



## Grace - Custodians protecting the land

### What was your goal and what did you achieve?

I wanted to share the message of what conservation on private land is and how people on their properties can do the same by protecting their animals and their bushland. This year I have put together the start of documentary that's called 'Custodians protecting the land' and this documentary will showcase how we can protect our land, what we are doing currently and how other people can do the same. I've also set out survey lines on our property, cat traps and we've also begun weed management for Phytophythera disease and other things like that.

### How did your idea start?

I had a different idea at the YEC camp, and I said it to mum then I said I'm never going to be able to finish this, and she said some other ideas and we had a brainstorm and then she helped me get in contact with everyone, so parents definitely help.

### Who did you work with?

Definitely my parents but we also worked very closely with Land for Wildlife on Kangaroo Island who is a non-for-profit business. They have helped us set everything we need to do like the survey lines to help us collect the data; they're going to show us how we can then move forward with this process. We've also worked very closely with NRM

– they have a place where we can get seedlings so we've gone and got lots of different bushes and plants and learnt how we can plant them and provide habitat to birds, and the glossy blacks (cockatoos) which we're hoping to get more of on our property because they're extinct on the mainland.

### Was there any vegetation there before?

Once it was clear but when we got the property, it's 278 acres of just bushland and there are a few spots where it's kind of cleared but nothing really, so we have our river which flows quite often and there are lots of big trees up there so we find a lot of animals, which is where our photos came from. We have a lot of property.

### How did the survey work?

They set up this big line of nets and on either side is a camera so when the animal sees the net they either have to go this side or that side, they can't go through so that's how we get the photos and the camera picks up motion, so every time it sees something it would take three photos and if they're still in front of the camera it keeps taking photos, which is where we found our best photos from.

## How have you promoted your work?

Currently it is only a trailer and we have our local school film festival that they've been putting on lately, it's called the "Palmies" so they've accepted my documentary film trailer and they're going to play that and hopefully I'm going to win the environmentalist award, so I'm going for it. That's where I'm sharing it first and my mother runs event for her business and she's running the Wildlife Carnival where lots of different musicians come and perform and we have lots of people come and explain what they're doing for the environment, and I'm going to be having the stall with all the things that I've shown today, and the documentary potentially, so that's where I'll be sharing it with the community.

## Biggest success?

I think that my biggest success has been working with kids and understanding how they are perceiving what's happening in our world right now, but the biggest benefit for everyone else is that no one has done this yet, no one has created something like this, I think it's a first for my campus to have someone at YEC so I think for other people I'll help benefit them by teaching them something that I've tried very hard to learn and understand.

## Next steps?

So in the future I'll be showing at Palmies as I said, and mum's event, but I'm hoping to have the documentary finished and enter into the Fleurieu Film Festival competition that my media arts teacher has promoted to me, and I'm really hoping to help people understand what we can do, so even though it's small and it's just for our property, if everyone starts conserving land the future might have a better group of bushland to work with.

## What did you enjoy most?

Talking with youth, and not just the process of my project itself but the whole YEC because I've made new friends who I message everyday so I'm going to take a lot away from this and my favourite would be the editing of the documentary. Everything combined was such a memorable experience, that I still have to go along with because I have to make the rest of the documentary.

## Your advice to other students?

I felt like the motivation to do something was very hard to find because I definitely understand that me being in school and having everything happening, this was a big thing to be thinking 'I need to do this well and how I want it' and I feel like if I'd started a little bit earlier I might have gotten a better momentum rolling. Definitely getting help from people you know and understand what you're trying to do, so Land for Wildlife was a big one and the NRM website and all the ones I used to get all of my information from. Parents – definitely include them, even though I had a few fights with mum about wanting it to be my way not her way, in the end it definitely helped having her advice. Honestly, go with what you're passionate with because if I had done something else, I wouldn't have put the same effort into it.

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



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