



Lot 50–Kanyanyapilla, McLaren Vale

Bi-cultural Ecological and Cultural Regeneration

Newsletter No 27, Winter 2023

Hi Everyone

News

This news contains no sport. It will however include the weather and a brief reference to finance. Unlike public and commercial news broadcasting, it will not report on the in-grown toenail of the full back, the ankle sprain of the goal attack and mid wicket's melancholia. Besides, we done real good, we learned from the loss and will do better next time, and its great both Fred and Freda are back in the teams having done good in the reserves.

Cultural regeneration to tackle climate change means a change in cultural values and cultural practices, the way we do things and expend resources. Rather than reporting the trivia of the footsy index (FTSE) and footy codes, public broadcasting resources can be better spent on more fully reporting the challenges and minor successes in mitigating climate change impacts, what's happening in the science, what's happening in biodiversity regeneration, what's happening in food production and water management. And I don't need to know about a car crash in Cape York, a minor house fire in Horsham, a cat rescue in Cue and so forth. Substance please, *Landline* in prime time.

Sad News

'Mum' the mare passed away at the end of May. She was crook for a few weeks beforehand and a complication set in. Waalini was her race name and after a racing career went to stud and had six foals, the last being Polly. The two horses were on the land when I acquired it in 2015 and for various reasons stayed on to become very much part of the social fabric of L50K. Mum and Polly have been much admired by many visitors, particularly children, as they just hung around as horses in *their* paddock, nothing more to do than be a horse. Mum was always good natured but a bit aloof, Polly is the socially inquisitive one. Mum had a good horse life; she was 28 which is the equivalent to 80 human years. She is buried at L50K so in that way, stays with us.

Other Stuff

Regen Music, Last April - Cancelled

The rain got us again, two major events in a row. Last Nov. the Jubilee commemorative planting was awash and Regen music didn't get out of the starting gates. Apologies to those who had tickets but mid-week beforehand the weather forecast for an outdoor event was just too dodgy. I have to say I was relieved when it did rain as much as it did as it affirmed the decision to cancel. Never say no to rain, ended up with about 36 mm of rain in 36 hrs.

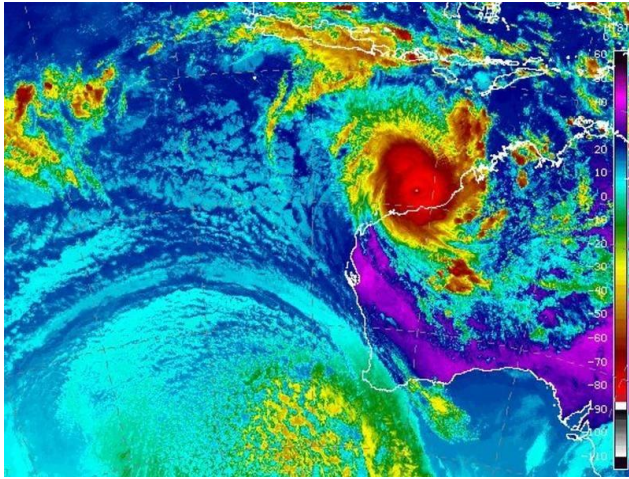
And it's all assisted by climate change. Cyclone Ilsa, a category 5 storm and one of the most potent storms to hit Western Australia in recent years, made landfall between Port Hedland and Broome about 24 hrs beforehand with wind gusts to 300 km an hour and loads and loads of moisture from the Indian Ocean.

Climate change is expected to change tropical cyclone patterns. The overall number is expected to decrease, but their intensity will likely increase, bringing stronger wind and heavier rain. More intense tropical cyclones are expected because higher sea-surface temperatures will make the atmosphere more warm and moist. Cyclones thrive in such conditions. (The Conversation, 13.04.2023)

'Heavy rainfall is predicted to fall across Adelaide and Melbourne this weekend, as a rainband attributed to ex-Tropical Cyclone Ilsa heads east over the country ... The Bureau of Meteorology has also issued warnings for sheep graziers across South Australia and Victoria, including the Yorke Peninsula and Gippsland regions, due to cold temperatures and rainfall' (News.com, 15.04.2023)

And it was wet for the footy as well: *The inaugural Gather Round is being held in Adelaide this weekend, but forecast rain from Cyclone Ilsa, which is due to cross into northern Western Australia by Friday, could stretch south, putting a dampener on the big event.* (News.com 12.04.2023)

Hopefully third time lucky with Regen Music in October.



