Wrattonbully Wine Region

Case Study, November 2021

Bold Vineyard, Wrattonbully, SA

EcoGrowers: Peter Bird and Joe Drew

"What enthuses me the most is the continued commitment, by forward and future thinking growers across a range of sites within SA to continually push towards a sustainable future in any way shape or form that meets our needs.

This, coupled with the ability to professionally present these projects (refer the presentations and signage that some have used with their projects) and the case studies, offers both hope and identifies the leaders of the future. It warms the soul."

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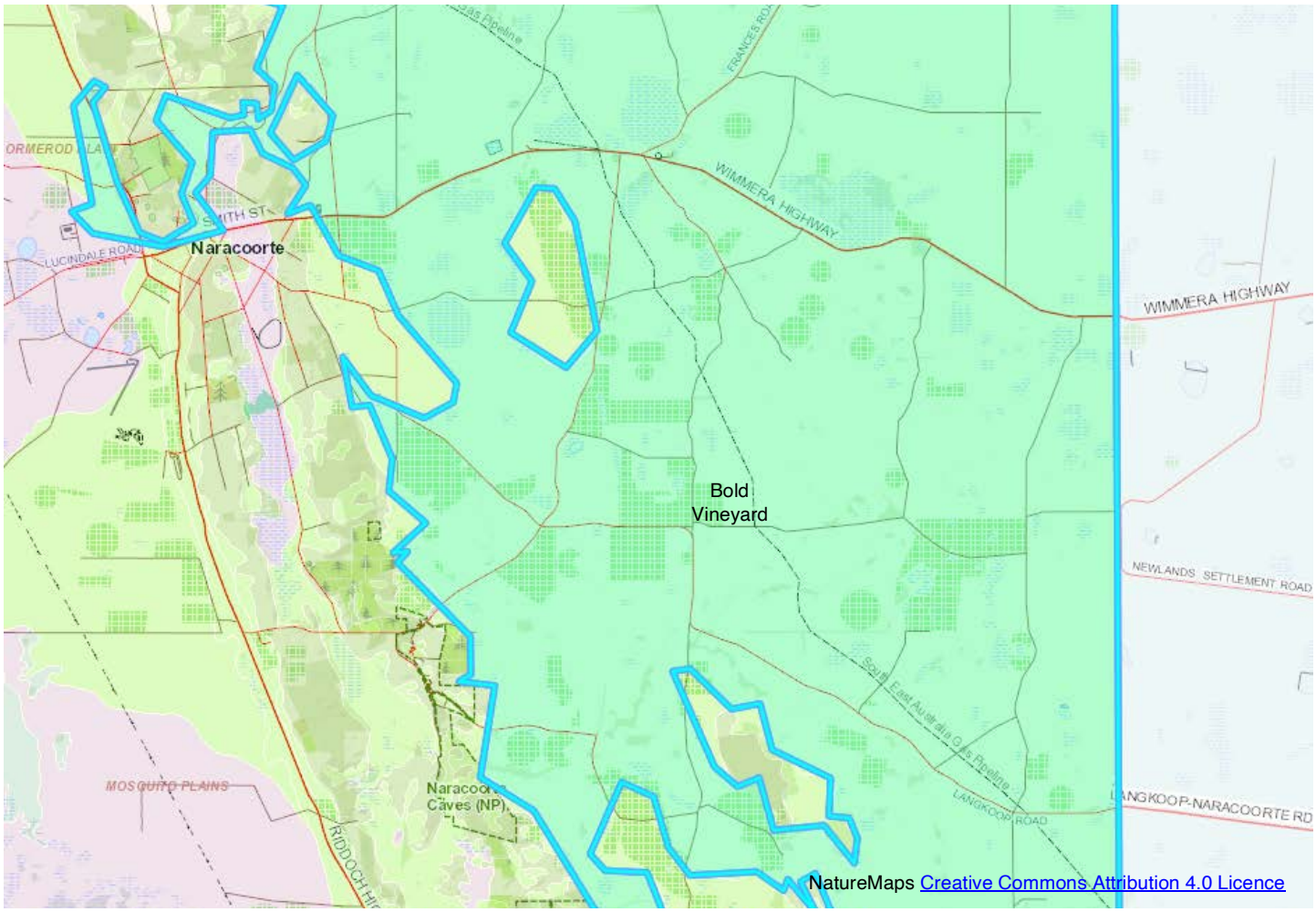
Plant community (marked in blue): Red gum woodland over an open understorey of sedges, rushes, grasses, and herbs



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Case study

Progress (June 2019 to 2021):

What were you hoping to achieve and why?

To achieve entry level 'change of thinking' using obvious land re-vegetation opportunities as the icebreaker, leading to a tangible and longer lasting effect whereby the confidence to break from traditional customs and practices gets easier.

What did you do and when?

- Herbicide applied to the designated areas during previous winter.
- Installed fencing to keep the sheep out and prepare for rabbit proofing.
- Planted the chosen species in late winter, early spring in wet conditions.

What were the highlights?

Still to be achieved, but a reasonably healthy indigenous population of microflora and fauna is evident, the plantings will only serve to enhance these.

