



Ethan and Jasmine - Creating homes for native animals

What was your goal and what did you achieve?

The aim of our project was to make more homes for native animals. We made animal houses, we made possum boxes, bird boxes, bat boxes and bee hotels and we also went up to Morgan with our committee and we planted a lot of plants.

We do a thing called CLM - Conservation Land Management - it's a VET course, so we went there with our class and we made a short video about it. They have mallee fowl mounds up there so we were learning about that type of stuff so it was pretty good.

How did you make the boxes?

We made them in CLM which is all day Wednesday, so that's where we learnt to make them and found out what animals like what type of box. Some of them are made out of completely recycled stuff, so for example we used a bicycle tube and a hinge, pallets and recycled mesh and stuff like that to make them.

We learnt that microbats can fit into the smallest holes, so the box is designed with a tiny hole so when they try and land they actually splat onto the mesh and crawl up because they can't see properly.

Who did you work with?

We worked together and we worked with CLM, because they planted plants and also made their own boxes, so we all work together in one class - there are 18 students at the moment.

Our VET course teachers were pretty good with helping - they let us do this for a whole lesson. We haven't really gone out and promoted it yet, but we're planning on doing that soon, like going to primary schools and talking about it.

We're gonna be making maybe a possum box for my house because a possum lives in our tree and we feed it, so I want to try and make one of these

Next steps?

I think it's always going to be an ongoing thing making this stuff, and looking after the environment.

Biggest success?

The amount of homes we've been able to make and put up. Everyone in our class made one so there would have been over 20. We put them up in trees and then sometimes we can get the pole camera and look in, and I think one of them has actually got eggs in it now.

What did you enjoy most?

The satisfaction of making homes for animals

Your advice to other students?

Just don't give up.

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