



Grace - Connecting through story: glossy black cockatoos

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

What was your goal and what did you achieve?

I wanted to meet some new people this year. I found that I made a really strong friend group last year and it was really cool meeting like-minded people who also care for the environment. There's not many of those people in small country towns.

Last year my project was conservation of private lands and I was going to continue with the documentary I started making, but because of the bushfires it wasn't really the right timing. Instead I decided to do an individual project where I wrote a small children's book about the glossy black cockatoos. I think the biggest achievement was getting a first handmade draft of the book so hopefully I'll be able to get a few more drafts in and then share it with other people in the community.

Who did you work with?

It was more of an individual project. Mum helped by getting me approval to use other people's photos and came up with some additional information to go in the book.

How did you source the photos?

Mum runs an event called the Wildlife Carnival and last year was about the glossy black cockatoo. It got cancelled because of the fires, so she had lots of photos of the glossy blacks people had sent her for the carnival. I got to use them with permission from the photographer.

How did you promote and share your work?

I haven't really done much yet because I've finished the final draft, but I'm hoping to share it within the small community of mum's friends that are all about the environment and helping it, and they're on all these different boards and things like that so I thought I'd share it with them and see where they take it, and/or put it in the school library as well, that might be something I can do. It's handmade so it will just be one copy. I might make more if I turn it into something I can print.

What will happen now?

I think this might be my last year of YEC but I'm hoping to continue the documentary that I started making. What I started doing is branching out into different areas with the original conservation project. This book is one and then hopefully I'll finish the documentary or go down another path.

Advice for other students?

Definitely gather information from someone that's dealing with this sort of project firsthand. Since I'm doing it myself and conserving our land it's a lot easier to write about, but if I was someone that was researching it without anyone saying 'oh this is what we've done' it'd be a bit harder.

If someone wanted to make like an educational resource or a book, definitely do multiple drafts because I thought that it was going to be perfect and then when I did it, I came up with lots of problems like, for example, hole punching the wrong side of the page.

What has been your favourite part?

Being creative with the projects - I love doing crafts and stuff like that so getting to actually make the book and pick out pages and pictures - I thought that was kind of cool.

