



Lot 50–Kanyanyapilla, McLaren Vale

Bi-cultural Ecological and Cultural Regeneration

Newsletter No 16, Autumn, 2020

Hi Everyone

News

Given the overarching headlines over the past three months on unprecedented bushfires, climate change and Covid 19, nothing really significant to report.

But these issues have pushed me into articulating a few things that have been swimming around. Firstly, I am often enough asked what has happened to my arts practice; used to say stepped aside in favour of L50K but now I say, as has always been the case, that L50K is my final sculpture. So I'm updating my writing about art and ecology or ecology as art. Be a few months but when it's ready I'll share.

Secondly, after a convivial 5th birthday, is where to for L50k over the next five years? In summary L50K will be more politically, culturally, scientifically and socially active. Aspects of this will be self-evident, aspects are underway, and aspects will evolve, many still unbeknown to me and my brain. I'll expand as and when things evolve.

In addition there is always plenty to do on the ecological side with land management and consolidating the vegetation at the rate of about 200 seedlings per season.

And on the bright side; self-regeneration has started at L50K with a couple of Golden Wattles, one Eucalypt (looks like Mallee Box) and several Coast Bitter Bushes seeding from Branson Track. And the gums are flowering. Yippee



Self-seeded Mallee Box and flowering Eucalyptus

Other Stuff

L50K Residencies

Of the five residencies this year, two have already started slow cooking, Megan Spencer, the podcaster, and Ash Starkey, the film maker, have been visiting on and off to collect and absorb and evolve what they may do.

The first scheduled on-site residency was Carlotta Brunetti from Germany in March. Carlotta was already in Australia to undertake works at the BigCi at Bilpin in the Blue Mountains and the Palmer Sculpture Biennial and was able to add L50K whilst here. BigCi (Bilpin international ground for Creative initiatives) narrowly escaped destruction in the fires, it is on the edge of the Wollemi National Park and the fires burnt to their door.

Carlotta intended to be at L50K for 10 days but managed only one full day on site; on the first day here she had to make the difficult decision to return home because of Covid 19. She intended to work with the reeds and managed a maquette of woven reeds.



Carlotta and her day's work

Visiting Vehicles

It's curious the variety of vehicles that turn up at the front gate, come through the front gate or fly over the front gate. I find it intriguing.



Happening in the Hood

Harvest

This vintage's harvest is pretty well over, the flurry of activity day and night with strange looking machines and hordes of hand pickers in select vineyards. If you get close enough, the lovely aromas of fermenting grapes waft from the wineries. Local goss is modest crops but good quality. Here's to the 2020 drop.

Free the Tree

Another section of Maslin Creek along Malpas Road, upstream from the swamp, is getting the 'free the tree' treatment and more. A tangled mass of feral olives, ash and blackberry are being removed at the moment, hard yakka. I reckon it is the most dramatic and positive landscape change I've seen in the hood.

Road Upgrades

For some time I have been liaising with the City of Onkaparinga regarding two issues; the Pethick Road swamp crossing and Branson Road safety. The sealing of Branson Road got underway briefly last October only to be postponed when it came to light that Willunga Basin Water wanted to put a new recycled water pipe along Branson. And you know how it is, we all grizzle when a new piece of road is dug up a few weeks later!! Council wisely postponed the works, bit of a hassle, the work camp was on-site etc. (see photo above). Pipe installation now complete so just have to wait until road works can be re-scheduled.

And the design and costing for a Pethick Road culvert based swamp crossing to allow for environmental water flows is complete, works scheduled for 2020/21 financial year. Thanks Council.

A Year in Review, 2019

To continue the tradition, a review of the last year's activities through images follows but first a reflection.

The L50K project celebrated its 5th birthday on 15th February 2020 and leading up to that was a period of contemplation as to where to over the next five? As stated above, L50K will be more politically, culturally, scientifically and socially active. I've always imagined the base regeneration of the property as a 10 year project and who knows after that. It is great to sit in the shade of a self-grown tree, be even better when there's room for friends under a spreading canopy.

Timelapse Images (thanks Nick, Timelapse Adelaide)

(See http://www.timelapseadelaide.com/?page_id=1462 for complete set)



13 February 2020



03 June 2017

Things Built



The Shelter Shed substantially complete, phew

People



Georgina and Karl addressing a Yitpi forum



Tea break, Adelaide Tirratna Buddhist Community



Gabriele Richter & Dr Birgit Scheps-Bretschneider, Grassi Museum, Leipzig, Germany and meself

Critters



Wedge-tailed (*Aquila audax*) being hassled by a Magpie Lark (*Grallina cyanoleuca*)



Ibis (*Threskiornis spinicollis*)



Yellow tailed (*Calyptorhynchus funereus*)

Rain, 29th June 2019



Branson Track



Sedge Line

Something to Just Enjoy



Floral arrangement by Hope Lovelock Deane, Harvest Studios, McLaren Vale
Hope forages at L50K, flowering reeds, top of arrangement

Best Performing



Best performing River Red gum (with Jamie as the scale), February 2020

Random Image



And it is several barrels of fun, even empty

And Things You Can Only do On 'Papa's Farm'



Kallan, Aiden & Tim



Evie & Sir Lancelot50



Aiden & Evie, future stewards, L50K



Again my thanks to all who are supporting this project; personal and institutional.

This year particular thanks to Fox Creek Wines for their support since the beginning. This support enables us to enjoy the bounty of the Vales after a volunteer day on the tools, or having our heads filled with cultural information, or ambling along on a walk and talk, or hosting a visitor or two. Or occasionally, just because.

Cheers Gavin

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FOX CREEK *Timelapse Adelaide*

PS: Some Good Reading

NSW based artist and author Kim Mahood spoke at a Yitpi Foundation Forum on 17th March at the Waite Institute, the topic *'Mapping country: bringing together Indigenous and non-Indigenous knowledge systems*. The forum ended up having a select audience but was video recorded, see <https://universityofadelaide.box.com/s/k489468yyqpyz2sgu4f6alavjebl5gzy> if interested. Kim came over to L50K in the evening, along with a small group of people, for a quick look and a BBQ.

She grew up in the Tanami Desert and is the author of *Craft for a Dry Lake* a wonderful story about her return to her grow up country as an adult and *Position Doubtful* 'An extraordinary excavation of the relationship, past and present, between settlers and indigenous Australians, deeply grounded in this alluring tract of desert, but with relevance for us all.' *The Monthly*

I've just finished *Craft* and found it thoroughly enjoyable and engaging and am now starting *Position Doubtful*. If you're looking for a good read on inter-cultural and inter-personal relationships in these asocial times, check em out. Available for purchase at Mostly Books, Mitcham I believe.