



Hayley & Jasmine - Community clean up of Onkaparinga River

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

What was your goal and what did you achieve?

I wanted to do a project that could make people more aware of all the rubbish going into our oceans. I wanted to make people more aware of how much rubbish is going into the sea through the waterways from the road and houses.

We got together with Roots and Shoots to clean up the river at Noarlunga (the Onkaparinga) by the playground where lots of people just chuck their rubbish on the ground and it all goes into the sea straight from the river. Jasmine's mum is part of the Roots and Shoots group and she helped us organize it through them and get more people involved. We got friends from school to come and help and we cleaned up as much plastic as we could so it didn't go into the ocean.

How did you promote the event?

We put lots of posts up on Facebook and also told our class what was happening. Roots and Shoots did some promotion, and we let friends and family know in our community and then they passed it on to get more people involved.

What happened to the rubbish you collected?

I think the Roots and Shoots group organized with the council for them to pick it up and then dispose of it in the right way. We displayed some of it and took some photos.

What challenges did you face this year?

Staying motivated and managing time well with other activities that I do. Making sure that I got it finished on time. We found that not many people really wanted to help because they just weren't interested or motivated at all to come and clean up rubbish in a public space, so that's why we got together with Roots and Shoots because they were a bigger organisation and had more say. They got a lot more people to come and help clean up the river.

What will happen now?

Our project is now finished, but in the future, I will continue to clean up the rivers and oceans and beaches. We will continue to educate others about marine waste and how it's affecting the sea.

Your advice to other students?

Stay motivated and try and manage your time well. To keep others motivated, you have to be motivated as well. It's all hard work and then it gets easier, and you get like a reward at the end, of feeling that you've done something.

What have you enjoyed most?

The thing I most enjoyed was getting more people aware of issues like this and getting people involved in activities. Getting to know lots of people that I probably wouldn't know normally in Roots and Shoots. I would never have seen them unless I'd done the project.