



PenleyEstate

Coonawarra Wine Region

Case Study, August 2021

Penley Estate, Coonawarra, SA

EcoGrower: Hans Loder and the team at Penley Estate

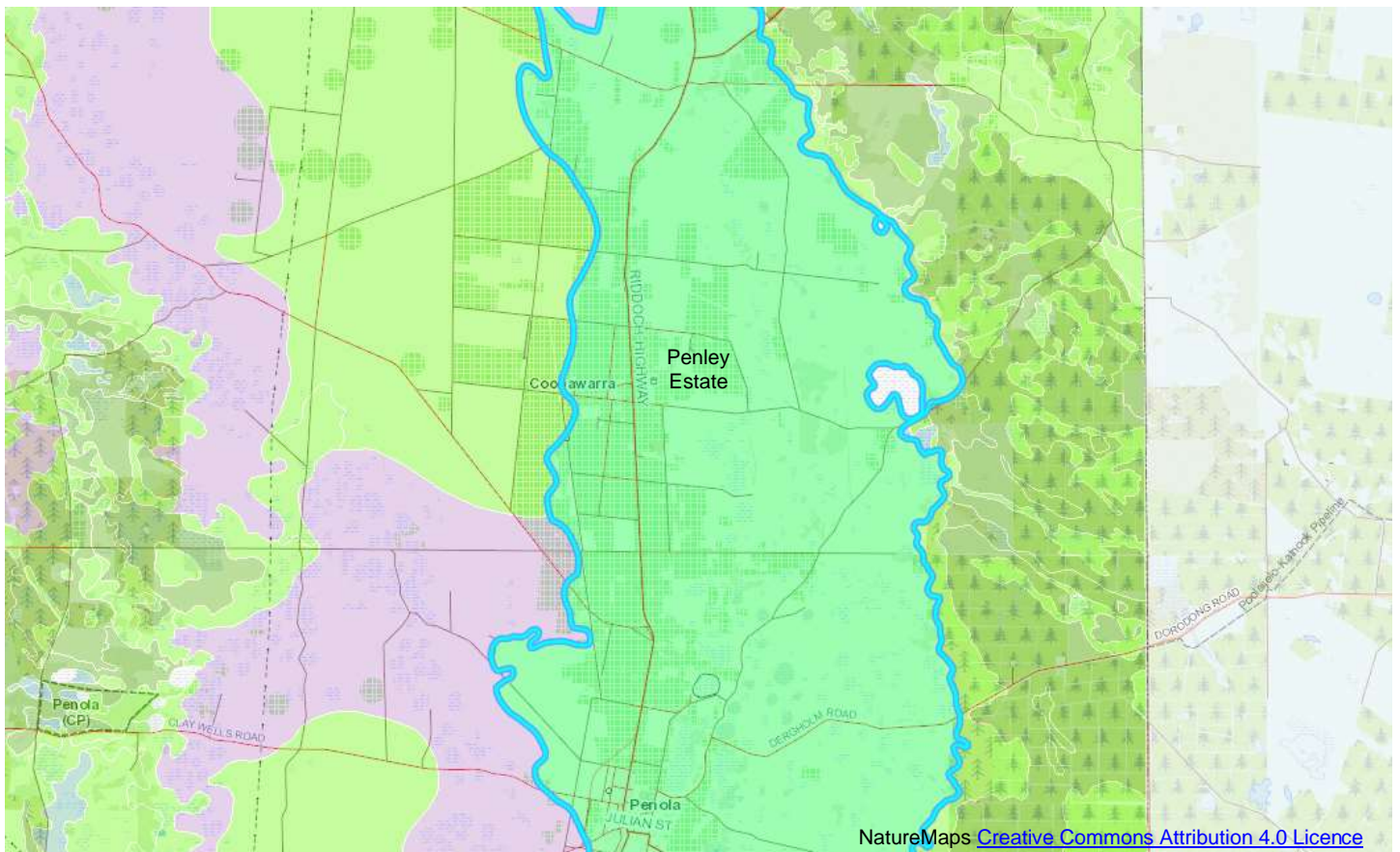
"Being an EcoGrower has been a positive period of personal development, getting hands on and gaining a greater appreciation of the diversity of the region in which I live.

I'd like to think that the insectary plantings will go on to provide ecosystem services to the Penley Estate vineyard for many decades to come."



Coonawarra Wine Region

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





Case study

What worked well?

- Ordering plants ahead of time worked really well, so they were planted at the ideal time of early July 2020.
- Plants have taken very well with only a minor number of losses.
- Another tip I received was to make beds in “sausage” shapes, as these are easier to mow around.
- Making ongoing maintenance simpler, will mean it will be more likely the areas will be nurtured, even when time is limited.

