

Case study

Coonawarra Wine Region

**PATRICK OF
COONAWARRA**

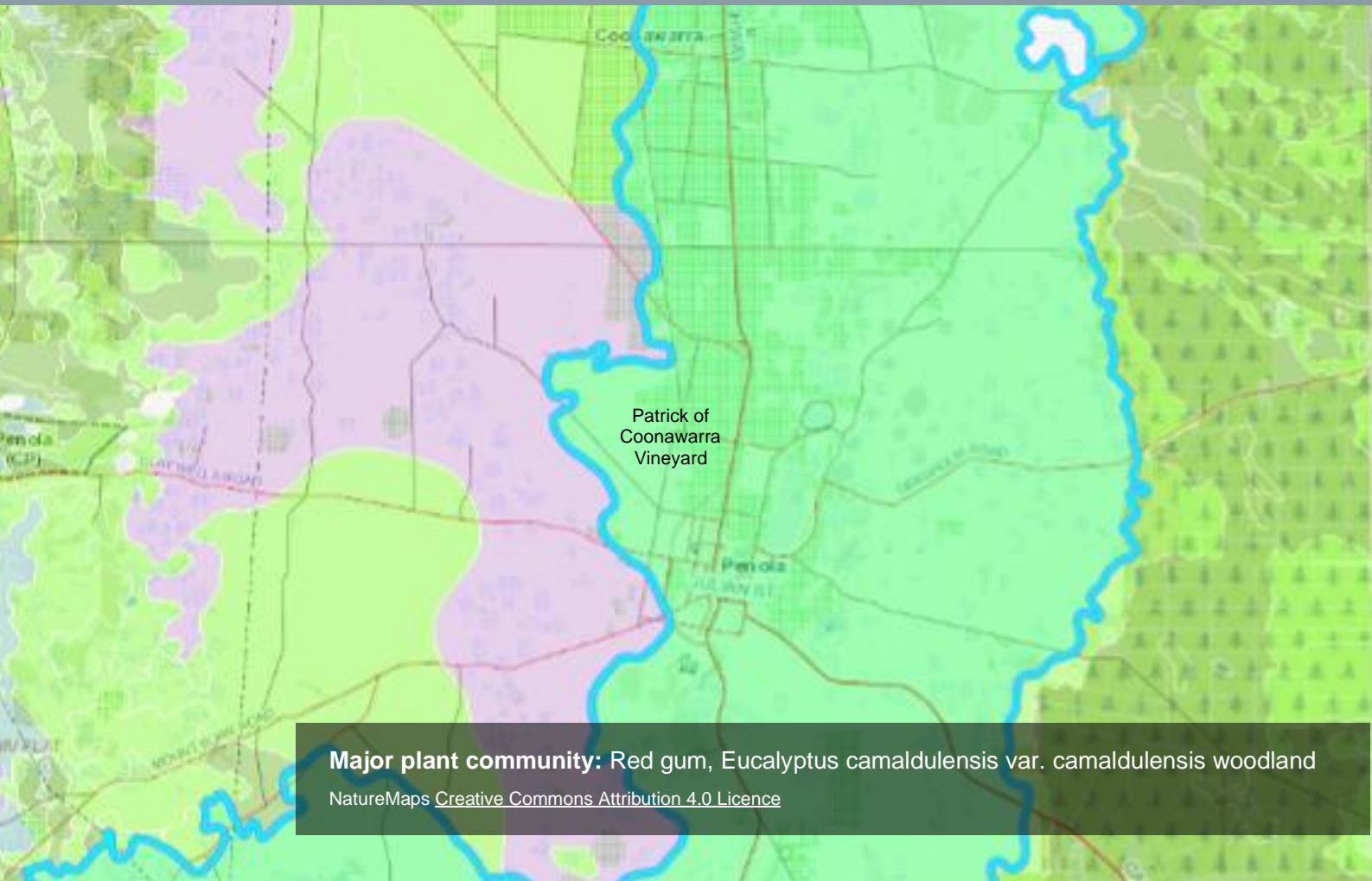
Patrick of Coonawarra, SA

EcoGrower: Dave Boyd

“Great learning and interacting experience which also helped re focus some past understandings. The program helped to refocus the mindset to include native solutions.”



October 2023



EcoGrower: Dave Boyd, Patrick of Coonawarra

Coonawarra Wine Region

Case study

What worked well?

Using planting as a team bonding experience after the business review meeting and sourcing plants locally.

What would you do differently?

The planning of planting, it is a 5-10 person job. We had to wait for the mulch to be delivered so we made a start on planting some of the plant prior to spreading mulch. This made the spreading of the mulch very difficult.

Having a better way of cutting the weed Mat, sharp knives lose the edge very quickly.

Follow the plan, make it known to all that the plan is not to be compromised.

What are you more aware of now?

Plant names that are the same in one region is not really the same as another region. I also have a better understanding of which plants may go well within the vineyard and/or under vine.

