



Save our Skinks

Caleb - Saving the school skinks

What was your goal and what did you achieve?

I love skinks and all animals and want to be a vet when I grow up. I wanted to rebuild the skink habitat that we used to have in our school near our oval because it got destroyed for a nature play area. So we're trying to rebuild a habitat where they can live and give them shelter from predators. We decided to use an enclosed area that used to be a frog pond. I got together four friends who are really environmentally aware and they helped me bring my idea to life by building the habitat with logs and planting native plants. Our Deputy Principal gave us the permission and has checked in with us regularly and helped us along the way. I've put 10 posters up around the school and created and shared my flyer.

Have you had any challenges?

Two of my posters have been ripped down. Also we once went half an hour over our lunch time and got in trouble with our teacher, but the Deputy said he would talk to them.

What was your biggest success?

It felt great at the end of making it. It was a good feeling that we've accomplished something that's going to help the environment, and it was fun the whole time - it didn't feel like work at all. We've already found common garden skinks and marbled geckos living in the new habitat.

Next steps?

Two of my Year 6 friends said that they will maintain it when I go to high school. They might expand it. I hope the group that looks after it grows and it gets passed down.

Advice for other students?

Think big and never be afraid to follow something you're passionate about. It's always good to have the help of friends. Find an area that's suitable for habitat and do a fair bit of research first.

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