Pretty as a picture – Cyclone Ilsa, April 2023



Last one out, please turn the lights off

Mulching

As outlined last newsletter there's a lot of mulch to move, 300 m³ in total now shared between Karl and myself which is over 3,000 wheelbarrow loads. Gradually getting through it thanks to:

- . Acacia Bush Pods - have their own pile which is slowly being spread each week.
- . Scott Polley, Uni SA – gave up an afternoon and we spread one pile.
- . Willunga Waldorf work experience students - see below.
- . Bea's Team – came down for a brisk two hour session followed by a glass of Fox Creek wine



Morgan, Emily & Bea



Lachlan, Matthew, me, Emily, Morgan, Ruby, Holly, Bea
(missing Poppy taking photo)

And just when they rested, it needed to start again. L50K has Magic Mulch Mountains, just like the Magic Pudding, they continue to reform themselves as soon as anyone nibbles away.



That's what 24m³ of mulch looks like, the trucks are just getting bigger and the mounds taller, nearly two metres

The last 125 m³ was from the feral olive removal along Branson Road, part going to Karl. I'm in the process of calculating the CO₂ embedded in the mulch per m³ but can't get my head around the methane released from decomposition and the labile and recalcitrant carbon content. Much of the labile is broken down by micro-organisms and eventually returned to the atmosphere whereas recalcitrant carbon is stable for hundreds or thousands of years (thanks Jock Harvey). Will let you know when I know cos I think this is important in us better understanding land management, the carbon cycle and carbon cost-benefit analysis in all that we do.

Research and Educational Activities

There seems to be a bit going on so have added a new heading as above.

Palaeoclimatological Research, University of Adelaide

The project has taken a leap forward or better still, downward. On Monday 15th May, a continuous core sample using a pneumatic coring and retrieval device was taken by Assoc. Prof Jon Tyler, Dr. Alexander Francke and Honors student Nash Griffiths. Two cores were taken, one to a depth of 4 metres, the other 2.5 metres as a check bore. The core tubes were then split, one half sent to ANSTO in Sydney for analysis, the other half staying at the Uni with Earth Sciences. Nash, who has taken on this project for his thesis, accompanied the samples to Sydney and assisted in their analysis. Assoc. Prof. Ian Moffat, Geoarchaeologist, Flinders University, who did the Electrical Resistance Tomography (ERT) survey last year also dropped in. That survey helped determine the best spot to core. Results of analysis hopefully next newsletter.



The team at the swamp and Nash splitting the cores - yummy stuff there in those cores (Nash photos courtesy Jon)

Hydrogeology Students, Flinders University

Under the direction of Dr Eddie Banks, Hydrogeophysicist, National Centre for Groundwater Research and Training, Flinders University, a group of 'Field Methods in Hydrology' post grad students came down for a day's field work to use various instruments. Other staff were Dr Michael Hatch, Geophysicist and Dr John Hudson, Soil Scientist. One instrument was the ERT, which was also used to map the swamp sub-surface, and our sub surface survey continued up the hill from the swamp. Another instrument was the Guelph Permeameter which measures the rate of absorption of water into the soil. The results are still to be fully interpreted, results next newsletter, but all good stuff as we continue to build up our scientific knowledge of all things physical at L50K. It is anticipated the field work will be an annual event so we can continue the survey over the property.



Student briefing and a Guelph Permeameter at work, drip, drip, drip (it's how fast it drips that tells the story)

Outdoor and Environmental Leadership Field Camp, Uni SA

And not to forget Uni SA. 'Caring for Country' students will be down for a long weekend in September.

Tatachilla Lutheran College, Year 11

All students in Year 11 come over for a bi-cultural 'walk n talk' with Karl and myself, about 20 at a time, five groups all told. Last group, pictured, came through 16th May. Several students are going to undertake volunteer land management i.e., mulching and weeding, and others are making bird boxes and outdoor seats from pallets.



The Fifth and Final

Tatachilla Lutheran College Horticulture Students

Then on the 17th May four Horticulture students, along with four staff, came over for a work experience day, particularly on how to care for a heritage site. The day was organised by Katie Hollis, Environmental Resources Officer at TLC.



Jacob, Azalea, Joey, Tilly

Willunga Waldorf Work Experience Students

In April three students spent a work experience fortnight with Biodiversity McLaren Vale (BMV) undertaking a variety of tasks at several BMV Partner properties. L50K hosted them for a day and a half, mulching one regenerative task.



