



## Ty - Bringing back the native butterflies

### What was your goal and what did you achieve?

I wanted to achieve a healthier area for butterflies to come back to, so there can be more native areas for the butterflies. From last year we had a bit done but this year we have increased it by quite a lot of plants, so I'm quite happy about that. It is a butterfly trail for native butterflies. It's a trail of gardens with native plants to attract them to stay and lay their eggs. The plants we planted this year haven't grown that much but the plants we planted last year have started attracting more of the White Migrant and the Caper White Migrant butterflies.

### Who did you work with?

I worked with Luke and students from Ms Heggarty's class and we met every week or so. We would go to the wetlands and scout out the wetlands to see what area would be better to plant plants than the last area. We ended up getting three areas planted but the Council also helped by providing plants and soil. They said that because we planted three areas and we didn't have time to plant the rest, they would plant the other two.

### How did you get the Council on board?

We kept sending them letter after letter. This was also part of the Bringing back the butterflies project.

### Biggest success?

Knowing that more native butterflies are returning to Australia and coming back from hiding, and that there are more areas for the native butterflies to go to.

### Next steps?

I'm hoping that the class I worked with will try to influence the next class and classes to come, to get more involved with plants and be more careful with what plants they choose. Last year we ended up running into a problem because we decided to plant a really good butterfly-attracting plant, but we noticed that it also started to attract birds, and since the plant was near a certain tree, the birds decided to change from attacking the butterflies to eating the nectar out of the tree's flowers and we now even have a bird's nest in there. When I go to high school next year, if a drought appears I will try and go over to the wetlands to water the plants if they haven't fully grown so that they survive.

## What did you enjoy most?

I enjoyed getting everybody involved and having fun with planting, also knowing that in the future to come allowing people to see creatures that if it (*the garden*) was never planted probably would have gone extinct.

*This case study was transcribed from an interview. These are Ty's words and opinions. Text in italics have been added by NRM Education.*