

## Clare Wine Region

### Case Study, September 2021

# Walton Homestead Block/Schmerl Estate, Leasingham, South Australia

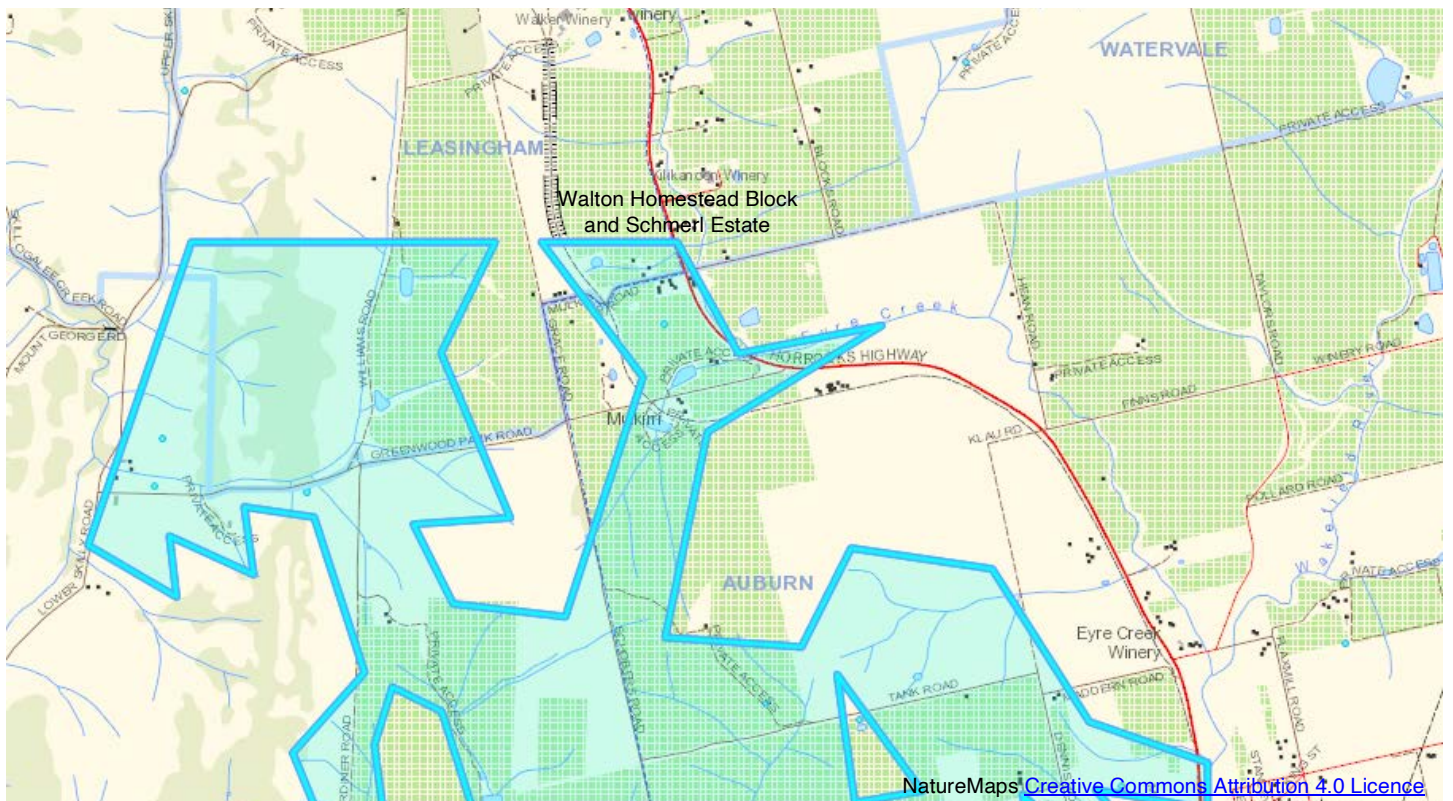
**EcoGrowers:** Dave and Cheryl Walton

“Our EcoVineyards Project has provided valuable guidance; networking capability; and enthusiasm to maintain our quest for continuous improvement and sustainability. Our appreciation to Dr Mary Retallack and everyone that has supported the concept/implementation of the EcoVineyards program. Thank you.”