Milla, Eddie, Zsu Zsu

McLaren Vale Montessori Early Childhood Centre and Mini Mulch Movers

The kiddywinks come over once a term and have great fun moving whatever mulch they can with buckets as well as making mud pies, going for a bush walk and sitting around a campfire for lunch. Thirty-two children and more than a dozen staff and parents came over late May on a damp day. And previous groups made a wonderful gift, a mandala made from plant material collected onsite and elsewhere, now displayed at the Shelter Shed.



Montessori Mandala

South Australia's History Festival

On 27th May, L50K hosted a Walk n Talk organised for the Festival by the Aldinga Library, City of Onkaparinga. It was a full turnout, and we dodged any heavy rain. Thanks to Erinna in the Library for organising.



Trekking along the swamp edge on a Saturday morn

Happening in the Hood

Feral Olive Control, Branson Road: Done and Dusted

I am absolutely delighted to announce, as they say, that all feral olives along Branson Road have now been cleared. It is transformational. What was an olive hedge row lined road has now been cleared, opening up the view, integrating roadside with adjacent remnant vegetation, particularly the Mallee Box, revealing the fold of the land and much more. Work started in September 2017 courtesy of SA Power Networks when the southern side under the power lines was cleared. Since then, the City of Onkaparinga has kept nibbling away, bringing it to a conclusion in May, stump munching is now underway. Replanting with appropriate indigenous vegetation will be scheduled as resources permit. Needless to say, it is an expensive exercise to eradicate feral olives and revegetate. You actually have to see it to fully appreciate it.



Feral olive lined Branson Road, August 2017



Feral free Branson Road, May 2023

I have to say my Irish genetics did actually enjoy the hedge row lined road for two years but hey, cultural adaptation is what it is all about (along with biodiversity health). *Sláinte* (good health or 'cheers' in Irish)

Water - Regional Management Matters

McLaren Vale Groundwater Management (McLaren Vale Water Allocation Plan)

Although my role as a member of the McLaren Vale Water Allocation Plan Advisory Committee (WAPAC) has concluded we get updates on the necessary follow up work, in particular the management of salinity hot spots. Other data floats our way and this I thought worth sharing, from the World Bank *'What the Future Has in Store: A New Paradigm for Water Storage'*. Key message *'As climate extremes escalate, water storage is becoming an increasingly vital tool for adapting to climate change, as well as other water-related challenges.'* Yep, I know that's obvious but perhaps what isn't is that *'Over the last 50 years, natural freshwater storage declined by around, 27,000 billion m3.'* A gigalitre is a billion litres, Sydney Harbour is 500 gigalitres so how many Sydney Harbors? Any mathematicians out there, my head hurts. For full report see:

<https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/water/publication/what-the-future-has-in-store-a-new-paradigm-for-water-storage>

Western Mount Lofty Ranges Water Allocation Plan

Whilst local groundwater is managed under the McLaren Vale Water Allocation Plan, surface water is managed through the Western Mount Lofty Ranges Water Allocation Plan. This covers a far greater region stretching from Gawler in the north to the bottom of the Fleurieu Peninsula and covers eight catchments, the Willunga Basin being one. Working under two plans is an anomaly as integrated management, surface and groundwater, is necessary. This was a matter considered by WAPAC and whilst I, and others, would have preferred that surface water management be transferred into the McLaren Vale Plan, the Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Board has decided to do the opposite (for valid reasons from their perspective). A review of the Western Mount Lofty Ranges Water Allocation Plan is now underway and after completion, the two plans will be merged. There are bureaucratic assurances that the local input into water management that has been integral to the Plans, and their success, will continue. And I sincerely hope so, as good water management is critical particularly for Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems, which are being more fully considered in regional water management.

McLaren Vale Regional Water Security Strategy - 50 Years Ahead

A fifty-year outlook is also being developed by a cross section of interests; ecological, cultural and economic with a review facilitated by the Department for Environment and Water. This review is being conducted in response to a changing climate and increasing demands for water. I sat on the steering group for about a year and although I have stepped aside because of time pressures, continue to have an interest and input. If of interest to you, see: <https://www.environment.sa.gov.au/topics/water/water-security/mclaren-vale-water-security-strategy>

History Snippet

Sticking with Water

Yep, critical to all life (and land speculation) and wars have been fought over it and will be in the future. The history of the land containing the Maslin Creek Reed Swamp is telling. Led by surveyor John McLaren this region was surveyed and subdivided in 1839 into 80-acre Sections. The swamp sits within eight of them with all Sections selected quickly by May 1840. The selectors' names are included on the 1840 McLaren map of subdivision:

- Section 190, Eleanor Morrison, Land Order 784
- Section 191, Michael Martin, purchased in Adelaide, Nov. 1839
- Section 192, Ellen Clayton, Land Order 903
- Section 193, Union Sheep and Cattle Company, Land Order 967, Nov. 1839
- Section 194, William Edleston, Land Order 796
- Section 195, Joshua Proctor Westhead, Land Order 801
- Section 203, James Hodgson, Land Order 793
- Section 204, Mary Ibbotson, Land Order 794

Land Orders were the pre-purchase of land which enabled the capital to be raised to commence colonisation.



