



NATURAL STATE



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Welcome to the 8th edition of the Natural State Newsletter ' Autumn / Winter 2008 '

This is our newsletter aimed at anyone interested in revegetation and nature in general.

Natural State is a private revegetation business started in 2002. We offer a range of services in the SA Murray Darling Basin, Adelaide Hills/Plains, Fleurieu Peninsula and the South East of SA. We don't just talk about it, we actually make things happen on ground!

This newsletter is intended for screen viewing, with links for email and web addresses, helping to reduce paper use.



Above: 50 hectares of machine planting 1 year after

River Murray Forest tree planting projects

The picture opposite was taken a year after planting at Langhorne Creek. The site is a dry veldt grass paddock on deep sand with a rocky outcrop in the gully.

We planted 50 hectares back in June 2007 with the plants receiving no watering apart from below average rainfall.

Over the next few years the River Murray Forest program operating through PIRSA will be seeking landowners who are willing to plant areas of 10 hectares or more.

The River Murray Forest program will pay 2/3's of the cost of your project, so there is a real opportunity here to have your property planted up and be heavily subsidised.

If you are interested in more information or know of anyone who may be interested please let Matt know by calling 0439 727 057 or email matt@naturalstate.com.au.

Matt & Karina Go SOLAR

In July we had solar panels installed on our home in Murray Bridge. We chose the 1KW (1000 Watt) grid connect system through Origin Energy our current energy supplier.

We are now waiting for ETSA to install the electronic meter which keeps track of electricity used and produced as well as calculating the feed in tariff of 44cents per Kilowatt.

With the \$8000 government rebate, solar power systems are actually very affordable nowadays.

It is a great feeling knowing that we are helping our renewable energy industry grow.

Bring on carbon trading we say !



Above: The old 'palace' with the stand alone solar system back in 2004



Above: Jake digging up Western Cape Bridal Creeper tubers

Jakes Traineeship finishes up

Jake finished his traineeship with Natural State during mid September. He had been with us since doing work experience in November 2006.

It was great to be able to teach Jake many new skills. One of the highlights for all the staff was teaching him that the real world is very different to high school life.

He was assessed and deemed competent in 15 subjects attaining a Certificate 3 in Horticulture.

When the traineeship finished Jake applied for and was successful in becoming a Greencorp participant. This program ensures 6 months of work and training in Conservation & Land Management.

We wish Jake all the best in the future....cheers mate.

Poltalloch Station tree planting

During June we were involved in planting 800 trees along the Narrung road near Poltalloch Station. The hand planting was all done in 1 day, the day just happened to be the coldest day of the year 8C !!!

This project was partly paid for by the Coorong District Council after a native vegetation clearance application was approved by the Native Vegetation Council SA.

Poltalloch Station owner Chris Gowan also contracted us to machine plant 1 hectare with 500 local native mallee trees for a planting trial.

The species used were : Eucalyptus diversifolia, E.incrassata, E.leucoxydon & E.porosa

Natural State donated another hectare of direct seeding.



Above: The view looking west towards Narrung

Working with Myall Productions

This Winter we have been lucky enough to work with Andrew Frayne and his crew.

Andrew runs Myall Productions which undertakes Bush-care services, based in Willunga.

Natural State has been working as a sub contractor with Myall Productions on projects near Tea Tree Gully, Myponga, Carrickalinga, Waitpinga and Deep Creek.

Projects have included gorse, broom, olive, western cape bridal creeper, bridal veil, boneseed, boxthorn and blackberry control.

Both businesses staff work well together producing high quality bushcare work.

Thanks for the opportunity to help out Andrew, from all of us at Natural State.



Above: Andrew Frayne in action with the chainsaw controlling Peppercorn trees at the 'Sugar Shack' property near Swan Reach



Above: The view of Adelaide's eastern suburbs and the CBD to the right

Anstey Hill Recreation Park

Nestled in the foothills between Inglewood and Tea Tree Gully is the Anstey Hill Recreation Park. This park is approximately 380 hectares of native bushland diverse in plant species.

