



The Community Nurseries Project is an initiative of the Milang and District Community Association Inc. and is part of the South Australian Government's *Murray Futures* program, funded by the Australian Government's *Water for the Future* initiative.

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Lakes Hub contacts

Milang Office
phone 08 8537 0808
Email info@lakeshub.com

Meningie Office
phone 08 8575 1830
Email
meningie@lakeshub.com

Web www.lakeshub.com

Jillian Taylor

Lakes Hub Community
Nursery Network Coordinator
Phone 8537 0808
Mobile 0488 465 043

Propagation of 2014 species well underway!

Welcome to the seventeenth edition of the Community Nurseries Network Newsletter produced by the Lakes Hub. In this edition we would like to provide an update on our forth season growing for the Coorong Lower Lakes & Murray Mouth Recovery Project.



At the recent 2013 Community Achievement Awards, the CNN were semi finalists in the Five Star Print Environment and Sustainability Award category.

LEFT: Lynton Keen, Jill Dennis and Jo McPhee are pictured here receiving the award at the presentation ceremony at the Stamford Grand, Glenelg.

Germination is well underway in the Community Nurseries.

The Community Nurseries Network have been busy sowing seed, collecting cuttings and transplanting seedlings. With a species diversity of approximately 180 different plants we are continually learning new methods of propagation and upgrading our nurseries to enhance germination and success rates. This year poly-tunnels and heat beds were installed at two nurseries. Volunteers have been very welcome in their assistance of the nursery managers and propagation is well underway.

What's happening in the nurseries!

All six community nurseries, busy transplanting in 2013, have newly emerging seedlings and are working hard to achieve their numbers for plants grown for the Coorong and Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth Recovery Program.

The **Clayton Bay** and **Milang** nurseries have installed hothouses and heat beds to improve their success rate with germination and striking of cuttings. The heat bed is proving to be a success with healthy root systems appearing in only 8 days for *Goodenia varia* recently.



The misting system runs for 90 seconds every 5 minutes and is turned off at night.

Greg Dalton from Creation Care visited the Milang Nursery this year to give them advice on how to improve their hot house (poly-tunnel) and fine tuning their leaf sensor irrigation system which automatically turns the misting system on to keep the humidity at a constant level.



*At Melaleuca Nursery recently - Picture showing the root system of a *Goodenia varia* cutting*

Is your hot house too hot?

Greg made a number of excellent suggestions including: -

- Cut a section out above door, making a swing out window frame covered with polytunnel fabric. Cover the hole left in the polytunnel with bird wire to prevent entry of birds. *Use this option to let hot air escape during the warmer months or close it tight during colder weather*
- Lower the two shower curtains at least 2 feet and re-hang to allow air circulation throughout the polytunnel.
- Lower the max/min thermometer to help keep track of accrual temperatures at table height table height as always a lot hotter up near the roof.
- Soil thermometers are good to have until you get a feel for how movement of the room temperature effects the soil temperature.
- Consider adapting cutting/propagation mix from a perlite : peat moss(50:50) mix to a soil: perlite ...or a soil: sand mix depending on cutting requirements.
- Compact the cutting propagation mix a little more to ensure minimal air pockets around cuttings which might improve moisture and contact with developing roots.
- To adjust humidity mister : To come on more often(more humidity) - wind the screw OUT. To come on less often (reduce humidity) - wind the screw IN.
- If more airflow is still needed; fit a door to both ends of poly tunnel to allow flow thru of breezes.
- Can also consider a replacement door which is constructed of half poly-fabric: half shade cloth or half poly-fabric: half bird wire and swap doors over when required. For ease of door swapping, convert door hinges to the type of hinges where the door can just be lifted up and off when needed.



Jill Dennis (Manager of Milang Nursery) discussing Polytunnel and Hotbed issues with Greg Dalton of Creation Care

VOLUNTEERS - from Certificate II in Horticulture In late September, 15 students from the TAFE Certificate II in Horticulture course being conducted at the Mt Lofty Botanic Gardens, travelled to Milang and Clayton Bay Nurseries for the morning. At Clayton Bay nursery they were able to see a transplanting demonstration by nursery manager, Carole Richardson and to have a tour of a propagation nursery in full propagation mode. Next they travelled to Milang where they had volunteered to help out at the Milang Nursery



Carole Richardson demonstrating best practice at Clayton Bay Nursery

under the guidance of nursery manager, Jill Dennis. The trip was part of the students' end of study activities as they considered it a great way to spend a morning doing the things they love—propagating plants! Jill Dennis was thrilled to host everyone and to have her transplant tally increase by over 2,300 plants by lunchtime. Many thanks to John Sandham and his students for their wonderful efforts. Please visit any time!

Over 2,300 transplants were carried out in just over 2 hours!