What worked well?

The assistance offered was professional and enthusiastic… somehow or other we have been too time poor to give this the attention it deserves. A lot of weekend work with family assisted the vineyard team to keep this project on time and on track.

The kids didn't realise it at the time, but they are now enjoying the result, and have a sense of attachment to the concept. Who knows where this will lead, one has already enrolled in Adelaide Uni Ag degree!

What would you do differently?

We have achieved some of the objectives – a good year viticulturally with some dollars to spend changes one's ability and focus dramatically.

Into the future, any further developments would dedicate more weight to remnant, or revegetate zones in areas that prove costly, or borderline to manage, like cold frosty hollows, wet spots, or outcrops.

The 'double dip' is the environment gets to add to its diversity, while you induce uniformity, reduce risk, improve profitability to what is left.

What are you more aware of now?

The options are improving, the pursuit is still valid, we need to back up our thinking with action, eventually we will cross the divide where new opportunities will present that were not possible before.

Maybe vermin free status, integration of low-level grazing enterprises or poultry for insect control.

Photo above: Peter and Joe installing the photo point (Photo: Mary Retallack).

Photo left: Native plants in establishment (Photo: Mary Retallack).

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Before: July 2020 sunken cave area in the middle of the vineyard ready for preparation (left), September 2020 herbicide applied (right) (Photos: Mary Retallack)

After: May 2021 Joe Drew and the containers used as an in-field watering system for the plants (left) (Photo: Mary Retallack), November 2021 plants establishing (right) (Photos: Peter Bird and Joe Drew)

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Before: May 2021 fence installed under an old paddock gum (left), and herbicide applied ready for planting understorey (right) (Photos: Mary Retallack)

After: November 2021 plants in establishment (Photos: Peter Bird and Joe Drew)

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Insights

Where to from here?

My current goal is to try and empower the team to believe, doing the plantings is just a step, getting the benefit requires commitment and an open mind.

Are there any outstanding knowledge gaps you would like filled?

Need to experiment with the plant species in particular and/or modify current practices to enhance chances of success.

What has been the most valuable aspect of the program for you personally?

Protecting and adding to the remnant vegetation was an earlier pursuit / desire that existed when the vineyard was planted, so trying to trigger the enthusiasm for employees and children is a current goal.

Opportunity is still not lost, will be buoyed by the observations and/or observing those who have thrown themselves into the project as to what they perceive as real and tangible benefits.

Native plant list:

- *Allocasuarina cunninghamiana, river she-oak*
- *Bursaria spinosa,* Christmas Bush or sweet Bursaria
- *Callistemon rugulosus,* scarlet bottlebrush
- *Dianella revoluta*, black-anther flax-lily
- *Dodonea viscosa,* sticky hop bush
- *Kunzea pomifera,* muntries
- *Leptospermum lanigerum,* woolly tea-tree
- *Rytidosperma* ssp., wallaby grass

Photos above: Containers are periodically filled to slow drip water to plants, the Bold Vineyard EcoVineyards project areas and Peter sharing his local knowledge at an EcoVineyards workshop (Photo: Mary Retallack).

Photo left: Joe Drue, Peter Bird and Mary Retallack (Photo: Jacqui Owen).

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Expenses (cash and in-kind)

Name: Peter Bird and Joe Drew, Bold Vineyard		**Region:** Wrattonbully			
Date	**Activity**	**Number of plants**	**Grant cash expenses**	**Additional cash co-contribution**	**In-kind time captured**
05/02/2021	Herbicide (weed control)			$ 100	2 hrs
06/03/2021	Fence construction (Peter, Toby and Darcy Bird)			$ 550	22 hrs
18/03/2021	Planting time – Bull-oaks (2 people x 8 hrs)	50		$ 480	16 hrs
20/03/2021	Fence construction (Kym) 16 hrs			$ 480	16 hrs
	Fence construction (Kym) netting 16 hrs			$ 480	16 hrs
	Fence materials (2nd hand posts, wire, and netting)		$ 1,200	$ 250	
	Fence materials (gate)		$ 200		
01/06/2021	Eucaleuca Native services (tube stock)				
	Bursaria spinosa, Christmas bush $2 ea	125	$ 250		
	Callistemon rugulosus, scarlet bottle brush $2 ea	50	$ 100		
	Leptosperum lanigerum, wooly tea-tree $2 ea	29	$ 58		
	Muntries $2 ea	70	$ 50		
	Dianella revoluta, black-anther flax-lily (25 x 6"pots @ $6 ea)	25	$ 150		
	Rytidosperma ssp., wallaby grasses (500 in hyco trays of 40 @ $1.50 ea)	500	$ 750		
	Estimated planting time (2 people x 8 hours)			$ 480	16 hrs
10/06/2021	*Allocasuarina cunninghamiana*, river she-oak (@ $1.25 ea)	100	$ 125		
10/06/2021	7 x jute matting @ $150 / 25m roll		$ 1,050		
		949	**$ 3,933**	**$ 2,820**	**88 hrs**

Thank you to our project partners!

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

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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

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