Myall Productions has had the contract to control the Western Cape Bridal Creeper a weed of national significance (WoNS) for the past two years.

This infestation has already become perilously close to a major environmental disaster in the Adelaide Hills.

Since June we have worked with Andrews crew on this project a total of 22 days.

The control methods depended on each infestation, vegetation community and landform.

Methods involved both spot spraying smaller plants & digging each plant out, bagging them before being taken away in a skip bin to be incinerated.

Nyrstar Port Pirie revegetation

During late May and early winter we had two trips up to Port Pirie for a revegetation project with Nyrstar Port Pirie lead smelter.

The tree planting sites involved over 1500 local native trees and shrubs put on drip irrigation.

The direct seeding sites involved over 40Kg of seed put out over 10Hectares of 'rehabilitated' land.

Hand seeding of barley and oats was also used on steeper batters for a quick and cheap ground cover option.

This site has strict Occupational Health and Safety regulations and procedures. All staff had inductions for different work zones and several blood tests to monitor lead levels before and after working onsite.



Above: Matt broadcasting barley seed on newly rehabilitated land

Adelaide River Health Conference

During July Karina and Matt were involved in the Adelaide River Health Conference which was held at a cold and windy Wyndgate, Hindmarsh Island.

Around 500 students came from all over the state to learn about some of the issues currently facing the River Murray.

We were contracted to do bat box making in 2005 when this event was held at the Swanport Wetland in Murray Bridge.

It was a great day and all the kids we had for our sessions were very productive and artistic with their boxes.

45 bird boxes were made by the participants which were then taken back to their schools or taken home.

The two sizes of box were made for owls, parrots and possums.



Above: Making bird boxes with the young participants



Above: The Natural State team - Kevin Baxter, Jake Coombe, Matt Rose and Nic Johnston.

Gifted & Talented Childrens Association

Over the past 3 school years Karina and Matt have been involved in presenting sessions for the Gifted and Talented Childrens Association of SA.

We have covered topics from native plants, weeds, native animals, water conservation, bird box making, tree propagation and SA freshwater fisheries.

The sessions are held on Saturday afternoons from 2pm to 4pm. The groups normally consist of 10 - 15 kids.

Some of the participants are extremely bright even at such a young age. Groups are within primary school age.

We have enjoyed passing on our knowledge with all of the groups over the years.

We wish the association all the best into the future.



Above: The information bay and entrance to The Wilderness Lodge Hacks Point, Coorong SA

SA Great award winners - Science & Sustainability

Just in case you missed the last newsletter here it is again.

On November 27th 2007 Natural State won the Science and Sustainability award for the Murraylands / Riverland region in SA.

It was in recognition of our hard work and dedication to the conservation of nature, being based in this region.

Over the past year we have been involved in some really important and exciting projects.

I would like to thank the Murraylands Regional Development Board for nominating us.

On the award night we were working up at Port Pirie for a few days and couldn't make it. We found out the next day when friends & the local paper rang to congratulate us!

It was very satisfying to win this award and it is a great honour which we are very proud to receive.



Above: Karina presents a session on native animals in Adelaide

SA Tourism Commission - Coorong tree planting

Last spring 2007 we planted 200 trees, shrubs and understorey plants at the entrance to Hacks Point Wilderness Lodge on the Coorong.

The project was funded by the South Australian Tourism Commission who helped the Wilderness Lodge with other works also.

All holes were dug with a Dingo earthmover with an auger attachment. The trees were planted with jute matting, fertiliser, guards, wetting agent, water crystals and mulch.

The species mix includes : *Acacia longifolia* var *sophorie*, *A.pycnantha*, *Allocasuarina verticillata*, *Bursaria spinosa*, *Dianella revoluta* ssp. *brevicaulis*, *Eucalyptus diversifolia*, *E.leucoxydon* ssp. *stephaniea*, *Isolepis nodosa*, *Leucophyta brownii*, *Myoporum insulare*, *Olearia axillaris* & *Xanthohraea semiplana*.