

# Case study

## Coonawarra Wine Region

**KOONARA**  
COONAWARRA



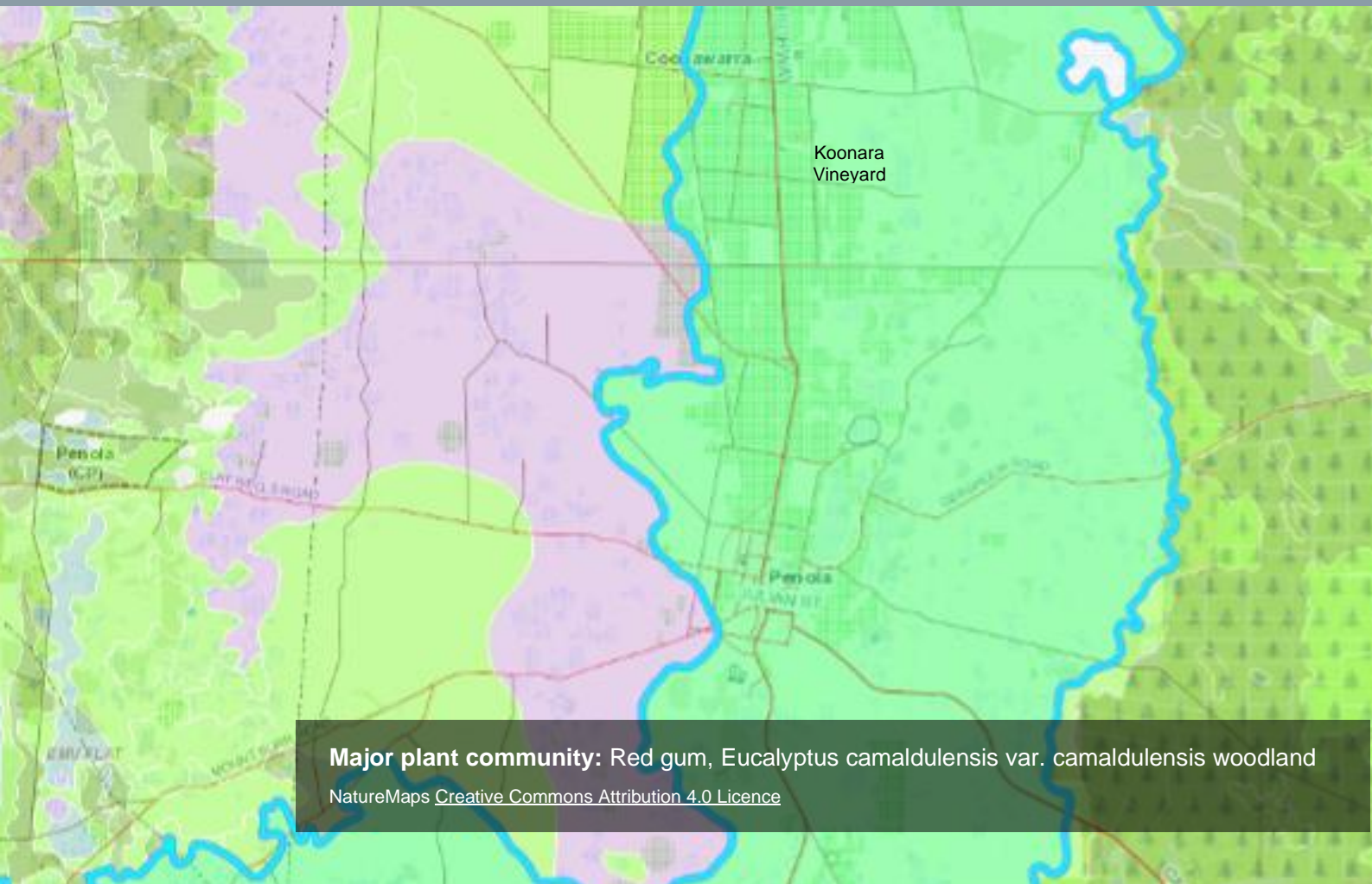
### Koonara Wines, Coonawarra, SA

**EcoGrowers: Dru Reschke and Hans Loder**

*“EcoVineyards creates a network of producers and suppliers who all want to achieve a common goal of improving sustainability of vineyards, through leveraging ecosystem services and increasing functional biodiversity.”*



October 2023



EcoGrowers: Dru Reschke and Hans Loder, Koonara Wines



Coonawarra Wine Region

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### What worked well?