Jill Dennis with volunteers Toni Hendry and Lynn Robinson



TAFE volunteer, Jennifer Washington helping out at Milang Nursery



- from Seymour College

When Vivienne Esser returned home from Los Gatos in the United States of America to her birthplace in South Australia she approached her Highland Valley grandmother, Beryl Belford, for help finding local work experience. Work experience, a requirement of her year 10 studies at Seymour College, was a little difficult to find at short notice so Beryl asked if the Community Nursery Network could host Vivienne for a few days. Jill Taylor welcomed Vivienne's computing and accounting skills and it was a pleasure to have her help in the office and in the field. Vivienne, however, was not too impressed by the unexpected appearance of a tiger snake while working along the Milang foreshore on her second day.



Vivienne outside the Lakes Hub at Milang

Transplanting Days at Clayton Bay Nursery

The seedling transplanting days on the 18th and 19th November were a great success. CBNEG members as well as other volunteers from Clayton and Milang joined in to make the day a success. All in 19 community volunteers put in over 100 of hours and transplanted 3000 plants, with delicious morning and afternoon teas, fine conversation and much laughter had by all. *Many thanks* to those who participated – these two days of activity were a giant step in fulfilling our contact to GWLAP for 24,905 plants, and much appreciated. Another two transplanting days are planned for late January or early February to transplant Knobby Club Rush (1720) and Spear grasses (3200) that are being sown now. I will advise of the dates after germination of these seeds.



The nursery is open for business every Monday and Tuesday. Everyone is welcome for a cuppa, a look around or for some volunteer input and company.

Carole Richardson
Nursery Manager
0459 707 876

claytonbayneg@gmail.com

Workshops and Forums

Ann Prescott—Plant ID

On Monday 23rd September the Community Nursery Network were pleased to secure Ann Prescott, botanist and author of *“It’s Blue with Five Petals”* for a plant identification workshop.

The new ACE SPACE at the Milang Old School House Community Centre (MOSHCC) was a perfect venue with access to a digital microscope and a smart board assisting greatly in the experience.

Places had filled fast for this workshop and it was obvious why once the workshop got under way with the arrival of Ann and several tubs of various Acacia species under her arm!

This hands on workshop was made quite interesting due to Ann wonderful friendly and approachable style. Ann did a fantastic job fielding animated requests for detail and responded to all queries in a clear and thoughtful manner.

Everyone agreed it had been a very worthwhile training exercise and all attendees felt much more confident about their ability to clearly identify plants in the field when collecting seed and cuttings in future.



Ann Prescott explaining how to use her key in “It’s Blue with Five Petals”

Introduction to Basic Soil Properties and Soil Survey

Tony Randall from GWLAP hosted this workshop on a property at Goolwa recently with 10 members of the Community Nursery Network and the GWLAP .

The day course started with theory behind a typical soil profile, soil texture and fertility factors. The theory was followed by a hands on experience in the field.

Lucky for us the soil was sandy and a delight to sample for analysis.

Attendees also received a very useful CD of the SA Soils Classification : Central and Murraylands Region which is a useful tool when planning revegetation projects in the future.

Tony explained to the group the various attributes of each soil type and how this over-arching knowledge is also useful when combined with the selecting seed of provenance for revegetation projects.



List of Suppliers Update Summer 2013

Arboregreen Landscape products : 18 Follett Close, PO Box 1111, Mt Barker , 5251. **Phone:** 1300 760 642:
Forestry tubes , 720 tubes per carton (cat. # PLT50SN) - approx. \$100/carton
Forestry trays (cat. # PLNTT) hold 50 tubes - approx \$4/tray
Plant Labels 140mm 1000/box (cat. # PLB3) - approx. \$80/box
FREE DELIVERY (always confirm cost of delivery at time of order)

Smoults: PO Box 1598, Kersbrook SA 5231 **Phone:** 83893295 or 0408 844802:
Clonex Purple 1L for semi hardwood cuttings (Cat. # 0353)- approx. \$60/litre
Plant labels, 140mm, 1000 per box (Cat number 0570) - approx. \$155/box
Perlite Medium x 100L (cat. # 0068) - approx. \$27/bag
Propagation gravel x 25kg medium, 2-3mm (cat. # 0078) - approx. \$16/bag
FREE DELIVERY to LAKES HUB MILANG (always confirm cost of delivery at time of order)

Goolwa Garden Supplies: 55 Gardiner Street, Goolwa. 5214. Phone : 85 553 408;
Gravel, 2-3mm 30kg - \$13/bag

Goolwa Transport : 47 Gardiner St., Goolwa. SA 5214 **Phone: 8555 2187:** *for delivery of Biogrow soil and large items - \$375 per soil pallet (less for bulk orders)*

Pests and Problems

Acacia Species struggling?

While visiting the a number of Nurseries recently, it was noted that some Acacia species appear to be suffering with die off. This issue can be due to one or more of a number of causes :

- Too much full sun => to remedy => move to or provide temporary shade.
- Nutrient deficiencies => to remedy => consider dilute nutrient solution suitable for native species.
- Irregular watering => to remedy => monitor automatic sprinklers in the area



Acacia's suffering

Myrtle Rust Update: [Myrtle Rust Research](#)

Reports on the Federal Government's \$1.5 million investment in myrtle rust research projects were issued during August 2013.

