

## Clare Wine Region

**GROSSET**

Case Study, September 2021

### Grosset Wines, Watervale, SA

**EcoGrower:** Matthew O'Rourke

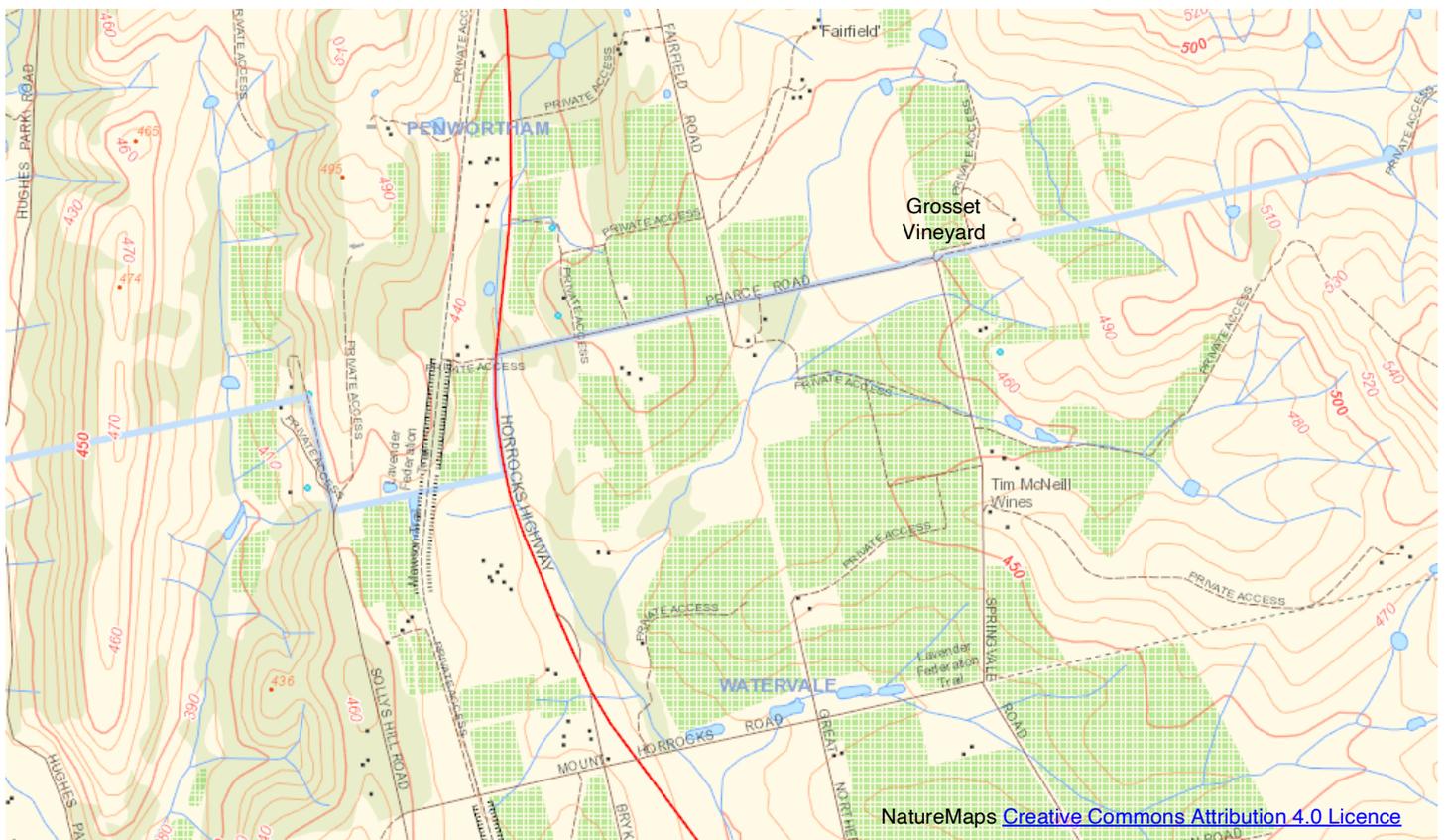
"The EcoVineyards program has complemented work already started and its pleasing to see the environment return to what it once was, have been cleared for cropping originally then turned into a vineyard.

The creek was devoid of plants, and they are now thriving, and I would expect the EcoVineyards project to add a key part to this once established."

