

ASHTON HILLS



Adelaide Hills Wine Region

Case Study, November 2021

Ashton Hills, Ashton, SA

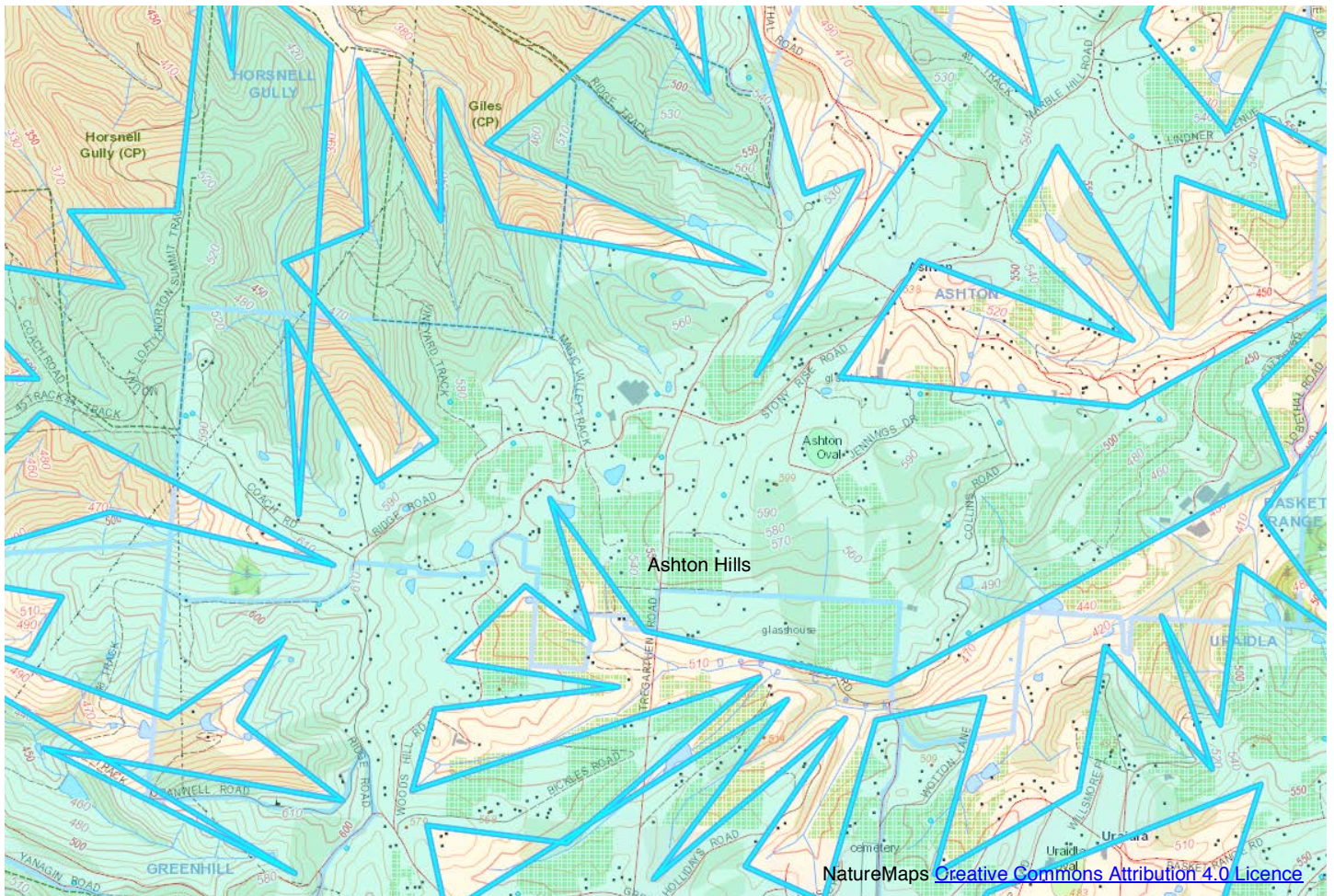
EcoGrowers: Anton Groffen and Liam Van Pelt

“A very positive experience that has resulted in a continued interest and exploration of the biodiversity in and around the Ashton Hills vineyard.”



Adelaide Hills Wine Region

Plant community (marked in blue): Stringybark, *Eucalyptus obliqua* open forest





Case study

What worked well?

The fence line has worked to prevent people entering the vineyard and once fully grown will be more visually appealing.

The removal of foreign species of plants from the established section has also helped with the general growth of other native species.

Pitfalls to avoid

I would be more aware of the need to order large quantities of tube stock well in advance.



Progress (June 2019 to 2021):

What were you hoping to achieve and why?

Boost the native plant species around our vineyard to encourage more beneficial insects and bacteria for the health of the vineyard.

What did you do and when?

Planted a bio-hedge (bio-diversity/bio-security) "fence line" of native species to help prevent people walking into the vineyard.

Also planted native grasses and shrubs close by to develop an insectary as well as removed foreign species of plants from an already established planted area.

What were the highlights?

Wallaby grass and prickly tea tree have grown really well. We have a microbat box installed; however, I have not noticed any activity.

What are you more aware of now?

Generally, more aware of the importance (and benefits) of native plant species.

Where to from here?

Will closely monitor other people's trials with mid row grasses as this was of interest. Will order and plant out the developing insectary as well as the already established area.

Are there any outstanding knowledge gaps you would like filled?

No knowledge gaps need to be filled; I think it is now down to us to continue our own knowledge development.

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

Personally, the most valuable aspect has been an increased understanding of native and foreign species of plants, as well as the benefits of certain native species.

What are you more aware of now?

Many customers do ask about the plantings, and then take time to read the information board about the project.

Photo above: Hover flies in the vineyard (Photo: Mary Retallack).

