



Pepabr:

Creek line rehabilitation and revegetation

Viticulturist:

Edd and Patricia Perkins have been steadily working towards rehabilitating the creek lines that border and run through their vineyard, over the last twenty years.



McLaren Vale Wine Region

Key observations

What worked well?

- Work in stages and focus your efforts.
- Ensure you revisit your work regularly to avoid excessive weedy regrowth.

Pitfalls to avoid

- The main shortfall that we have noted is that we have not spent enough time in establishing understory to support the planted trees (establishment is particularly difficult in dry winters).
- I am always fire conscious and the trees diminish the fuel loading.
- It is a bit of a 'Catch-22' as the trees rob the weeds of moisture but understory would also contribute to any fire behavior.

Case Study

Background: We have been working on retaining remnant vegetation (primarily trees in two creek-lines) removing pest weeds and introduced species of trees (olives, bamboo, quinces and roses).

These have been replaced with native species but it is never enough (**photo bottom left**).

The creek lines are part of the Willunga creek tributary. They border and run through the middle of the vineyard.

This work has been ongoing since the early 1980's. In more recent years, due to the 'water affecting activity' laws we have needed to be careful in how we have carried out creek restoration. We are in the process of applying for a restoration permit. This has slowed us down as well as our age factor!

Trees planted need to match the crop established i.e. plant trees and bushes, which attract bird-life (to counter pests) but have a flowering period that does not clash with the crop in question - birds just go from one feed form to the crop because it is easier.

Observation: We have observed that some plantings like this Melaleuca shrub (**photo right**) can attract vine moths when they are flowering.



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