Maslin Creek swamp. Extract from McLaren (1840): Country south ...

All except Michael Martin were absentee landowners, or land speculators, at least three being from Halifax, Yorkshire. And that out of the eight purchasers, three were women which is quite unusual for the times; putting assets in the wife's name may not be so new? But maybe old hat now.

Edleston from Halifax bought Section 194 on which L50K is located for £80 and sold it to Harry Hughlings, also from Halifax in 1844 for £100. Not much of a profit for Edleston but Hughlings, a sharebroker, sold it in 1855 to John Sutcliffe of Yorkshire for £600, taking a profit of £500, or 500%, for the 11 years he held the land. Hughlings held several country Land Orders and Adelaide Town Acres and selected land in District C (now the Hundred of Willunga) and elsewhere. He also owned several parcels of land in New Zealand.

A squiggle of a line on a map indicating water increased value and speculative potential of the land. Possibly the Halifax cohort had a land agent on ground acting for them, quick to select the best land, as did the SA Company.

It is curious to note on the McLaren map how many sections with squiggles on the squares were selected first up.

Late News and Good News

Polly couldn't be left alone, horses are herd animals, it would be unkind. Either Polly went after being here for 10 years or a companion arrived. Meet Molly, a new paddock name for Royal Tart from Victoria. She's 12 and originally hails from Kitchwin Hills in the Hunter Valley. Didn't do the best on the racetrack, she seems too laid back to me. *What, you want me to run? And fast? And around in a circle? Really?* So she was retired to stud. Her pedigree has a strong Irish bloodline, her sire is Duke of Marmalade (IRE) and dam Queen of Hearts (AUS) with her dam's sire being the noted Irish stallion Galileo. Hence Molly (Malone). Polly also has Irish connections.



Polly meets Molly

And Molly has been fascinated by her own reflection in the window at the Shelter Shed. And I've been fascinated to watch two horses get to know each other and establish the herd order. Molly, who is quiet and good natured, is the first horse Polly has interacted with other than Mum for about 10 years. Thanks to Nell for arranging the companion so quickly, he is the owner of the horses. I'm just the paddock parent.

And a note for newer readers. Horses weren't part of the L50K plan but soon became so. I'm not a race goer or follower; or a fan of the Sport of Kings or oil rich Arab Princes and Sheiks for that matter. I just like horses and used to ride and look after them as a boy growing up in Warradale, they were in the paddock across the road, peri-urban back then with almonds and vines and milking cows. The horses have had a positive social contribution at L50K and no real negative ecological impacts. And their grazing is a positive. And they have to live somewhere.



What can I say? Molly mirrored?

And I guess cos of Molly's arrival I watched a bit of the Royal Ascot Races, top hats and tails, silk and silly hats not my scene whatsoever. But our new King won his first race at the Royal Event at Royal Ascot in the King George V Stakes and received the trophy from the Duke of Kent. Overcome with emotion, the win brought him and the new Queen to tears (good to see, I like our monarch to have emotions). And the irony is that the horse is Desert Hero, an 18-1 outsider. Should have been running in the Oodnadatta Cup.

And even Later News and Gooder News – Water Again

Winter solstice brought a day of rain on top of good rain over the previous week or so, bringing catchment saturation and surface water runoff. On Friday 23rd June the water level in the swamp was the highest I've seen in my 8 years and according to neighbour Trevor, hasn't been that high for 11 years (2012). June average is 78 mm and we're heading for c140mm!! The culverts under Pethick Road, installed a couple of years ago courtesy City of Onkaparinga, were running full, all four of them. Bewdy.



Upstream from Pethick Road swamp crossing - maybe this will be reeds again one day rather than reds



Wish I hadda gotta ridda the corflute



Swamp Deck boardwalk finally actually needed

Cheers *Gavin*

Contact and Information

Gavin Malone: gavindmalone@gmail.com

Website: lot50kanyanyapilla.com

Project Partners and Supporters

Timelapse Adelaide