Has your level of knowledge increased?

Yes, especially with the understanding of what insects do what within the vineyard.

Progress (June 2021 to 2023):

What were you hoping to achieve and why?

An aesthetically pleasing native garden that showcases the native species of flora which attracts predatory arthropods that provide benefit to a vineyard. This can be used to educate all passer byes in the direction we are moving to improve our biodiversity and sustainability.

The mythology of improving biodiversity within farming sectors is not new, however with the viticulture world has limited studies and limited areas in which the general population can interact and/or obvious the practice.

The proposed Display Garden at the cellar door (CD) will be used as a draw card for others to inspect and learn from. It is intended to use signage to depict the different type of predatory arthropods each native species of plant attracts and why it is import to the ecosystem.

What did you do and when?

Selected site in January and ordered plants at same time. Pegged out and poisoned, late May/early June. Cultivator mid to late June. Laid weed mat down and placed mulch on top.

Started planting late July with one or two people which took a long time. Instead, we had a team bonding experience and planted all remaining plants at in late August 2021.

Any highlights?

All plants selected have grown better than thought. We worked on 10% loss, and we had 2% (across all 3 projects)! 2022/23 has been an amazing year to take this sort of project on. It's been that good that no irrigation was laid or used.



Above and below: Before (2021) and after (2023) photos of the native insectary plantings (Photos: Dave Boyd)



EcoGrowers: Dave Boyd, Patrick of Coonawarra

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Where to from here?

Yes, we will be increasing native plantings with the intent to select plants that will be native to the area and add an additional benefit to the vineyard.

We hope to continue with the Home Block and have it completed by end of f24. Along with the Home Block we are working on a large display garden at Cellar Door which we also have big plans for.

Are there any outstanding knowledge gaps you would like filled?

The next step for the gardens we have at Cellar door is to place signs next to plants to state what type of bugs they attract. The information is out there however you need to search the bug not the plant in my case it would be so much simpler to search the plant.

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

Being given the tools to invest my time meaningfully into research of plant selection and having someone like Mary to call upon when needed.

Also, being involved with some very passionate people, this has made it easier for me to become motivated and move forward.

Has your level of knowledge increased significantly since you became an EcoGrower?

Yes, especially with the understanding of what insects do what within the vineyard.

Anything else you would like to add?

I feel that this sort of thing could be developed to help educate at an earlier stage of life i.e., as a secondary school subject.

Native plant list:

- *Bursaria spinosa*, sweet bursaria
- *Callistemon rugulosus*, swamp bottlebrush
- *Carpobrotus rossii*, native pigface
- *Hibbertia exutiacies*, guinea flower
- *Kunzea pomifera*, muntries
- *Lomandra leucocephala*, woolly mat-rush
- *Xanthorrhoea spp.*, yacka



Expenses (cash and in-kind)

Patrick of Coonawarra			Region: Coonawarra		
Date	Activity	Number of plants	Grant cash expenses	Additional cash co-contribution	In-kind time captured
26/04/2022	Herbicide (weed control)			\$ 120	3 hrs
24/06/2022	Natural mulch (10.80ea) *25% of invoice		\$ 243		8 hrs
23/05/2022	Herbicide (weed control)			\$ 40	1.0 hrs
25/05/2022	Netting (90x4.0x1.4x100M 264ea)		\$ 264		4 hrs
14/06/2022	Purchase tube stock (300 plants x 2.10 ea) plus travel (85 cents per Km@150km= \$127.50)	300		\$ 758	3 hrs
14/06/2022	Wire mesh, star pickets and weed mat purchased			\$ 288	
15/06/2022	Mulch and weed mat laid			\$ 145	16 hrs
17/06/2022	Weed mat (1.8m x 50m 2.70ea)		\$ 123		2 hrs
17/06/2022	Weed mat (bulb planter)		\$ 9		
17/06/2022	Planting time (2 people x 8 hours)				16 hrs
28/06/2022	Mulch purchased			\$ 1,069	
4/07/2022	Purchase tube stock (172 seedlings x 2.60ea)	172	\$ 447		8 hrs
4/07/2022	Purchase tube stock (170 seedlings x 2.60ea)	170	\$ 442		8 hrs
4/07/2022	Tube stock seedlings (342 X \$2.60ea)	342	\$ 889		40 hrs
4/07/2022	Potted shrubs (45 X \$11.50ea)	45	\$ 518		5 hrs
14/06/2023	Tube stock seedlings (190 x 2.60ea)	190	\$ 494		9 hrs
24/06/2022	Natural mulch small			\$ 729	24 hrs
11/10/2022	POSTS STEEL STAR GALV 180CM EA		\$ 132		3 hrs
10/10/2023	POSTS STEEL STAR GALV 240CM		\$ 352		6 hrs
31/07/2023	Garden soil			\$ 491	6 hrs
TOTAL		1,219	\$ 3,913	\$ 3,639	158 hrs

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.

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

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