



Kangaroo Island Wine Region

Case Study, August 2022

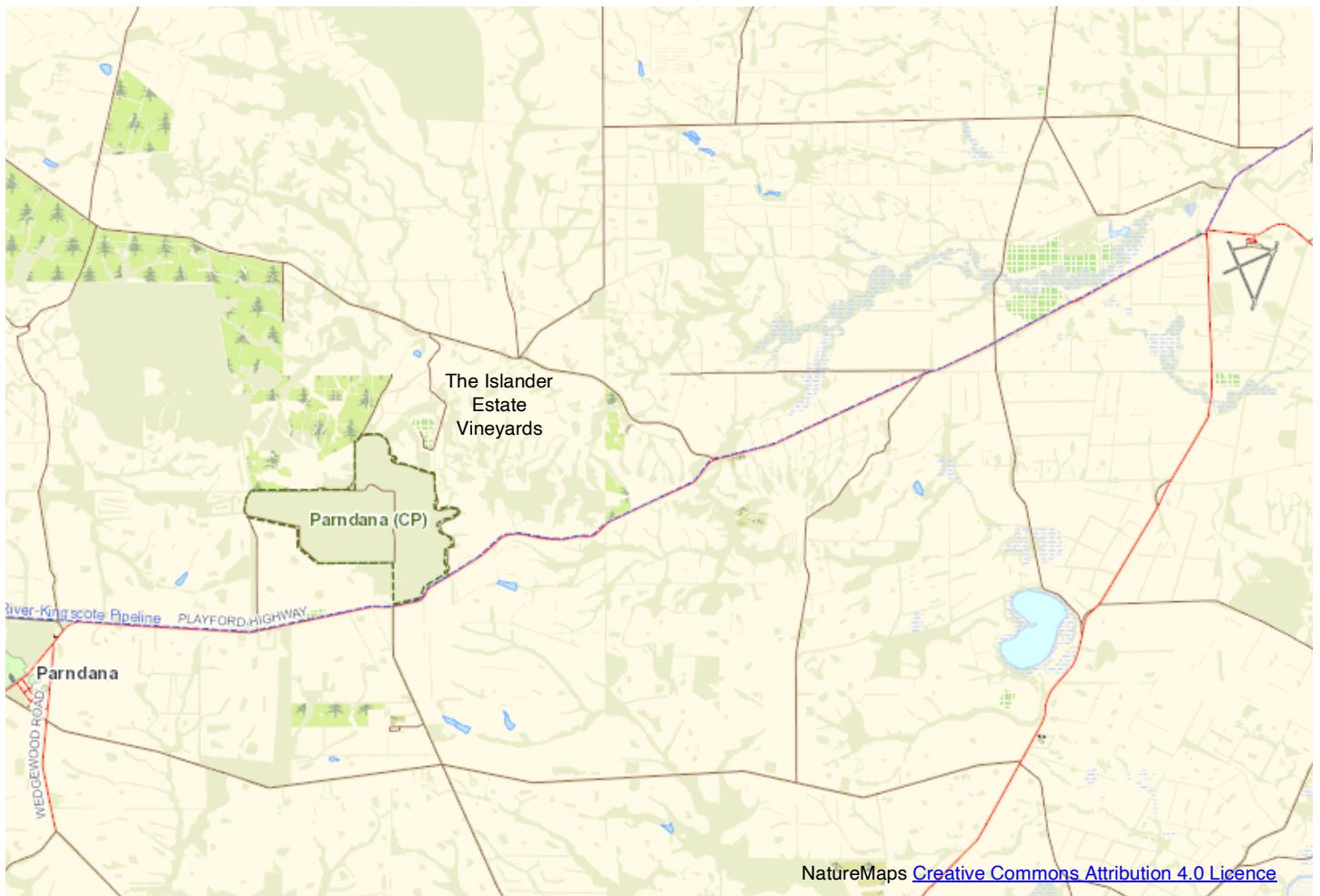
The Islander Estate, Cassini, SA

EcoGrower: Yale Norris, The Islander Estate Vineyards

"I feel really grateful to have had the opportunity to participate in the EcoVineyards project. Mary not only provided fantastic support personally, she also connected us with experts in other areas as well. These connections provided us with an enormous amount of knowledge and the confidence to move forward with our regenerative plan for the farm."



