

Katnook Estate, Coonawarra, SA

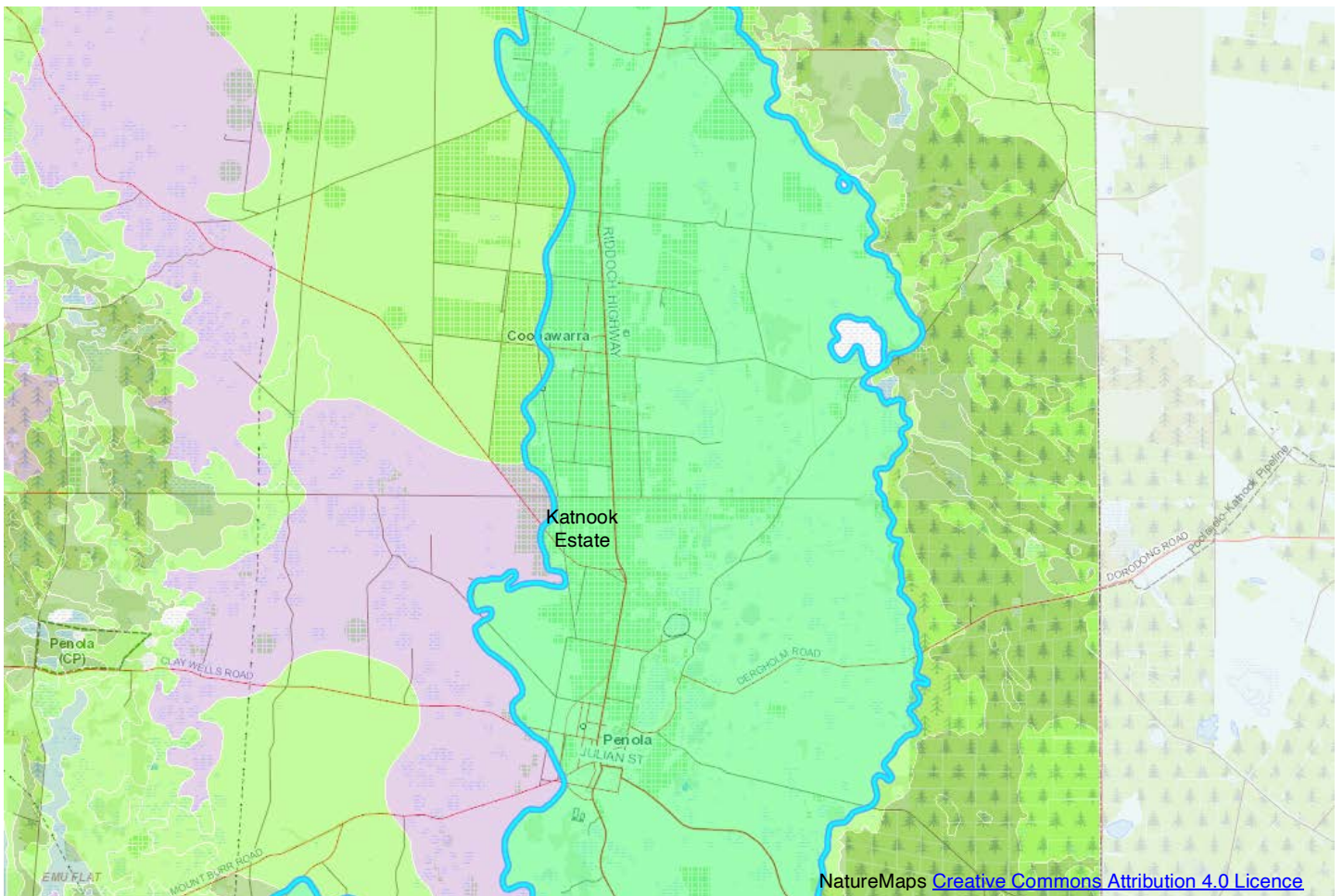
EcoGrower: Chris Brodie, Katnook Estate

“The EcoVineyards program has made me realise how critical it is to use biodiversity as a tool to improve our vineyard management especially of current and emerging pest threats.”

