



## CASE STUDY

# INCORPORATING INDIGENOUS GROWN NATIVE INSECTARY PLANTS AT PORT PHILLIP ESTATE AND KOOYONG WINES, MORNINGTON PENINSULA, VIC

By Stuart Marshall, Port Phillip Estate and Kooyong Wines; Karen Thomas, Melbourne Water and Dr Mary Retallack, Retallack Viticulture Pty Ltd



# ENHANCING FUNCTIONAL BIODIVERSITY

## Background

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Port Phillip Estate (PPE)-Kooyong vineyard is in Tuerong on the Mornington Peninsula. The property is approximately 100 ha in size, with 40 ha planted to Pinot Noir, Chardonnay, Shiraz, and Pinot Gris.

PPE-Kooyong is located south of Devilbend Reservoir with Devilbend Creek running through the vineyard. There is a patch of remnant bush on the west side of the property. Devilbend Reservoir is 250 hectares and the largest inland body of water on the Mornington Peninsula.

It is considered a haven for birdlife and recognised internationally as being globally important for the conservation of bird populations including the threatened blue billed duck. Port Phillip Estate has regular visitation from a variety of birdlife and are keen to re-vegetate areas

*"I feel I have a much deeper understanding of the relationship of plants and animals and the importance of ecosystems within a farming enterprise."*

**Stuart Marshall, Port Phillip Estate and Kooyong Wines**

## What were you hoping to achieve and why?

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The vineyard had a vacant area that was overgrown with grassy vegetation and bits of concrete rubble. A vision for this area was to plant it up as an insectary and grassy meadow. The dams around the vineyard could be planted with sedges round the edges for filtration from runoff and provide habitat for visiting wetland birds or birdlife traversing between farmland biolinks and Devilbend Reservoir.

Nearby dams will have sedges on the edges to assist with runoff filtration and improve water quality as well as habitat for wetland birds traversing between farmland biolinks and Devilbend Reservoir.



**Figure 1:** Proposed insectary site, spring 2023 [Photo: Mary Retallack].

## What did you do and when?

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Goats were considered for grazing the vacant area due to the uneven ground and hidden concrete rubble; however, spraying was settled upon as the fastest autumn option for weed control to get the site planted in winter. The site was sprayed and prepared in autumn 2024 and planted in winter 2024.

**The plants were ordered from Willum Wurrain Nursery as a local indigenous business on the Peninsula and as part of the Kooyong and Port Phillip Estate's Reconciliation Action Plan.**

Extra fencing was installed in January 2025 to manage the feral deer and reduce plant losses from pest animal browsing.

## Insights?

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The planting site needed double fencing to reduce the damage from feral deer. Despite the dry seasons after planting, the plant survival rate is very good. We have done a fair bit supplementary watering on a few occasions during the unusually dry period of January, February and March.



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

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Not really it has been a great project for us to undertake and this area of our farm will be greatly enhanced into the future.

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

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Gaining a better understanding of indigenous plants.



**Figure 2:** Pre-planting , April 2024 [Photo: Stuart Marshall].



**Figure 3:** Post-planting, November 2024 [Photo: Stuart Marshall].



**Figure 4:** EcoVineyard planting area, May 2025 [Photo: Stuart Marshall].



**Figure 5:** Stage 2 planting area, Winter 2025 [Photo: Stuart Marshall].

## Plant lists

#	Scientific name	Common name
<b>Plant species list 2024</b>		
1	<i>Allocasuarina littoralis</i>	black sheoak
2	<i>Busaria spinosa</i>	sweet busaria
3	<i>Carex fascicularis</i>	tassel sedge
4	<i>Leptospermum continentale</i>	prickly tea-tree
5	<i>Lomandra longifolia</i>	spiny head mat-rush
6	<i>Omduffia reniformis</i>	running marsh-flower
7	<i>Patersonia occidentalis</i>	long purple-flag
8	<i>Themeda triandra</i>	kangaroo grass
<b>Native forbs 2024</b>		
9	<i>Chrysocephalum apiculatum</i>	common everlasting or yellow buttons
10	<i>Wahlenbergia gracilis</i>	sprawling or Australian bluebell

<b>Plant species list 2025</b>		
11	<i>Allocasuarina littoralis</i>	black sheoak
12	<i>Banksia marginata</i>	silver banksia
13	<i>Busaria spinosa</i>	sweet busaria
14	<i>Goodenia ovata</i>	hop goodenia
15	<i>Leptospermum continentale</i>	prickly tea-tree
16	<i>Patersonia occidentalis</i>	long purple-flag
17	<i>Pelargonium australe</i>	Austral storks-bill
18	<i>Themeda triandra</i>	kangaroo grass
<b>Native forbs 2025</b>		
19	<i>Rytidosperma geniculatum</i>	kneed wallaby grass

## Costs

Date	Item	Number of plants	EcoVineyards costs (ex GST)	Co-contribution (landholder contribution)
29/05/2024	<i>Chrysocephalum apiculatum</i> , common everlasting or yellow buttons 1kg		\$5	
29/05/2024	<i>Wahlenbergia gracilis</i> , sprawling (or Australian bluebell 1kg		\$14	
29/05/2024	Standard postage		\$10	
16/07/2024	Arboregreen - mallee flute tree guard 450mm High, 200mm sides - EcoVineyards custom print		\$98	
16/07/2024	Arboregreen - bamboo canes 11-13mm x 750mm Long -250/Bale"		\$243	
16/07/2024	Arboregreen - Postage		\$38	
17/07/2024	Willum Warrain Aboriginal - tubestock	270	\$682	
27/02/2025	Willum Warrain Aboriginal - tubestock	450	\$1,350	
18/04/2025	Native Seeds, Oxley wallaby grass		\$779	
5/06/2025	Arboregreen mallee flute tree guard 450mm high, bamboo canes		\$780	
	EcoGrower contribution			\$3,000
	<b>Total</b>	<b>720</b>	<b>\$4,000</b>	<b>\$3,000</b>

## Disclaimer

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For more information about the National EcoVineyards Program please visit [www.ecovineyards.com.au](http://www.ecovineyards.com.au) @EcoVineyards

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## PROGRAM PARTNERS



## REGIONAL PARTNERS



MARGARET RIVER WINE



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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

EcoVineyards proudly acknowledges the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, and their ongoing cultural and spiritual connection to this ancient land on which we work and live.

As the Traditional Custodians of this land, we recognise their wealth of ecological knowledge and the importance of caring for Country.

We pay our respects to elders past and present and extend this respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.