**Clare Valley Wine Region**



**Local plant community:** Scented mat-rush, *Lomandra effusa*, spear-grass, *Austrostipa* spp. and wallaby-grass *Rytidosperma* spp. tussock grassland





## Case study

### Progress (June 2019 to 2021):

We aim to bring in more diversity to the vineyards and create more balance. We planted 2,500 native insectary shrubs and trees next to already established plantings, including 1,000 planted in May 2020 and another 570 in May 2021 as a part of the EcoVineyards program.

The plants are still growing out of the guards, except saltbush, which is growing strongly, but given the year's winter rains (2021), I would expect to see good growth this year from all plants in establishment.

These plants complement existing planted native shelter between vineyard and machinery shed that was planted 5 years ago. The area (0.4 ha) is adjacent to an existing vineyard and these plants will provide a permanent insectary. The soft plastic tree guards are sufficient to deter kangaroo damage.

We have been planting 1,000 tube stock trees per year for the last decade and will continue.

I would estimate 12,000 or so have been planted. Think we will add more insectary trees in our plantings after being part of this project.

### Insights

I am more aware now of the benefits of creating balanced environment and what that can bring to the vineyard.

My level of knowledge has increased significantly since you became an EcoGrower.

This is a great program, excellent support and highly recommended for any vineyard.

Thank you for your help!

### Pitfalls to avoid

In hindsight, I probably would have left more room between the plants for slashing.

### Native plant list:

- *Allocasuarina verticillata*, drooping sheoak
- *Acacia brachybotrya*, grey mulga
- *Acacia continua*, thorn wattle
- *Acacia euthycarpa*, wallowa
- *Acacia hakeoides*, hakea wattle
- *Acacia notabilis*, notable wattle
- *Acacia paradoxa*, kangaroo thorn
- *Acacia pycnantha*, golden wattle
- *Acacia retinodes*, hills wirilda
- *Acacia wattiana*, watts wattle
- *Bursaria spinosa*, Christmas bush or sweet bursaria
- *Callistemon rugulosus*, scarlet bottle brush
- *Daviesia leptophylla*, narrow-leaf bitter-pea
- *Dodonaea viscosa*, sticky hop bush
- *Enchylaena tomentosa*, ruby saltbush
- *Eucalyptus goniocalyx*, long-leaved box
- *Eucalyptus incrassata*, ridge fruited mallee
- *Eucalyptus leucoxylon pruinosa*, inland southern blue gum
- *Eucalyptus porosa*, mallee box
- *Eucalyptus socialis*, summer red mallee
- *Leptospermum myrsinoides*, silky tea-tree
- *Maireana brevifolia*, small leaved blue bush
- *Melaleuca brevifolia*, short-leaf honey myrtle
- *Melaleuca lanceolata*, dryland tea-tree
- *Pultenaea largiflorens*, twiggy bush pea
- *Rhagodia parabolica*, fragrant saltbush



Photo above: Matthew O'Rourke is using the newly installed photo point to capture the growth of plants over time (Photo: Mary Retallack).

Photos right: Grosset Wines have been planting trees in their vacant paddocks to provide habitat for local fauna (Photo: Mary Retallack).



**Native insectary planting before:** 2 December 2019 (Photo: Mary Retallack)



**Native insectary planting after:** 16 September 2021 (Photo: Mary Retallack)

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





16 September 2021 (Photo: Mary Retallack)



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# Expenses (cash and in-kind)

Name: Grosset Wines		Region: Clare Valley		
Date	Activity	Number of plants	Grant cash expenses	Additional cash co-contribution
	Preparation (tractor ripping and rotary hoe)			\$ 700
26/06/2020	Trees for Life - 210 plants @ \$2.10	210	\$ 441	
	Labour for planting			\$ 800
26/06/2020	Trees for Life - 790 plants @ \$1.75	790	\$ 1,383	
01/05/2021	SF guards roll (200) and bamboo stakes x 250		\$ 820	
27/05/2021	Trees for Life - 250 plants @ \$2.50	250	\$ 625	
27/05/2021	Trees for Life - 320 plants @ \$1.50	320	\$ 480	
	Temporary fencing to keep sheep out			\$ 700
	Additional native insectary plants (in-kind)	930		\$ 1,860
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>2,500</b>	<b>\$ 3,749</b>	<b>\$ 4,060</b>

Thank you to our project partners!



This project is supported by the Northern and Yorke Landscape Board which 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 Kaurna and Ngadjuri people are the traditional custodians of the Clare Valley region and have an ongoing connection to the land.

## Disclaimer

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For more info about the National EcoVineyards Program see [www.ecovineyards.com.au](http://www.ecovineyards.com.au)

This case study was collated by Dr Mary Retallack, Retallack Viticulture Pty Ltd