Clare Valley Wine Region



**Dominant plant community (in blue):** H10: South Australian blue gum, *Eucalyptus leucoxylon* ssp. *leucoxylon* woodland  
NB: The NatureMaps data for the region ceases just below the Walton Homestead Block and Schmerl Estate





## Case study

### What worked well

Networks gained through our EcoVineyards project including:

- Retallack Viticulture Pty Ltd (Mary Retallack) – Project co-ordination
- Wine Grape Council South Australia (Lisa Bennier) – Budget support
- Ag Excellence Alliance – Emma McInerney – Landcare Facilitator
- Wildlife for Wine (Hannah Ling and Ben) – Biodiversity Action Plan
- Trees for Life (Vicki-Jo Russell and Flora Holton) – Affordable Native Plants
- Burra Revegetation Group (Bob Perry) – Native Plant guidance
- Kersbrook Landscape Nursery (Yvonne Gravier) – Native Plant supply
- Unique Natives at Medika Blyth (Ian Roberts) – Local native plants range
- Perrys Fruit and Nut Nursery (Chris Perry) – Native edible plants
- Fox Tree Lopping (Daryl Fox) – removal of woody weeds and supplied mulch
- Inside Out (Jason Fleming) – EcoVineyards signage (ongoing)
- Ocviti Australia (Brian O'Malley) – Containment fencing and raptor perch (ongoing)

### Progress (June 2019 to 2021):

Our Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) is to plant insectary native trees/shrubs/native grasses, house a colony of microbats and attract raptor birds.

### What were you hoping to achieve and when?

Our vision is to achieve continuous improvement and sustainability with the benefit of revegetation of native grasses/groundcovers/fire-resistant shrubs and edible plants.

The EcoVineyards project will help us create a biodiverse ecosystem and raise the promotional image of our vineyard.

### What did you do and when?

**September 2019:** we planted 31 *Bursaria spinosa*, Christmas bush at the end of Riesling rows on Horrocks Highway at Schmerl Estate.

**May 2020:** we planted 30 lemon grass; 10 quandong trees; 10 boobialla host plants; ruby saltbush; wallaby grass; running postman; and nodding vanilla-lily around the Walton Homestead Block.

**June 2020:** we planted 56 native plants/grasses around the Walton Homestead Block.

**February, March and June 2021:** we planted 28 *Grevillea lavandulacea*; 40 emu bush; 14 *Correa glabra*; *Eucalyptus*; *Hakea*; *Banksia*; and replacement quandongs.

### Highlights?

Christmas bush and native lemon grass grew particularly well.

We are noticing an increased presence of willy wagtails and other insectivorous birds.

Raptors and microbats yet to be sighted.

### What are you more aware of now?

Need for native grasses/plants to attract good bugs and improve biosecurity/vineyard sustainability.

Signage (Inside Out) will foster public awareness of our processes for growing resilience naturally.



**Photo above:** Dave Walton is using the newly installed photo point to capture the growth of plants over time (Photo: Mary Retallack).

**Photos left:** Dave and Cheryl Walton review the native plant community list adjacent to a newly planted quandong tree (Photo: Mary Retallack).



## Case study

### Pitfalls to avoid

Adequate/timely water supply for survival of small plants. Continual improvement in relation to automated watering will need to be an ongoing focus.

### Where to from here?

Additional 140 native plants (tube stock) from Medika Gallery, Blyth to be planted around Walton Homestead Block and Schmerl Estate.

“Discover our EcoVineyard” signage is yet to be installed on Schmerl Estate and Walton Homestead Block facing Horrocks Highway.

Containment fencing materials onsite and yet to be installed.

Raptor perch yet to be supplied and installed.

### Are there any outstanding knowledge gaps you would like filled?

We have gained a better understanding of native plants from our EcoVineyards Project together with several books recommended by Mary Retallack and Anne Brown (Greening Australia) The network gained through our EcoVineyards project will provide ongoing support in relation to our knowledge gaps as they become apparent.

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

The overall organisational structure of the EcoVineyards Project including budgeting approach; Biodiversity Action Plan; access to native plants and additional sponsorship for containment fencing.

### Has your level of knowledge increased significantly?

Yes, in a range of areas that support our vision for continuous improvement and sustainability.



