



Keira - Monitoring and promoting Eyre Peninsula biodiversity

This case study was transcribed from interviews. These are Keira's words and opinions.

What was your goal and what did you achieve?

My project was about biodiversity of Lipson Cove (Eyre Peninsula) which is the coastal area where I live. This year I wanted to get as many observations as possible of all the biodiversity and animals and plants of the area. I also worked with a lady called Shelley and another person called Anthony and they were doing the Little Penguin survey on Lipson Cove Island. We had a GPS thing that I had to put in the coordinates of each spot and then Shelley took it back to where she was based, and she put it up on a map so you can see where each of the dots are of the burrows.

We found that there are a lot more penguins there than previous years when Shelley did it. I think there were around 12 burrows when Shelley went over there, so it wasn't as many, and now there's

45 active nests which is around 70 penguins. My dad has told me that he went over there when he was a kid, and there wasn't many and then a few years later there were heaps.

What were your biggest successes?

I've got a couple because my project was pretty big - going over to Lipson Cove Island and doing the Little Penguin survey. I was also lucky enough to get a Tumby Bay Council grant for a sign down at Lipson Cove and I got a letter from the Minister as well. It's for an information sign that I'm lucky enough to design and I get to put three of the iconic species of Lipson Cove on there so I chose dolphins, the Little Penguins and White-bellied sea eagles. My mum got me involved in it and she helped me a lot with that stuff and the emailing as I'm not really that good at that. I got two support letters and one letter to make it approved. There were a lot of pages.

Did you face any challenges?

Having time to focus on it I guess because the penguin survey kept getting put off because of COVID, and Shelley who did it with me, she had other things going on so that got put off for a few weeks. I just stuck to it and I was still really excited when it happened because that's probably one of my favourite parts.

How have you promoted or shared your work?

I haven't done much at the school yet but I'm going to do a talk to three schools - so my own school, Angara School which was my primary school and Port Neill Primary, about one of the iconic species on the sign at the Cove.

What will happen now?

Hopefully I'll be able to continue and start designing the sign and be able to put it down there by next year.

Your advice to other students?

Definitely stick at it and try your best and never give up.

What has been your favourite thing?

Going over to the island and doing the penguin survey, looking at all the animals and biodiversity as well as I was really excited about the grant for the signs as well.