Photos left: new plants prickly tea-tree, *Leptospermum continentale* and hop goodenia, *Goodenia ovata* (Photo: Mary Retallack).



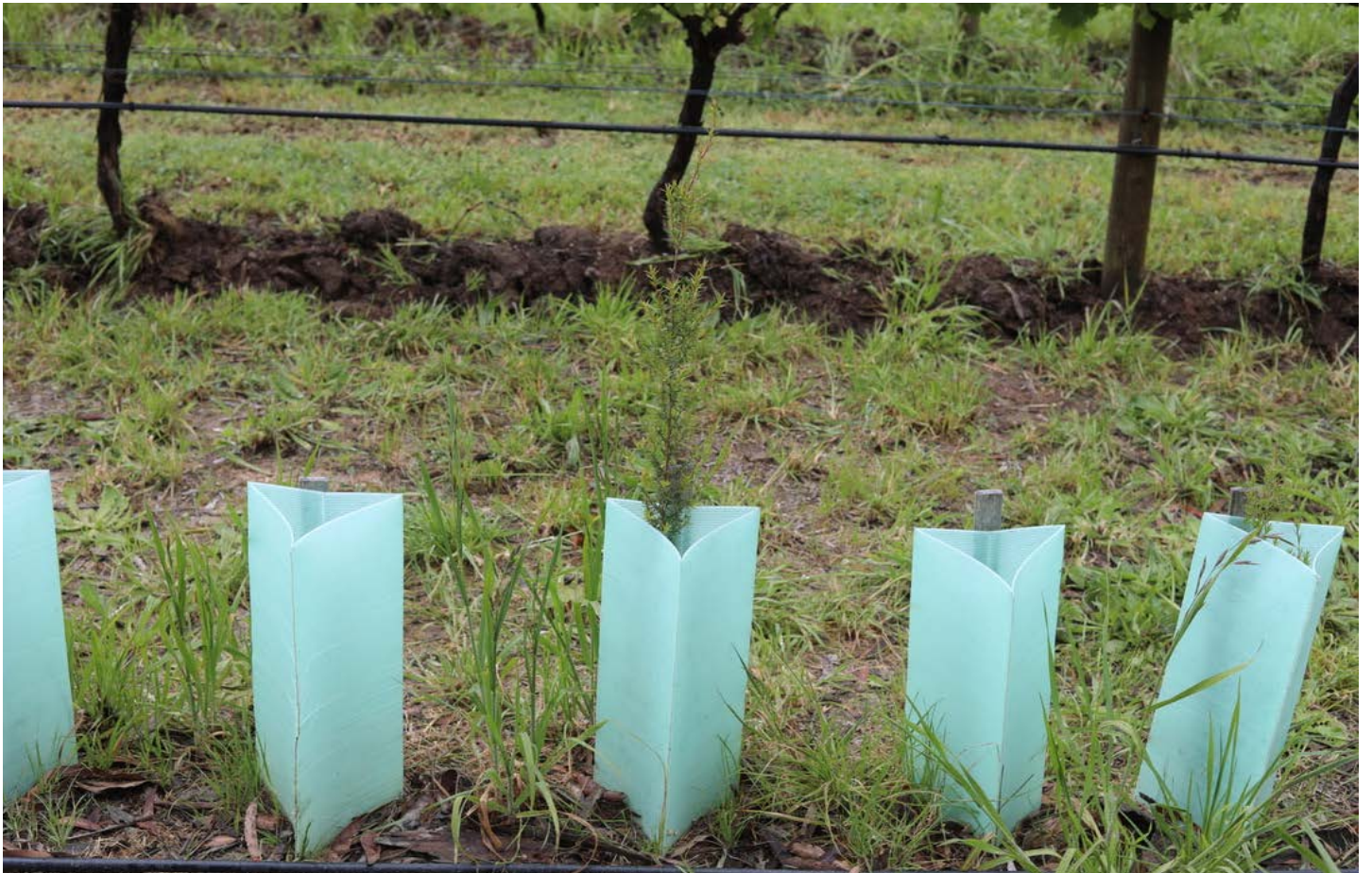
3 July 2020 (Photo: Liam Van Pelt)



12 November 2021 (Photo: Mary Retallack)



7 September 2020 (Photo: Mary Retallack)



12 November 2021 (Photo: Mary Retallack)



Liam Van Pelt and the Wine Australia sponsored EcoVineyards educational sign (Photo: Mary Retallack)



EcoVineyards field session focusing on soil health (Photo: Mary Retallack)

Expenses (cash and in-kind)

Name: Ashton Hills		Region: Adelaide Hills			
Date	Activity	Number of plants	Grant cash expenses	Additional cash co-contribution	In-kind time captured
18/06/2020	Christmas bush (50 x \$1.50 ea)	50	\$ 75		4 hrs
05/06/2020	Future Generations Natives	112	\$ 361		9 hrs
30/06/2020	Arboregreen - 200 stakes		\$ 100		
30/06/2020	Arboregreen - Tree Popper		\$ 336		
29/10/2020	Thrifty Link - Gyganic 20 L		\$ 44		
22/01/2021	Thrifty Link - Dripper		\$ 2		
23/01/2021	Thrifty Link - polytube, joiner etc		\$ 59		
02/07/2020	Thrifty Link - Gloves		\$ 28		
30/06/2020	Jute Squares - 200		\$ 98		
		162	\$ 1,103	\$ -	14 hrs

Thank you to our project partners!



This project is supported by the Hills and Fleurieu 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.

The Peramangk and Kaurna people are the traditional custodians of the Adelaide Hills region and have an ongoing connection to the land.

Disclaimer

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For more info about the EcoVineyards project see <https://www.wgcsa.com.au/ecovineyards.html>