



NATURAL STATE

Conservation : Education : Revegetation

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Welcome to the 4th edition of the Natural State Newsletter ' Winter-06 '

This is our quarterly 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 revegetation services in the SA Murray Darling Basin, Adelaide Hills/Fleurieu and South East of SA. At present there are 3 of us employed, two full-time and one 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.

SA Government Business in profile - Autumn 2006

Natural State was the SA Strategic Plan - Business in Profile for Autumn 2006. Here's part of the profile:

Founder and owner of Natural State, Matt Rose, epitomises a new breed of entrepreneur with a belief that community obligations, environmental responsibility and ongoing sustainability need to be built into the business plan from the beginning.

Matt first got involved in revegetation through volunteering with his local landcare group. Now as part of his revegetation business he says that his work with school children and volunteers is "to help change peoples attitudes and to teach people they can make a difference".

Asked about the future of business he replied "We need to somehow integrate commerce with environmental benefits - businesses need to work with sustainable practices if they are to survive. The next 20 years are critical for our planets future".

According to Matt, his business "pays the bills" which is important, but equally important is making a difference. "The main reason I am doing this is because it needs to be done".



Above: Jervois Primary School tree planting corridor at Woods Point

Below left: Hogwash Bend workshops near Waikerie - 75 people



Eco Roadshow workshops this school holidays

The 4 x 30 minute sessions start at 9.30am - 12pm with a 30 minute break for bushtucker refreshments. Held at Berri Water Front - Berri and Jaralde Park - Goolwa on the Friday 6th and Monday 9th October. Starting strictly at 9.30am - 12pm.

The sessions include: Native reptiles, Bird box making, Water Watch / Sustainable Recreation and Aboriginal culture.

To register - contact George Krzoska on 85824477.

Registration form available at

www.naturalstate.com.au/download/ecoroadshow.pdf, please post asap.

Over the Easter holiday break we successfully presented 3 workshops along the River Murray for school students



Staff Profile

Introducing Kate Mason, the newest member to the Natural State team. Kate started in May this year as Nursery Manager, working Thursdays and Fridays.

Kate has studied horticulture, worked in retail and wholesale nurseries before deciding to undertake her Diploma in Conservation & Land Management. She is also involved with the Mannum to Wellington Local Action Planning Committee in Murray Bridge.

Born and raised in Murray Bridge, Kate enjoys the outdoors through camping, hiking and kayaking, and is a strong supporter of local artists, all of which she shares with her partner, Daniel Brown.

Left: Kate taking cuttings at the nursery

Oil mallee planting trial - 20,000 trees

In late July this season, we had the opportunity to put the One Pass Planter to the test. Over three consecutive days we planted a total of 20,000 trees on three different sites in the mallee.

The sites were spread across Karoonda, Parrakie and Yumali. Each site had a block of 3 - 4 hectares planted out with over 6,700 trees per day. The plant spacings were around 2.5m apart with each row 2.5m apart also.

The planter worked extremely well and performed in a range of soils including clay loam, non wetting sand and sandy loam.

We are confident of planting 10,000 trees per day with good planning and no down time!

This project is being supported by Carbon Prospect - Doreen Marchesan - 08 8384 7755 and the Oil Mallee Company - www.oilmallee.com.au

Right: Tree planting rows at Yumali



Above: Watering planted seedlings

Drought conditions ahead !

As Mallee farmers will know, the early rains were promising, but what rain has fallen since May has been insufficient and has stressed many of us financially.

Direct seeding this winter will desperately need spring rains to help with germination. If the spring season continues to be dry as it feels like it will, **PLEASE** - try watering in seeding rows, use drippers in the seeding rows - **postpone projects to next year if possible.**

Tubestock sites this season will need watering more frequently than normal. Don't get complacent, make the most of your investment!!! We hate seeing newly planted trees die, especially ours. A complete waste of money and resources.

We can help with watering trees or hiring out equipment for projects.



Postcards interview at Swanport Wetland

On Sunday the 17th of September at 5.30pm, tune in to Postcards on Channel 9.

Swanport and Paiwalla wetlands will be showcased in the story with a quick talk about some of the local flora and fauna by Matt as well.

David and Matt will be available to do tours in the Murraylands between September - November to coincide with the annual wader migration.

These tours are nature based, include native animals, local knowledge, cultural talks and can also include all meals.

To make a booking check out the options available at <http://www.naturalstate.com.au/html/ecotours.htm>

Left: Matt talking to Ron Kandalaars of the Postcards team

Murray Bridge High School wetland days

In early June we were involved with work shops for the Murray Bridge High School. The Swanport Wetland was the venue, with an environmental education focus.

The 2 day workshops included over 150 students. The whole concept was for each presenter to involve 1 student who they could train on the first day and get them to teach the other students on the second day.

The students involved were very helpful and took on the role as best as they could.

This project was funded by the South Australian Murray Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board.

