



Ashwyn - Reintroducing indigenous plants to our school

What was your goal and what did you achieve?

With the garden I wanted to encourage some other kids to help out with our school because there's a lot of areas around our school which have nothing in them and I think we could do something to make it look a lot nicer.

We planted a garden on this really dry area with lots of indigenous plants from the area and they're starting to grow quite well. We did some research on what plants are in the area and picked some that weren't too hard to grow and they also lasted a while.

We've got the plants from Mount Torrens, not too far from our school. When we first put them in, we didn't have to water them too much because it was during winter and it was raining quite a bit but if there was a few days without raining we might give them a little bit of water. I think we'll water them a little bit during this first summer.

Who has been working with you?

We did most of it with our class. Because we couldn't find much time during class, we did it during Gardening, so some of the other kids from the other classes did it during their Gardening time as well. Gardening is one of our lessons but we only really do it in a set area, whereas this will be expanding it to other areas around the school.

How we started was we went and talked to the Gardening teacher. I think they then talked to the Principal. Our class and the class below us did most of the work, but a few other classes did a little bit.

In one newsletter we told people what was going on in the area at school. Lots of people are more enthusiastic about it than I thought they would be so we actually got quite a bit of work done. We did a bit of watering to start off with, but now they've started to grow a bit more we don't have to do it very often.

What did you enjoy most?

For this project I really liked planting the plants and watching people trying to plant the big ones, because we had to dig a massive hole for the *Xanthorrhoea semiplana* that was quite big.

Next steps?

We're just hoping that people keep on looking after it because we've still got it slightly fenced off to stop people running through it and we hope that when they do grow a bit and we do take the fences away, people will look after it and won't trample over everything. We've talked a little bit to other students about taking care of that space. I'd like to see people doing other areas of the school as well, and people trying to help out the school because lots of people are just running around and not really caring about it. There's a few areas that I think would be a lot nicer if more people did do something like this.

Your advice to other students?

My advice to other students would be to make sure that they had the garden hoed properly first because it's very hard to plant those plants in an area that hasn't been hoed. The garden teacher, this person who comes in and helps us, he rotary hoed it and we didn't plant them straight after so it got trampled down a bit and then when we did plant them the ground was quite hard. The soil took the water pretty well in that area. Before there was a big tree in that area so it hadn't had any other plants in it, you just had one big tall tree and that was it.

This case study was transcribed from an interview. These are Ashwyn's words and opinions.