Some of the outcomes so far are:

- Australia has a single clone of myrtle rust, which is only mildly pathogenic.
- Conditions for infection are a combination of four factors:
 1. night-time hours (rusts only infect in the dark);
 2. leaf wetness;
 3. temperature (15-25 °C is optimal)
 4. age of plant tissue (young tissue is most susceptible)

Uredinio spores, the egg-yolk yellow asexual spores, are thought to survive for one to three weeks in the field. Traces of resistance to myrtle rust have been identified in the Australian myrtaceous flora. Research is continuing to identify resistance genes and breed these into valuable native plants.

Hopefully South Australian winter is too cold in most parts and summers may be too hot and consequently too dry at night.

International research seminar

In August, DEPI hosted a seminar on international myrtle rust research by a world authority, Professor Acelino Couto Alfenas of the Federal University of Viçosa, Brazil.

The Brazilians have bred myrtle rust resistance into the eucalypt species they use for timber plantations and the resistance has been maintained for 19 years!

Lemon Myrtle Rust

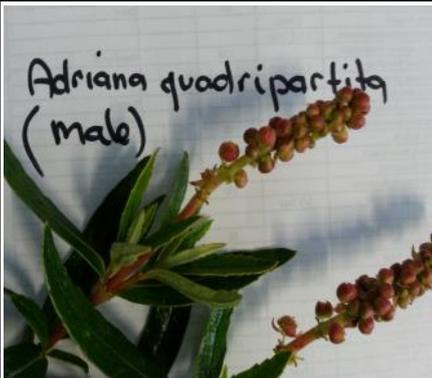


Olearia picridifolia

Rasp Daisy Bush

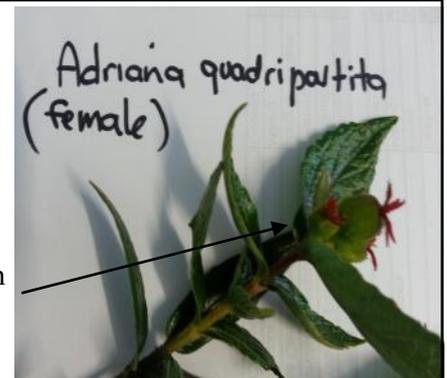
With a conservation status of “rare” in South Australia and “vulnerable” in Victoria, this little native daisy-bush is doing very well at the Milang Community Nursery.

ERROR: This plant featured in the September 2013 issue but the associated picture was not *Olearia picridifolia* - oops!



Adriana quadripartita Coast Bitter- Bush

A large semi—woody shrub which grows head high with leaves in pairs, coarsely toothed, glossy dark green colour above and white under the leaf. Flowers have a red tinge with female flowers occurring in simple groups of three and flowering in Spring.

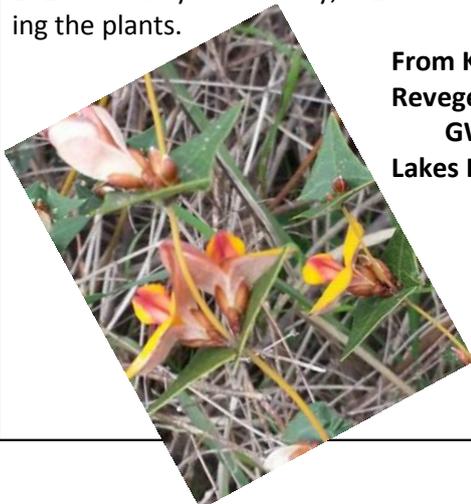


From the Field

I was out collecting some *Platylobium obtusangulum* seed this morning and took a couple of snaps. Thought you might like it for the newsletter?

Platylobium obtusangulum or common flat-pea is a shrub that is endemic to Australia . It is a member of the family Fabaceae and of the genus *Platylobium*. The species is an erect or straggling shrub that can grow up to 1 metre in height and is an important understory plant used as a source of nectar and pollen to insects and birds and it’s sharp pointy leaves offer protection for many critters. The seed is difficult to collect as there is only a small window of opportunity when the seed is ripe and available as the seed pod ‘pops’ open and the seed is thrown from the bush. The GWLAP Community Revegetation Project will be planting 250 *Platylobium obtusangulum* plants at three sites in 2014 with Clayton Nursery, MEC and Melaleuca Nursery growing the plants.

**From Kerri Bartley
Revegetation Project Officer
GWLAP
Lakes Hub Milang**



Propagation Hints: Place seeds in a small hessian bag or similar and dunk in near boiling water for 30 secs, then transfer into cold water. Leave in cold water for a few hours. Remove excess water and dry. To sow , place just below the soil, keep moist, place in open sunny position. Sow from late winter into spring.