



# NATURAL STATE

Conservation : Education : Revegetation

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## Welcome to the second edition of the Natural State Newsletter 'Summer 05-06'

This is the second edition of our quarterly newsletter aimed at anyone interested in revegetation and nature.

Natural State is a private revegetation business started in 2002. We offer a range of revegetation services in the SA Murray Darling Basin, Adelaide Hills/Fleurieu and South East of SA. At present there are five of us employed, three full-time and two casual part-time staff. 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.

### Order your plants now and save money

We are now sowing next season's range of species, including not only local natives, but native plants from across Australia.

If you order now you will receive up to 40% discount on most tubestock.

If your property needs plants please take advantage of our pre-season discount prices. We also have a range of tree guards and fertilisers to help your project.

The Natural State nursery is open to the public on Thursdays and Fridays from 9am to 4.30pm (other times by appointment).

We are on Second Avenue next to the Taillem Bend football oval (see the map on page 6). We have a range of plants in forestry tubes available for \$2.00 each for seed-grown and \$3.00 each for cutting-grown. We also have a range of established native species in 125mm pots priced at \$6.50 each.

So call into the nursery on Thursdays or Fridays, and talk to us about your project.



### Tubestock order form now online

Our latest [order form for revegetation species](#) has been added to the website. You can download and complete a Microsoft Word document, and email it to us, or you can print it out to fax or post to Natural State (we have a [PDF version](#) too if you prefer this format). Simply fill in the quantity column for each species required as well as your details on page three of the form. You can send orders to us via email, fax or post and our nursery manager will be in contact ASAP.

You will find the pricing of our nursery plants very realistic compared to our competitors—\$1.35 each for seed grown and \$3 each for cutting grown, more details are on page three of the order form.



## Revegetation funding

Over the next few months the Local Action Planning groups will be seeking Expressions of Interest for revegetation projects. These groups offer incentive payments for tree planting, direct seeding and fencing remnant vegetation. Payments can be up to \$400 per hectare for revegetation, and \$1,500 for fencing.

We offer a planning service to help you make the most of the funding available.

Natural State has the expertise and equipment to maximise the success of your project.

For more information, contact Matt on 0439 727 057 or email [matt@naturalstate.com.au](mailto:matt@naturalstate.com.au).

## Late season means ongoing weed control

Due to the late season we have been experiencing, some sites have required extra maintenance to ensure better results. We have designed an adjustable guarded spray attachment for the ATV that can spray over existing seeding lines and amongst tubestock. This is useful when trying to protect the emerging seedlings from weed competition.

This service is charged out per hour, the amount of chemical used and a travel and loading fee. Call us for a quote.



## Direct Seeding projects need seed collected now

By the time you read this, out in the bush lots of seed is dropping on the ground. For most direct seeding projects, seed will need to be collected or sourced by seed collection contractors. We need to know the species, the provenance (location) and the approximate quantity required for each site, and preferably in October each year. Unfortunately, due to the current revegetation funding system available this is not possible.

We know what species are appropriate for any landowner wanting to undertake a revegetation project in SA. What we don't know is how much seed your project requires, until you contact us.

Please don't wait until just before winter to arrange seed, do it right now. We just want to ensure your project goes ahead with enough seed and the appropriate species.



## International River Health Conference—Mildura

On 17th and 18th of October Natural State was part of the International River Health Conference in Mildura, Victoria.

On the Monday 17th Matt and Daniel presented 6 separate bird box making sessions to primary school students from across Australia at Kings Billabong, near Mildura. The sessions were at two different locations about 2km apart with over 60 students for each session.

The next day was near Wentworth in NSW, presenting 3 bat box making sessions to high school students from across Australia. Each session was for 70 students at once.

Sessions ran for up to one hour each, so careful planning and preparation was required to make things run smoothly.

The introduction of kits which had the instructions and all the materials needed was the key to a successful adventure.

Over the two days we taught new skills to over 600 students.

We would like to thank our support staff of Mike Brown and Karina Chin and all those who gave us positive feedback. It was a humbling and inspiring experience for all involved.

## SA Great award nominations

In November we were lucky enough to be nominated for an SA Great award within the Riverland/Murrayland region in the Science and Environment category.

Matt was also nominated as a community individual. Unfortunately, it was not to be. With an outstanding group of nominees in both categories, it was an honor just to be recognised for the work we are doing.



## New native animals session for schools

Early in November we acquired a few pythons from the Jakaitis family near Tailem Bend to be included in the environmental education sessions we offer schools.

Later that month we added some hopping mice, budgies, bearded dragons and frogs. We are hoping to include a bat and maybe another marsupial over time.

These native animals are great for kids to experience and to test their senses. It also allows the other sessions we run to sink in more. After seeing these animals and learning that lack of habitat is the major threat to their survival, the kids can then choose to do something about it.



## Postcards interview at Swanport Wetland

On Sunday the 13th of November Matt & Kathryn Rothe (MWLAP) were lucky enough to be filmed by the Postcards crew at Swanport Wetlands in Murray Bridge. The site was part of a weekend's filming in the Murraylands promoting the region and the annual Waders Festival.

Next year we will be providing workshops in the Murraylands between the September - November wader migration season.