We would like to thank them for their support.

Right: The students on the way to one of the stations



Above: Rip line tree planting at Doglake Rd near - Langhorne Creek

Goolwa - Wellington LAP tree planting

During winter the Goolwa - Wellington LAP in partnership with Greenfleet and Scouts SA planted 23,000 trees at 1 site.

The site is right on the Lake Alexandrina shore and is approximately 20 Hectares.

On the Saturday and Sunday 3rd / 4th July rip lines were planted by groups of Scout members from all over South Australia.

We have undertaken weed control on the site, we also planted and watered 8,000 trees.

The soil is desperately dry at this site and we are all praying for rain. Water tankers are being used to water all of these bigger scale projects this year.



Above: Newly tubed seedlings

New machinery for this season

During late autumn this year we turned our hand at making our own machinery. We have started with a 3 point linkage V - Blade Direct Seeder which is towed along by a tractor.

The seeder was used early in the season and looks like it will be a great machine. This machine will be available for hire also for landowners that are interested.

For more information about hiring this or other machinery contact Matt on 0439 727 057 or matt@naturalstate.com.au.

Other machinery on the list to be built includes another lightweight tree planter, and a 3 P.L moulder.



Above: Initial testing of seeder near Taillem Bend



Above: Wattle seed before being processed

Discounts for plant orders before Christmas

We are about to start putting seed aside for sowing this propagation season.

If you have plans to do more tubestock planting next winter 2007, place an order with us now and save 100' s of dollars.

We offer the following prices for orders placed over the next 3 months:

Seed grown plants in Hiko's - \$0.80c each

Cutting grown plants in Hiko's - \$2.00 each

Seed grown plants in forestry tubes - \$1.35 each

Cutting grown plants in forestry tubes - \$2.70 each

* Seed grown plants in speedlings - \$0.50c each *

* = limited species only

Did you know?

In the 1800's Australians were using wattle bark as a source of tannic acid to be exported to Europe used for the tanning of leather.

So large was the business that 5,638 tons was exported from South Australia alone in 1887! It didn't take long to realise that this would be an unsustainable venture as the plants can die in the process, if stripping all of the bark.

In 1891 the NSW government released the book "Wattles and Wattle-Barks. Hints on the conservation and cultivation of wattles together with particulars of their value" By J.H. Maiden. They recommend the hot water treatment of the seed that we still use today, but also recommend lightly burning the seed in a fire or a frypan!

They also recommend growing the tubestock in a Bamboo tube – ingenious!

Our community work and donations

For many years we have made an effort to support local projects, even before starting the business. This has been through donation of our time, equipment or materials.

Donations to projects have amounted to over \$3500 this year. With the increasing pressures of private business and rising fuel prices we remain committed to the philosophy of - think global, act local.

We have been involved in the following workshops over Autumn/Winter, the participant numbers are next to each event name **totalling 585 people** to Spring.

Enviro Holiday Care 150, Cambrai EHMP revegetation field day 40 people, Murray Bridge Rotary groups snake awareness 60, AMLR NRM Board Mt Pleasant 12, Tailem Bend Primary School 30, Mannum Garden club 23, Murraylands Day Care 35, Coorong LAP Forestry field day 15, Gifted and Talented Children Association 20, Pangarinda planting 200.



Above: Annual tree planting at Pangarinda Arboretum near Wellington.

Plant profile - *Callitris gracillis* Native Pine

This species is either loved or despised by landowners. Whatever your opinion, like every other living thing on Earth they have an important role to play.

Many species of Honey-eaters, Parrots, insectivorous birds like Robins, Thornbills, Fly Catchers etc. use the woodland for food and habitat. Birds of prey often patrol the airways above woodlands or 'forests'.

Trees were once used for fence posts, roofing and telephone poles as they were often straight and even termite resistant.

Callitris gracillis woodland is a threatened species of the South Australian Murray Darling Basin.

Left: Native Pine Woodland near Tailem Bend



The Big'un file

This editions big'un is a Blackwood - *Acacia melanoxylon*.

These trees are distributed in high rainfall areas within South Australia. They can range in size from a small tree 5m upto a tree over 30m tall.

They have pale yellow flowers in Winter / Spring and set seed during the months of February - March.

The seeds have a small red aril attached which is useful in attracting birds and ants, aiding in seed dispersal. The seeds also respond to fires a natural germination stimuli.

The timber is highly prized for turning, wood carving and manufacturing. This species is used for farm forestry and woodlots. This species can be slow growing making returns longer term.



Above: Blackwood tree



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This edition is dedicated to the inspirational Steve Irwin. The lovable character put more money into practical conservation than any government in Australian history.

He proved that private enterprise can make a difference through conservation of habitat and education. He was a role model for so many people and will be sorely missed on planet Earth.

Steve really did make a massive difference.....what a legend!

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How to get to our nursery