Coonawarra Wine Region



Plant community (marked in blue): Red gum woodland over an open understorey of sedges, rushes, grasses and herbs





Case study

Progress (June 2019 to 2021):

Reduce carbon emissions by reducing machinery use by using increased biodiversity to help with pest management, sward management and improving soil health.

Our viticulture environments are changing resulting in increased costs, emissions, pest and disease pressure, water use etc, I think increasing the biodiversity will improve all of these critical issues and reduce costs.

What did you do and when?

We started planting native borders/insectaries to hide unsightly buildings in 2009, since then we have expanded these areas and sown a beneficial insect attracting cover crop in May 2021, also sowed wallaby grass in 2008 as an inter-row cover crop.

Highlights?

Busaria spinosa, bottlebrush, grevillea, wallaby grass, casuarina, lots of others.

What are you more aware of now?

The need for better site preparation, and irrigation in dry seasons

What has been the most valuable aspect of the program?

Improved awareness of the impact of improving vineyard biodiversity on a wide range of factors, pest control etc.

Has your level of knowledge improved since you became an EcoGrower?

It has improved my knowledge of local native plant species and how they can interact with and improve vineyards.



Native grasses and forbs list:

- *Anthosachne scabra*, common wheat grass
- *Arthropodium strictum*, chocolate lily
- *Bothriochloa macra*, red grass
- *Chloris truncata*, windmill grass
- *Calocephalus citreus*, lemon beauty heads
- *Convolvulus angustissimus*, Australian bindweed
- *Dichanthium sericeum*, silky blue grass
- *Digitaria brownii*, cotton panic grass
- *Enteropogon acicularis*, curly windmill grass
- *Helichrysum scorpioides*, button everlasting
- *Microlaena stipoides*, weeping grass
- *Rytidosperma geniculatum*, kneed wallaby grass
- *Rytidosperma caespitosum*, ringed wallaby grass
- *Rytidosperma fulvum*, copper awned wallaby grass
- *Rytidosperma racemosum*, wallaby grass
- *Rytidosperma setaceum*, small-flowered wallaby grass
- *Vittadinia gracilis*, woolly New Holland daisy

Native grasses and forbs were sown by Andrew Fairney from Seeding Natives Incorporated at a rate of 7 kg per hectare (mid row) at a cost of \$150 per kg = \$1,050 per hectare plus labour and travel to Coonawarra \$1,200.



Sowing native grasses and forbs by Andrew Fairney from Seeding Natives Incorporated using specialised equipment (Photos: Mary Retallack).



Sowing of native grasses and forbs: 20 May 2021 (Photo: Mary Retallack)



Sowing of native grasses and forbs: 20 May 2021 (Photo: Mary Retallack)

Thank you to our project partners!



**WINE
GRAPE
COUNCIL
SA**



This project is supported by the Limestone Coast Landscape Board's Grassroots Grants Program and is funded by the landscape levy.

Acknowledgement of country

The EcoVineyards project acknowledges Aboriginal people as the First Peoples and Nations of the lands and waters we live and work upon and we pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging. We acknowledge and respect the deep spiritual connection and the relationship that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have to Country.

The Bungandidj people are the traditional custodians of the Limestone Coast region and have an ongoing connection to the land.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this case study is provided for informational purposes only. The Wine Grape Council of South Australia (WGCSA) and Retallack Viticulture Pty Ltd give no representations or warranties in relation to the content of this case study including without limitation that it is without error or is appropriate for any particular purpose. No person should act in reliance on the content of this case study without first obtaining specific, independent professional advice having regard to their particular site(s). WGCSA and Retallack Viticulture Pty Ltd accept no liability for any direct or indirect loss or damage of any nature suffered or incurred in reliance on the content of this case study.

For more info about the National EcoVineyards Program see www.ecovineyards.com.au

This case study was collated by Dr Mary Retallack, Retallack Viticulture Pty Ltd