



Jazmin - Raising awareness of the endangered Red-tailed Black Cockatoo

What was your goal?

Goal: This year I wanted to achieve spreading awareness about the endangered red-tailed black cockatoo in my community.

What did you achieve?

This year I have completed a variety of things during my project. I researched, collected and understood many forms of data regarding the endangered species.

I took action for these bird species by volunteering with Blaze Aid where a few others and myself planted over 300 trees like stringy bark trees.

I spoke to YELP students about my project and what actions they can take. I made a quiz that got over 90 responses.

I collected people's responses about what would make the biggest impact and decided to make a children's story book. That became one of the biggest parts of my project because the book will be printed soon.

Who did you work with?

My poppy took me literally everywhere I wanted to go and supported me through the whole project.

Gloria Clarke was a very knowledgeable person I met in Blaze Aid. She gave me a lot of help towards my project and about Red-tailed Black Cockatoos.

Then Adam Dunn and Sarah McCarthy helped me towards getting SACE Credit and editing my book.

What did you find challenging?

This year I faced many challenges leading into what I was exactly going to do. I did all my research over a month or so and set what I was going to do and how I was going to do it. I soon realised I needed a fair bit of money and time to complete that. So, I applied for many grants from councils all over the board. Unfortunately, none of those grants were approved.

I decided to take it into my own hands and started a [GoFundMe](#) to collect my own donations from people in my local area and places I went volunteering. I am trying to get a sponsor too.

How have you shared your work?

I have shared my work with both my school and community. Later on, during my project I reached out to a teacher to help me with my book. He soon realised how much work and effort I put into this project and shared it with the school staff. Soon after it was all over the High School Facebook page. I had many teachers reach out and they worked together and got me 20 SACE credits.

I shared it with my community by emailing my council member and put many posters around my community asking for donations and pamphlets explaining how they can help these threatened bird species.

What did you enjoy most?

The thing I have enjoyed most about doing this project is meeting so many like minded people and so many people in life that I'll be forever friends with. We can talk as a group of people that have the same mindset because there's not many people down in my area that know much about climate Justice or helping saving the environment and it's good to know that there are people out there that want to find solutions to problems that you think are impacting us.

I have highly enjoyed completing one of my dreams I have had since being a little kid: writing and publishing a book.

Next steps?

I haven't fully completed the project because my book still needs to be printed. When that happens, it will be distributed to schools around the South East and taken to places all over SA and Victor Harbour where you can find masses of Red-tailed Black Cockatoos. It will also be given to community members who would like to purchase a copy of it.

Once my book plans are completed I hope to start a mechanise foundation where all profits will go to the Red-tailed recovery program.

I might do a tree project and get a sponsor from a big nursery, so if I get them to donate some trees, I can give one to each kid at a school to plant and teach them the importance of a tree because it takes 20 years for them to grow.

I also would like to take schools out for a day to show them how bird boxes are placed into the tree tops and how important it is to continue growing the trees Red-tails need to survive.

I'd like to continue next year as a mentor for YEC.

Your advice to other students?

If I was to meet a student interested in doing a similar project I would recommend: Complete all your research as you go, it will help you remember it more and what are you going to do with all your information at once.

Go out and meet people and volunteer as the people you meet will often have a lot of information to help your project and save you doing so much research.

I would also say to update your school and community on what you are doing - you never know what information and support that might bring.

I would strongly recommend that you need money so apply for grants as soon as possible, they close fast. Take every opportunity that comes to you.

And make sure you're having fun and have a lot of passion in the field of your project.

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