



WORKING BEE REPORT, APRIL 2022

FRIDAY April 1

We had a slightly different start to the working bee this time... shed work! This doesn't mean no site inspection, far from it, but Carolyn and Liz spent part of the afternoon doing that lovely childish activity of making mud pies! No, they were not going to be our morning tea offerings for Saturday, but rather they were to become clay bricks that could go into the bee hotel for native bees to drill into.



Our bee hotel had a great beginning (Dec 2021), with Camellia and Ginkgo stuffing it with wood and bundles of twigs.

Unfortunately the wood was removed, a few pieces at a time ... obviously someone thought it was a firewood supply and just helped themselves.

This problem has since been rectified. Michael cut up and drilled some more wood for us, then after stuffing all the cavities with wood, clay bricks and twigs, he affixed a piece of weldmesh over the top so the wood couldn't be removed. Hopefully this will keep the wood safe and the insects happy!





Talking of happy insects, take a look at the photo below, of a native wood white butterfly and empty pupae cases on Carolyn's quandong tree.

As part of the afternoon site inspection, Carolyn and Liz drove to Lands End to see if the *Eucalyptus oleosa* fruit buds was ripe, Not yet!. Next stop was "the drain", an area near the corner of Flinders Drive and Fleurieu Ave. Over the years, we have managed to get rid of many old olives there, plus kikuyu, phalaris, etc. Scabiosa is still a problem, as you can see in the photo below. Removing all the scabiosa there was beyond the scope of our working bee this time, so that job was put on hold. But thanks to funding from Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Board, a contractor would be coming the following week to slash and remove the scabiosa and poison *Acacia saligna* and other woody weeds. See the end of the report for some "after" photos.



SATURDAY April 2

There was a good turn up on site on Saturday morning, with Sally and Trevor, Suz, Vince and their girls, Tom, Philippe adding to the usual core (Liz, Carolyn, Pedro & Chrissie). Scabiosa was the focus weed of the day, with seed heads being bagged and removed from the site. Tom, Liz and Carolyn watered a lot of last year's plantings, because it was such a dry summer and autumn. Liz also hit the brush cutter to tackle a particularly bad patch of scabiosa.

It was really pleasing to see how well the area planted by Rapid Bay school children last May were thriving, despite the dry weather.

CAPE JERVIS

coastal community group





With covid restrictions easing, all the volunteers were able to share a well deserved morning tea break. Cake and other goodies sure help with the energy levels for the rest of the day! And it is just nice being able to catch up with others on such a casual footing, in such a pleasant location. You can see from the photos that the weather gods had been kind to us again, so it was a very enjoyable and productive morning.



The afternoon saw the same activities, watering and weed removal, but on the Sorata St section.



By the end of the day, there was a huge pile of wool bales stuffed with weeds at Philippe's place. He is extremely good at getting rid of all our green waste, through local green bins.



The majority of us wear snake gators on site, particularly over summer. We often joke about the fact our lower legs are well protected from snakes, but then we go and put our hands and arms into the grass or the tree guards, often with just gloves on. Here is a photo of what we can sometimes expect then...A reminder to always wear glove. We also found a white tail spider on the wheelbarrow!



SUNDAY April 3

Daylight savings ended overnight, but at least 4 vollies didn't sleep through the extra hour. So they all started at the site an hour earlier than the advertised starting time. Sunday is always a quiet day, in the sense that not many other volunteers attend. Since the majority live in Adelaide, it is a long way for them to come just for a morning, so we totally understand. So it tends to be just 5 or 6 of us. Consequently, with an early start, we were all happy to have an early finish, so volunteers could drive back to Adelaide slightly earlier.



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Liz was enjoying tackling the weeds in the Shady Grove, helping to showcase the understorey plants near the fallen logs, bee hotel and the tallest of our she-oaks planted so far. Chrissy was tackling the abundant scabiosa adjacent one of the remnant patches, and Philippe is in the background also removing scabiosa. Carolyn was on the brush cutter on the east side of the dividing road. You guessed it – cutting and bagging up scabiosa!



A few photos to highlight some of the biodiversity that we found on site. An unusual type of earthball (?) fungus, a native tobacco in flower (*Nicotiana maritima*) and a well camouflaged insect.





BEHIND THE SCENES STUFF.....

As well as the working bee, several other activities have been undertaken by the group recently.

1. Watering at "the boat". At the entrance to Cape Jervis is a row boat, beautifully tiled in mosaic by members of the local community, led by Joan Russo. Carolyn has helped with the plantings around the boat and regularly waters the plants there. How lovely is this gateway to the township!



2. Slashing of the drain. Remember those photos at the beginning of the report with the weeds at the drain (corner Fleurieu Ave and Flinders Drive)? Look at it after a slashing, carried out by Sebastian Reetz and one of his team from The Green Man (based in Normanville) and paid for out of our Grassroots grant funds. Whoo hoo! How much better does this area look!





3. Coastal bus tour, organised for April 14 by Dana Miles, (Community and Engagement Coordinator, Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Board) for landcare volunteers on the Fleurieu to see other sites in the area, and share experiences. The three sites visited were Wirrina, Normanville's Banksia Park, and our site at Cape Jervis. This was a great day, and Carolyn did a good job explaining our work, our triumphs and troubles at CJ. It was great to visit the other two sites, since all 3 are very different, with different challenges.



4. First aid course. Three of our volunteers (Carolyn, Liz and Jeff) updated their senior first aid qualifications in April. Again, Dana Miles was responsible for organising this through St Johns Ambulance for volunteers. We sincerely hope it is something we never need, but it is always good to refresh our skills. Thanks to Dana, for the opportunity.

5. Habitat logs

Thanks to Unley council and Liz's keen eye for fallen timber. After chatting to the guys chopping up a different lot of fallen timber, two hollow logs (one shown below) were hand delivered to her house for our group to use. Now cut in half, these logs will make great shelter for lizards and add interest around our plantings.



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More wood white butterfly (*Delias aganippe*) photos. A mature pupa (chrysalis), various stages of the transition from caterpillar to pupa, and two butterflies still drying off their wings. For more info go to <https://sabutterflies.org.au/pier/aganippe.html>.