### Native plant list:

- *Acacia acinacea*, wreath wattle
- *Arthropodium fimbriatum*, nodding vanilla-lily
- *Austrostipa curticoma*, short-crown spear-grass
- *Austrostipa elegantissima*, feather spear-grass
- *Austrostipa hemipogon*, half-beard spear-grass
- *Austrostipa mollis*, soft spear-grass
- *Austrostipa nodosa*, knotty spear-grass
- *Austrostipa scabra*, spear-grass
- *Banksia marginata*, silver banksia
- *Bursaria spinosa*, Christmas bush or sweet bursaria
- *Callistemon rugulosus*, scarlet bottlebrush
- *Correa glabra*, rock correa
- *Cymbopogon ambiguus*, native lemongrass
- *Dianella revoluta*, black-anther flax-lily
- *Dodonaea viscosa*, sticky hop-bush
- *Enchylaena tomentosa*, ruby saltbush
- *Eremophila glabra*, common emu bush
- *Ficinia nodosa*, knobby club-rush
- *Grevillia arenaria x lavandulacea* 'Medika Marvel'
- *Grevillea lavandulacea*, lavender grevillea
- *Hardenbergia violacea*, native lilac
- *Kennedia prostrata*, running postman
- *Kunzea pomifera*, muntries
- *Myoporum parvifolium*, boobialla purple leaf form
- *Olearia ramulosa*, twiggy daisy-bush
- *Poa labillardieri*, common tussock-grass
- *Rytidosperma auriculatum*, lobed wallaby-grass
- *Rytidosperma caespitosum*, common wallaby-grass
- *Rytidosperma geniculatum*, kneed wallaby-grass
- *Rytidosperma racemosum*, slender Wallaby-grass
- *Rytidosperma setaceum*, small-flower wallaby-grass
- *Santalum acuminatum*, desert quandong
- *Scaevola albida*, pale fan-flower
- *Senna artemisioides* ssp. *coriacea*, broad-leaved desert senna
- *Westringia rigida*, stiff westringia
- *Xanthorrhoea semiplana*, yacca

Photo above: Dave Walton installing the EcoVineyards sign (Photo: Mary Retallack).

Photos left: *Bursaria spinosa*, Christmas bush or sweet bursaria planted adjacent to the strainer posts in the Schmerl Estate Riesling Block adjacent to the Horrocks Highway (Photo: Mary Retallack).



Christmas bush, *Bursaria spinosa* planted adjacent to the strainer: 16 September 2021 (Photo: Mary Retallack)



Dave and Cheryl Walton and Christmas bush, *Bursaria spinosa* planted adjacent to the strainer: 16 September 2021 (Photo: Mary Retallack)

## Expenses (cash and in-kind)

Name: Walton Homestead Block and Schmerl Estate		Region: Clare Valley			
Date	Activity	Number of plants	Grant cash expenses	Additional cash co-contribution	In-kind time captured
14/06/20	40 Christmas bush and 2 yacca	42	100.00		20 hrs
26/05/21	40 Emu bush/26 <i>Grevillea</i> /4 <i>Correa glabra</i> /10 <i>Callistemon rugulosus</i>	80	184.80		3 hrs
6/12/19	Installed three micro bat boxes; EcoVineyards signage; photo point		Installed		1 hr
29/03/20	Construct/install 100 plant guards		183.60	88.79	16 hrs
30/09/20	Raptor/predator perch: ideal location identified overlooking creek		To be installed		
30/09/20	2 Tap timers/irrigation system: installed		37.96		10 hrs
29/03/20	Prepare soil for native plants – 12 tonne peats soil/cow manure		660.00	200.00	19 hrs
06/03/21					
11/03/21	Addition 4 Tonnes of topsoil (15/01;21/01;04/02;04/03)		150.00		
02/07/21	3 Tonne topsoil (11/03;19/03;31/03) 2 Tonne topsoil		30.00		
06/10/20	Remove olive trees as per BAP and use mulch around native plants		880.00	32.00	8 hrs
08/07/21	Fox tree lopping – use mulch around plants		320.00		
Ongoing 2020-2021	Perry's Fruit and Nut Nursery: 10 quandong trees	10	490.00		16 hrs
	Burra Community Nursery: 30 native lemon grass	30	30.00		4 hrs
	Kersbrook Landcare: 56 native bushes; ground cover and grasses; Kersbrook Landcare: Purchase Focus on Flora Book	56	122.50 39.95		8 hrs
19/03/21		20	120.00		8 hrs
30/06/21	Medika Gallery, Blyth: 20 native trees/shrubs/ground cover plants Medika Gallery, Blyth: 150 native plants	150	600.00		6 hrs
17/05/21	Bunnings: plant labels 5 @ 10 pack		9.55	0.50	
16/04/20	Wildlife for Wine Biodiversity Action Plan by Hannah Ling				3 hrs
18/10/20	120 metres of fencing completed		41.64	1192.88	4 hrs
18/01/21	Ocloc exclusion fencing (onsite)		To be installed	2,346.30	5 hrs
	Southern Wire (onsite)		To be installed	1,457.50	5 hrs
	Installation cost estimation (Neyles Earthworks and Fencing quote)		To be installed	3,200.00	8 hrs
03/09/21	Inside Out EcoVineyards signs to pick up and install		To be Installed	1,408.00	1 hr
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>388</b>	<b>\$4,000.00</b>	<b>\$9,925.97</b>	<b>145 hrs</b>

Thank you to our project partners!



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This project is supported by the Northern and Yorke Landscape Board which 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 Kaurna and Ngadjuri people are the traditional custodians of the Clare Valley 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](http://www.ecovineyards.com.au)

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