Highlights and insights?

“I was late driving back to Coonawarra the day I picked up the tube stock. I was in an SUV wagon and as the headlights took over, the cabin was filled with a diversity of spiders and insects which had come out of their hiding on the insectary plants. While this was a little disconcerting, I did think, “WOW! These insectary plants really work!”



Photo above right and left: Hans Loder installing an Ocloc photo-point and the native insectary plantings at the entrance to Penley Estate (Photos: Mary Retallack).

Photo right: The Penley Estate team planting the native insectary plants during winter 2020 (Photo: Hans Loder).

Progress (June 2019 to 2021):

Establish native insectary stands to provide source populations of beneficial insects for the Penley Estate vineyard, thereby aiming to leverage ecosystem services in the management of the property.

The plantings are at the entrance of the vineyard and also adjacent to the cellar door area, in order to provide an educational experience for visitors to Penley Estate, with beautification of the entrance an added bonus.

What did you do and when?

With the insectary plantings at the entrance to Penley Estate, it was important to have combined factors of plant diversity, functionality, and visual appeal. This meant significant planning in the first stages of the project, assessing the planting areas, familiarisation with species endemic to the east of Coonawarra and preparation of sites. Knowing what to plant was made very easy, given the information provided as part of the EcoVineyards program.

What are you more aware of now?

I've definitely become more aware of the endemic species in Coonawarra and have greater confidence in identifying these when driving around the area.

Where from here (future plans)?

I've mapped out several further areas in which insectary plantings could be established. I'd like to establish these over the next 5+ years along with starting to focus on mid - row and undervine management (native grasses etc)

What has been the most valuable aspect of the program?

The personal growth and increased understanding I've gained in terms of the interaction of beneficial insects, bats, and local plant species.





Year 1: 20 July 2020 (Photo: Hans Loder)



Year 2: 20 May 2021 (Photo: Mary Retallack)



Year 1: 16 September 2020 the rose bushes were removed, and native insectary shrubs planted (Photo: Hans Loder)



Year 2: 20 May 2021 (Photo: Mary Retallack)



Insights

Pitfalls to avoid

A great piece of advice I received was to plant closer!

This particularly helpful over the long term in suppressing weeds.

Expenses (cash and in-kind):

Cash

The project has come in on budget, but I would note that any EcoGrower needs to be motivated.

In Kind

Establishing the plantings has been the most intensive time and I'd like to think that these areas will require less input as they become established.

In kind time included:

- A full day, 8 staff for planting of trees and guarding
- Over summer one person, spent 2 hours per week on watering
- Three full day equivalents for tasks related to weed management: hand herbicide, whipper snipping and lastly mulch spreading

The entire exercise was a pleasure to be involved with and continues to delight as we watch the areas develop.

Native plant list:

- *Acacia acinacea*, gold dust wattle
- *Acacia melanoxylon*, blackwood
- *Banksia marginata*, silver banksia
- *Bursaria spinosa*, Christmas Bush or sweet bursaria
- *Callistemon rugulosus*, scarlet bottlebrush
- *Goodenia* ssp., goodenia
- *Kunzea pomifera*, muntries
- *Leptospermum continentale*, prickly tea-tree
- *Wahlenbergia stricta* ssp. *stricta*, tall bluebell
- *Xanthorrhoea semiplana*, yacca



Photos above: An assortment of native insectary plants ready to be planted (Photo: Mary Retallack). Levi and Kate Goodman planting tube stock (Photos: Hans Loder)

Photo left: Calico strips buried to assess microbial activity in different locations (Photo: Mary Retallack).



Expenses (cash and in-kind)

Name: Penley Estate		Region: Coonawarra			
Date	Activity	Number of plants	Grant cash expenses	Additional cash co-contribution	In-kind time captured
5/09/2019	Planting Compost - BioGro M3 90x \$20.85		\$ 1,876		
29/06/2020	Barossa Bushgardens 190 plants x \$1.50 ea (ex GST)	190	\$ 285		
07/07/2020	Planting of trees and guarding				64 hrs
29/06/2021	Tree guards and bamboo canes, removal of roses, mulch spreading bioGro mulch supply)		\$ 1,625		
9/06/2021	Barossa Bushgardens 190 plants x \$1.50 ea (ex GST)	100	\$ 150		
summer	Hand watering, weed management, hand herbicide, whipper snipping, and mulch spreading				48 hrs
TOTAL		290	\$ 3,936		112 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