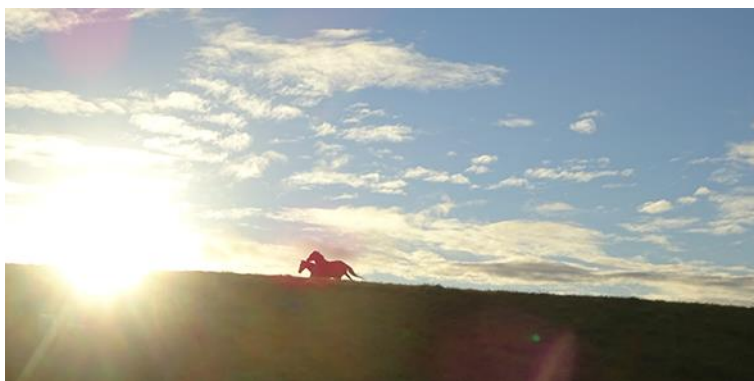
Mini Almond Blossum Festival

Pedicure and Polish

You may have gathered that the two horses, Polly and Mum, who were on the property when I acquired it, are staying on for the foreseeable. Initially I had concerns about their interference with revegetation, risk to visitors and their own safety. But the concerns have been allayed and I like horses, so two and half years on they are part of the L50K landscape. I also enjoy their company as I work mostly alone on the property and it very satisfying to see two horses just gallop around of their own free will or wander up for an apple or a scratch.

Polly and Mum were in need of a bit of hoof care and thanks to farrier Chris Ryan, this has been attended to; cleaned, trimmed and filed, and then the glossy coat, an application of Stockholm Tar. Chris just appeared at the right time several months ago, he had come to one of the Open Days and then I literally bumped into him. Mum was having some trouble with a hoof condition, laminitis, and Chris was able to adjust her stance to assist this. And from there the full treatment for Mum with Polly; introduced to the joys of the pedicure. Polly has never been broken in or ridden; she's just had the run on the paddock since she was a foal. So in conjunction with her owner we have been 'socialising' her to being handled and, heavens forbid, to even stand still while she gets her nails clipped.

Chris has a long history as a farrier and working with horses overseas but hadn't continued when back in Australia. Now it is him 'back in the saddle' with Fleurieu Hoof Care underway; 0451 854 383, for anyone needing a rasp and tree loppers to trim their, or their horses, nails.



Meanings of L50K

I've had cause to Google L50K to see what comes up and two are at the top of the list; the colour code for Volkswagen *Neptune Blue* and the Forza L50K Lab Micromotor, a piece of dental equipment and not much to say on that but when it is needed, it is needed.

The L50K Volkswagen *Neptune Blue* was used from 1967 to about 1978, particularly on the Kombi. I still give a good looking Kombi a second glance and memories of my own split screen, sliding window, 6 volt snail come back, along with the adventures it had. The (not so corporate) makeover below was courtesy of the sign writers at Amscol, done after hours at the Carrington Street factory. Amscol, the milk and ice-cream brand is now long gone, as has my Kombi. And yes, I do wish both were still around.



L50K *Neptune Blue*



I'm livin' in the 70's, I feel like I lost my keys (Skyhooks)

For all you youngsters, Amscol was the acronym for the Adelaide Milk Supply Cooperative Ltd. and see <http://www.adelaiderememberwhen.com.au/its-a-food-not-a-fad/> for memories of ice-cream in the 'good old days'. We found one good Amscol milk bottle in the archaeology work at L50K. No real monetary value but for sentiment, the bottle is full.



I'll have a pint please

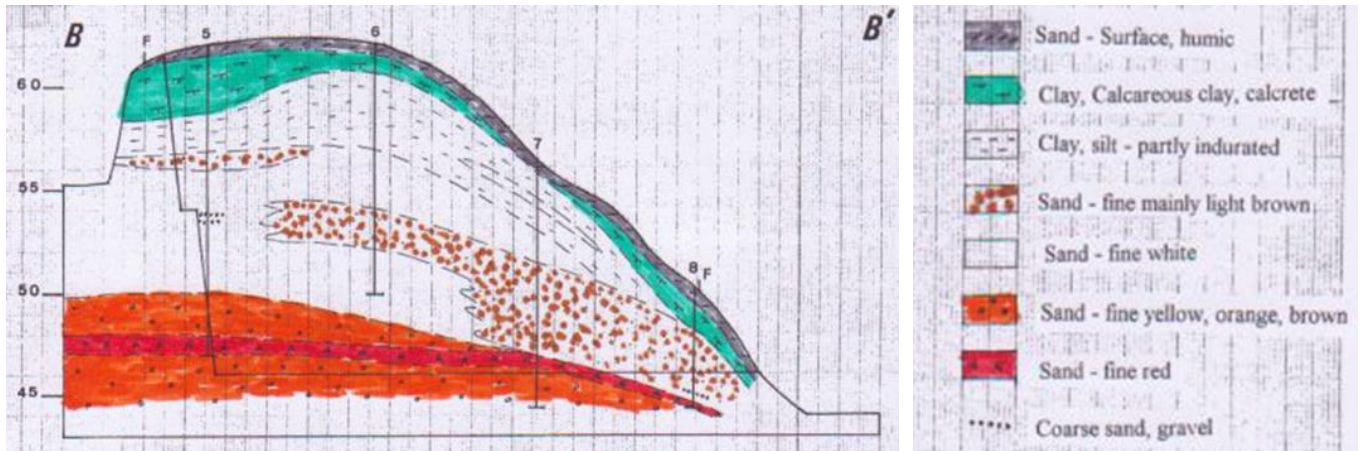
What's Below the Ground at L50K?

