



Annabel & Angus - Protecting shorebirds in the South East

What was your goal and what did you achieve?

We want people to be more careful on the beaches where the beach-nesting birds could be, because quite a few of them are threatened or vulnerable and we want to try and boost their numbers. We've run a few education sessions at each of our schools (Penola, Glencoe) and in Mt Gambier with South East Natural Resources Management (SE NRM), and we made a sign which we'll put up at the beach. It has information about what you can do to help protect shorebirds. We designed it and got my cousin to make it, and have had a few A4 ones printed as well as one A2. We will get a few more printed because Friends of Shorebirds South East want some more for the beaches.

We presented our powerpoint at the main office for SE NRM in Mount Gambier and also at both of our schools. SE NRM emailed and invited us to come and share what we've been doing with a presentation to one of the meetings of the Board.

It's been good to have two people working on this because we've got different people we can talk to. Annabel's cousin does the signs and I know people from the Friends of Shorebirds South East so that's where we got all the networking help, brochures and stickers.

Who else has been involved?

My cousin who works for Diversity Signs, Tania and Vanessa from SE NRM and Maureen Christie, the main officer for Friends of Shorebirds SE. We also got help from our parents. We made an invitation and Natasha Dawson (NRM SE) emailed it out to everyone for the meeting presentation.

Did you have any challenges?

We don't go to the same school so we had to organise some meetings— Angus came to my house after school a few times, and we went to Naracoorte, so that was hard to organise.

Which skills did you improve?

Working as a team and networking. Being able to present to people confidently.

What was a highlight?

When we were doing our presentation to the NRM Board, that was fun and cool. There were 16 adults there and we had a lot of comments afterwards where they came up to us and said it was really good. Another really good moment was when I was worried about not getting anything done but then Angus came to my house and we got the sign finished.

Next steps?

When we get the sign up, hopefully people will take note of it and the hooded plovers will start to come back. The numbers went up quite a bit last year in the South East – they had at least 10 chicks fledge (that is when they are adults) so hopefully the numbers will keep going up.

Your advice to other students?

Get to know people who can help you with your shorebird project because there are lots of people that can give you lots of information. Know the network.

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