These workshops are nature based, providing local knowledge and include a local produce lunch. Prices and workshop details will be on the website closer to Winter 06.

Tune in to Postcards on Channel 9, this story may screen in early 2006.

## Staff Profile

Introducing Daniel Brown. He was previously a mechanic at a well known dealership in Murray Bridge for 10 years. With a willingness to learn about nature he had a calling for this field. Daniel started with Natural State in 2003. He is 30 years of age and currently lives in Murray Bridge.

Daniel has been an all-rounder over the past few years, undertaking all aspects of revegetation. He has a knack for fixing things and is also good at engineering.

Through sacrificing a real wage for his passion he has proven to be another valuable asset to the Natural State team.



## Did you know?...

The Sand Goanna - *Varanus gouldii* is active at this time of year. Before European settlement, it was once very common in the mallee. It is the most widespread and abundant goanna found over most of mainland Australia. It lives in deep sloping burrows, mostly in sandy areas (including rabbit burrows).

Goannas are related to the Komodo Dragon - *Varanus komodoensis*, which is the world's largest living lizard. They are egg layers, some lay eggs in burrows, others use termite nests to incubate their eggs. Females can lay up to 35 eggs at a time.

They eat reptiles, frogs, birds eggs, and carrion.

If approached, they may become scared, and the males can extrude their genitalia, as can be seen in this picture.

## Tree planting projects continue into new year

What a surprising few months it has been! Traditionally this time of year we are collecting seed and propagating seedlings! This spring and early summer has been busy with small planting sites of around a few hectares, mostly irrigated.

The site preparation has ranged from ripping, mounding, hole boring or rock breaking. Average plantings have been around 300-500 trees.

The biggest site used 4.5Km of irrigation pipe with just under 800 plants with automatic timer.

This is another option for landowners that are willing to spend a little bit more money up front.

With water and good maintenance we can guarantee a successful project.



## Christmas Parade at Tailem Bend

On Friday the 16th of December the boys put in a float in the Christmas pageant at Tailem Bend.

The float consisted of the tree planter featured in the last newsletter and an Australian santa.

Santa was represented by Ngarrindjeri man David Vanderbyl in an Akubra hat with beard and full costume, the planter was also filled with trees.

There were several hundred people present at the parade and most of them David managed to throw lollies to.

## The Big'un file

This edition's big'un is a River Red Gum - *Eucalyptus camaldulensis*.

This ancient specimen (seen here with Daniel) is hundreds of years old .... if only it could tell its story.

It is growing near Wentworth, NSW near the Murray - Darling rivers junction.

Red Gums occur along most creeks and rivers in SA. As well as areas of higher rainfall like the South East and Adelaide Hills.

There are a few sub species ( ssp. ) which have adapted to the varied conditions, for example the Flinders Ranges ssp. is quite different to the Murray River ssp. .



## Plant profile

Native Rosemary - *Dampiera rosmarinifolia*

This plant is a great little survivor along roadside vegetation and railway lines in the Mallee districts.

They grow to around 40cm high and have a suckering habit. Once established they are very easy to look after and are good for all those lazy gardeners out there.

Due to the low growth habit they make ideal habitat for small lizards.

Flowering occurs from Spring to early Summer; insects appreciate this show.

We often use this species in landscaping particularly around rockeries where they are free to spread.



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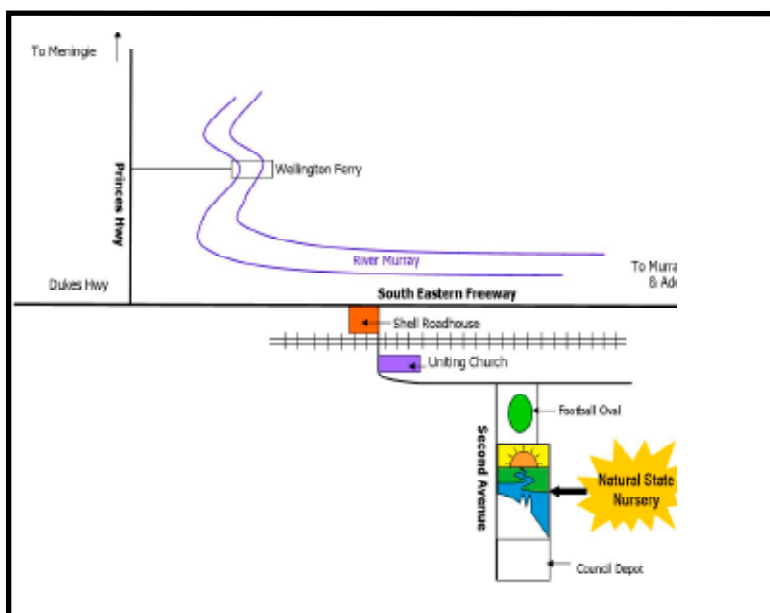
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We have had encouraging support from many people about the first edition of our newsletter. Thank you to everybody that commented or spent the time reading it. It means a lot to us to know we are on the right track. As mentioned in the previous ed. we try our best to have a positive impact with every project we work on and we take pride in our work.

Get out there and do your bit—together we can overcome many of the challenges that face the natural world today! Until the next issue—from the Natural State team... “Be active!”

## How to get to our nursery



## Contacts

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