Conversion of a peripheral area where vine rows were not viable in the long term, was very successful given irrigation already in place and vine removal working the ground prior to cultivation and planting.

### What would you do differently?

Order plants at the very start of the project. There is a significant time required to propagate material and plants could not be sourced from the nearest nursery, in the timeframe required of the project.

### What are you more aware of now?

The diversity of wattle species and their lifespan.

### Has your level of knowledge increased?

Simple answer, yes!

### Progress (June 2021 to 2023):

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

The project aimed to create multiple insectaries in otherwise redundant parts of the vineyard. These are intended to increase habitat for beneficial insects, with a particular weighting towards supporting butterfly species.

#### What did you do and when?

In the last 12 months areas of the vineyard have been prepared through weed control, modification of existing irrigation, installation of stock exclusion fencing and most significantly, the replacement of rows of vines with rows of trees in areas where waterlogging, frost and related factors were compromising vine health and productivity.

#### Where to from here?

First step will be maintaining planted areas to ensure their success. This will include application of mulch as part of a weed management plan; this of particular importance in a certified organic vineyard.

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

Seeing areas of the vineyard which were either unproductive, underutilised and/or neglected now providing a significant opportunity to increase biodiversity and the long-term sustainability of the vineyard. There's also the difference it's made to these areas visually, transforming them to relaxing and pleasing areas to walk through.



Above and below: Before and after photos of the native insectary plantings (Photos: Hans Loder)



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#### Native plant list:

- *Acacia acinacea*, gold dust wattle
- *Acacia melanoxylon*, Blackwood
- *Acacia paradoxa*, prickly Wattle
- *Acacia pycnantha*, golden wattle
- *Acacia retinodes*, swamp wattle
- *Callistemon rugulosus*, scarlett bottlebrush
- *Goodenia amplexans*, clasping goodenia
- *Myoporum montanum*, water bush
- *Leptospermum continentale*, prickly tea-tree
- *Pultenaea largiflorans*, twiggy bush-pea



## Expenses (cash and in-kind)

Name: Koonara Wines		Region: Coonawarra			
Date	Activity	Number of plants	Grant cash expenses	Additional cash co-contribution	In-kind time captured
01/09/2021	Vine beheading, removal and prep EcoVineyards Panting area			\$ 2,200	4 hrs
09/06/2023	Purchase tube stock (440 plants x 1.65 ea) freight and mileage covered as cash co contribution	440	\$ 660	\$ 169	2 hrs
08/06/2023	Cultivation (Weed control and planting prep)			\$ 405	3 hrs
21/06/2023	Tree Guards (100@ \$1.67 ea) Freight covered as cash co contribution		\$ 150	\$ 98	1 hrs
21/06/2023	Hardwood Stakes (100@ \$0.92ea)		\$ 83		
19/06/2023	Posts Steel Star Black 20@ \$10.50ea		\$ 191		
19/06/2023	Stiff stay prefab 200 m		\$ 332		
12/06/2022	Stock exclusion Fencing Install		\$ 1,890		2 hrs
12/06/2022	Stock exclusion Fencing Install		\$ 495		3 hrs
12/06/2022	Fencing Wire and star pickets (new and repurposed)		\$ 199	\$ 1,376	1 hrs
09/09/2019	Planting tube stock			\$ 630	4 hrs
23/06/2023	Estimated project management and ancillary time				24 hrs
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>440</b>	<b>\$ 4,000</b>	<b>\$ 4,878</b>	<b>43 hrs</b>

# ECO VINEYARDS

GROWING RESILIENCE NATURALLY

## Program partners



This project is supported by the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment, through funding from Australian Government's National Landcare Program.

### Acknowledgement of country

The EcoVineyards program 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.

### Disclaimer

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For more info about the National EcoVineyards Program see <https://www.ecovineyards.com.au>