



WORKING BEE REPORT August 4-6, 2022

THURSDAY, August 4

A day early starting, this month. Unusual working bee for several reasons: the Rapid Bay Primary School children were coming to plant on the Friday, and our 10 year anniversary lunch was being held on the Saturday. Site inspection (in ominous weather) and advance preparation for Friday was carried out on Thursday ... tools prepared, water crystals soaked, tree guards cut and assembled, plants watered and sorted. Corey had provided us via the Yankalilla Community Nursery with more tubestock, since the majority of our own seedlings had gone in the ground in June.



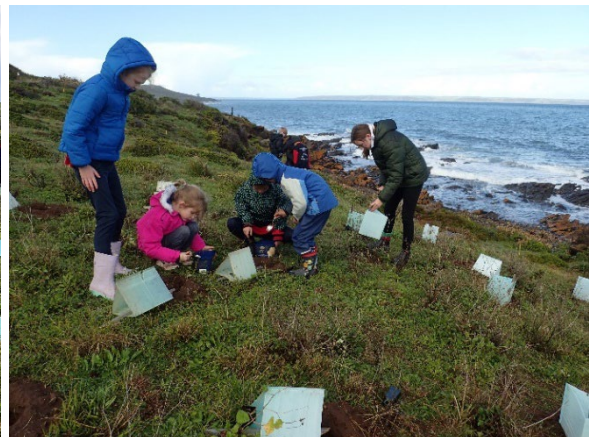
The plan was to extend plantings along the Heyden Trail to the south, closing the gap to some remnant vegetation (to the east), and then opposite on the coast (west) side of the path. We had never envisaged planting out this area, because of the labour involved. However, with the help of the students, this became feasible. Corey Jackson (Yankalilla Council/Green Adelaide) had also organized for holes to be augured (thanks to grant funded contractors). This was a real asset because despite the rain the children would have found it hard to dig in the spot where we were planting.



FRIDAY, August 5

Last year, we had a beautiful day with blue skies and low winds. This year, we had 21 mm of rain overnight, and the promise of a rainy day. But the kids charmed the weather gods again, and the blue skies came and stuck around till the school bus left at lunch time.

It was still soggy underfoot when the students arrived and had a quick look around the log seat and gum nuts before the debrief at the picnic table.



The students had 400 plants in after 2 hours, just in time for morning tea in the sun



Next activity for the morning was a walk south for some easy weeding. Weed of the day – Lupin. Sadly this weed is spreading along the Heysen Trail and is well established in some of the good remnant patches. One of the students celebrated helping by making a bouquet of lupin plants with their soft, fan-shaped leaves. Soon discarded because there were no flowers or seeds so they could just be dropped and left to compost.



There was still time to take a walk to Lands End, for a short play on the beach. On the way, a large pod of dolphins put on a show in the waves, to everyone's delight.





And then it was back past the newly planted seedlings to catch the bus back to school for lunch.



What a full morning the kids had put in! Thank you to all the students, their teachers and the parents who came along on the day. To have such an enthusiastic, hard-working and thoughtful group of children on site is a delight. We are looking forward to seeing you again next year!!

Here's a photo showing the area planted out by the students last year. Quite a few plants are ready to be unguarded. How good will this look next year? Great effort!



Twice that day, we checked out the “drain”, near the corner of Flinders Drive and Fleurieu Ave. In the morning, after all that rain overnight, the drain was very full. Liz and Carolyn had stopped and were soon joined by Corey. Now we know why we have struggled to plant up this area.



It was amazing how far into the site the water spread, getting wider as it went. The good news is that for the most part, this years' plantings were mostly on the higher ground. Our Grassroots grant-funded slashing and poisoning earlier in the year had really paid off. We could now see the lie of the land and the area was relatively read weeding.



It was amazing how quickly all that water dispersed... by afternoon it had basically all gone.

SATURDAY, August 6

Morning plan: weed, plant. Afternoon plan: party.

And that's what we did.

Well most of us. Chrissy and Pedro were back at the house preparing the lunch. The table had been set the night before. Thanks to the Fleurieu Environment Centre for the crockery and cutlery - enough for the 18 or so registrants.

Planting: Liz and Carolyn – colour coordinated with orange vests and purple rain coats.



Joined by long-time, and distant volunteers, Julie T. (currently living in Melbourne) and Elly based in Pt Lincoln. They both made a special trip to join in the celebrations. It was great that you both could make it.



It was nice to see some of our supporters from over the years on site for the day. Sue and David Speck, from Second Valley who have participated in many of the workshops run by CJCCG. It was great to have more time to chat while we planted. Jane from Wirrina, brought partner Steve along to help too so it didn't take long to get all the plants in.

Party-time:





What a feast we had. Thanks to Liz and Chrissy for planning, cooking and delivery. They made it look effortless. Seems we were all too busy eating to take any photos of the lovely desserts that Liz prepared.

A late afternoon walk around the site gave everyone a chance to see the huge changes that have occurred in just 10 years. Corey was on hand to provide some of the earlier history. Remnant patches of vegetation are now joining up, native grasses are starting to outcompete the weeds (though the latter are still a problem in some parts!). There is more habitat for birds and other creatures, and some of the rare and endangered plants are a tad more plentiful. Carolyn still has heaps more plans for the area, so it will be interesting to see it all again after the next 10 years!



A few small pretties were found in the best remnant patch. Pink fairy orchids, just starting to put up their flower heads. And twining fringe lily, a plant we included in our plantings this year for the first time.



SUNDAY, August 7

Normal working bee activities for a Sunday were cancelled this month. We figured we all deserved the day off, after the extra Friday activities.

Happy 10th birthday, CJCCG!!!