Kangaroo Island Wine Region





Case study

Are there any highlights that you would like to share?

We worked with the KI Native Plant Nursery to select plants that will grow well in our location.

What are you more aware of now?

We were able to get a better understanding of our soil and plant health through the program.

It set us on path to restore our soil, change our weed management program and look at IPM as a path to a stronger, healthier vineyard.

Are there any outstanding knowledge gaps you would like filled?

I would like to learn more about and maintaining the microbial life in our soil.

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

For me, the most valuable aspect has been knowing we are taking steps to bring our property back in step with nature so we can avoid the use of chemical inputs.

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

Most definitely. I have a much greater understanding of our need for beneficial insects and microbes both above and below the ground.

Progress (June 2021 to August 2022):

What were you hoping to achieve and why?

We were interested in creating habitat for beneficial insects and creating biodiversity in our vineyard.

What did you do and when?

We planted over 700 native plants in a 1 ha area adjacent to the vineyard. Rather than wasting resources on tree guards and stakes, we erected an exclusion fence around the planting and the vineyard. The KI Native Plant Nursery grew the plants for us, and we had a community planting day in June to get them in the ground.

Where to from here?

We wait and see how the plants respond over the next 2 years. In the meantime, we are looking at under vine mulching and using compost and compost tea to build soil life.

Native plant list:

- *Acacia acinacea*, round-leaved wattle
- *Acacia myrtifolia*, myrtle wattle
- *Acacia pycnantha*, golden wattle
- *Acacia spinescens*, spiny wattle
- *Allocasuarina striata*, small bull oak
- *Bursaria spinosa*, Christmas bush or sweet bursaria
- *Calytrix tetragona*, fringe myrtle
- *Dodonaea viscosa*, sticky hop bush
- *Eutaxia diffusa*, spreading mallee-pea
- *Eutaxia microphylla*, mallee bush-pea
- *Goodenia amplexans*, clasping goodenia
- *Goodenia varia*, sticky goodenia
- *Goodia lotifolia*, golden tip
- *Kennedia prostrata*, running postman
- *Leptospermum continentale*, prickly tea-tree
- *Melaleuca acuminata*, honey myrtle
- *Melaleuca brevifolia*, mallee honey myrtle
- *Melaleuca gibbosa*, slender honey myrtle
- *Melaleuca uncinata*, broom bush
- *Xanthorrhoea semiplana*, grass tree

Photo above: Yale installing the photo point (Photo: Mary Retallack).

Photo left: Native eucalypts are regenerating after the fires in January 2020 (Photo: Mary Retallack).





December 2021: Field talks focussing on predatory arthropods and raptor birds (Photos: Mary Retallack)

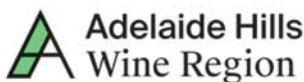


June 2022: The community gathered to help establish the native insectary plants (Photos: Yale Norris)

Expenses (cash and in-kind)

Name: The Islander Estate		Region: Kangaroo Island			
Date	Activity	Number of plants	Grant cash expenses	Additional cash co-contribution	In-kind time captured
1/06/2022	Herbicide (weed control)			\$ 100	3 hrs
25/06/2022	Purchase tube stock (700 plants x 2.40 ea)	700	\$ 1,680		
23/10/2021	Exclusion fence		\$ 4,500	\$ 4,500	50 hrs
25/06/2022	Planting time (12 people x 3 hours)				36 hrs
TOTAL		700	\$ 6,180	\$ 4,600	89 hrs

Thank you to our project partners!



This project is supported by the Kangaroo Island Landscape Board 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.

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