(Why the Sandhill shelter is called the Sandhill Shelter)

As promised in the last newsletter, the answer is over one million tonnes of recoverable sands; 700 000 tonnes of fine-grained sand consisting of 70,000 tonnes of garden sand, 280,000 tonnes of white sand suitable for flint glass and foundry use and 350,000 tonnes of coloured sand suitable for amber glass, filling and trench packing. The

clean white sand is also ideal for suburban beach replenishment. And there's 350,000 tonnes of overburden which can be used as basic fill. There are also bands of clay and calcrete below the surface cover of humic sands.

The construction of the Maslin Creek road cutting in 1973 for the Victor Harbor Road indicated the depth of the sand and from 1992 to 2006 it was proposed Lot 50 be mined. Approval however was not granted because of the cultural heritage value of the site. Geological investigations in 1992 and 2006, including bore holes to 15 metres, identified the quantity and quality of sand.



The sands below the Sandhill Shelter: 20m depth stratigraphy, 42 to 62m above Sea Level

The sands are from an ancient fore dune system. A million years ago, L50K was sea side; pass the pina coladas please. The dune stretches along the northern edge of the Maslin Creek reed swamp, a length of about 3 kms.



Goin' way back in time, an imagination

Going deeper and further back in time, 130m to 200m below the surface at L50K are grey to black sands, part of the basal (bottom layer or base) North Maslin Sand Member. In other areas in the Willunga Basin these sands are to a depth of 300m. These sands are from the erosion of the Mount Lofty Ranges.

Thanks to Jeff Olliver, Olliver Geological Services, McLaren Vale, and one of the former owners for provision of the geological survey report.



Sandhill Shelter

Unwind Aldinga, Bowl Burning

With a rainfall forecast of up to 15mm for the day, in the late afternoon the weather was fine and kind for Paloma Concierta's bowl burning ceremony. A mere breath of wind, a blue to dark-grey cloudy sky and a half moon set the atmosphere in the Dendro Theatre. A whiff of smoke became three roaring fires as each bowl soon became ash after Paloma had quietly read the first names of all who had concealed their message. Soft sounds from several musical instruments, there for people to play with, added to the background crickets.



Reflections - life and light

Happening in the Hood

Free the Trees – Feral Olive Removal

The City of Onkaparinga and NRM have commenced a collaborative program to 'free the trees' by removing feral olives from around remnant indigenous trees along road reserves. Just to the east of L50K on the northern side of Branson Road there are several Mallee Box smothered by olives. They are on the list to be freed in the foreseeable.

Council is also collaborating with SA Power Networks to remove olives under powerlines, part of a program to remove olives in select areas rather than continue long-term pruning. Several hundred metres along nearby Gilbert Road received the treatment in July. The big machines were required for this; one slices and rips the trunks, another mulches the removed canopy and then chainsaws clean up to near ground level. Council is planting low shrubs under the powerlines.

And the latest. The feral olives on the southern side of Branson Road have just been removed by SA Power Networks; this changes the look of the hood dramatically. Congratulations to all involved.



Branson Boulevard

And strange as it may be, I will sort of miss the hedge row effect the pruned olives provided. It was a delight to drive along sometimes; the light, the colours and textures, the vanishing point. Must be a genetic throwback to the horse and cart ambling along the hedge rows in Ireland several generations ago.

History Snippet

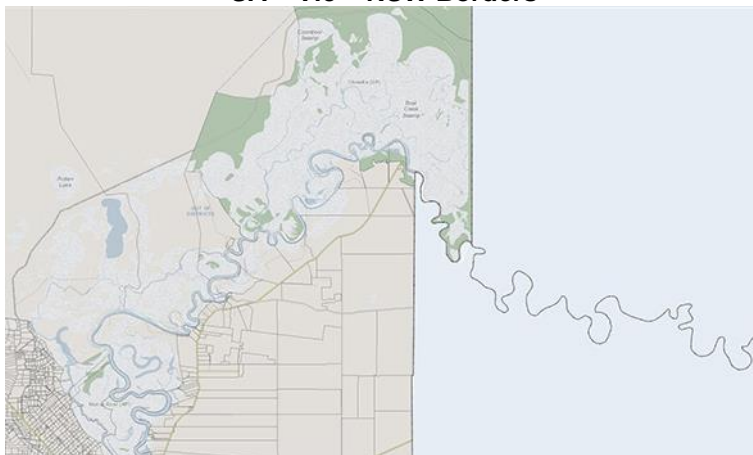
Victorian Land Grab

Why the dog-leg in South Australia's eastern border when in 1836 the Letters Patent set the boundary as the 141st degree of longitude east of Greenwich? Because the Vics nicked 1,800 sq. kms of South Australia, a strip 3.6 kms wide south of the River Murray. Is this why we celebrate when we beat the Vics at footy?

An error in the original 1840s survey pegged the border a fraction too far west, understandable at the time as those survey blokes had rudimentary instrumentation and did it hard in the bush and on this occasion did nearly die of privation. When the error was discovered in the 1860s the Victorians refused to play ball whilst the New South Washmen conceded the error after Charles Todd and accurate time signals on the Adelaide to Sydney telegraph established the precise line of the 141st meridian. The border dispute with Victoria went on for 60 years, the matter finally being determined by the Privy Council in England in 1914, obviously in Victoria's favour, possession being ten-tenths of the law in this case.

But if you were Bunganditj (Bo-an-dick), who's Country includes the coastal strip to Robe, it probably didn't matter which colonial master was lord of the manor.

SA – Vic – NSW Borders



A cartographer's eye



From the sky

The mouth of the Glenelg River at Nelson had initially been thought to be within the territory of South Australia.



Glenelg River Estuary, Nelson, VICTORIA

Cheers Gavin

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Project Partners and Supporters



Natural Resources
Adelaide and Mt Lofty Ranges



Timelapse Adelaide