



Ways of taking action on biodiversity and conservation

Lochlan

Providing a safe place for bugs, birds and lizards, particularly when they were crossing the road, motivated Lochlan to create a native garden on his home verge strip. He worked with his Dad, sourcing shrubs and grasses from State Flora at Belair National Park that met the council rules of being less than 1m in height when fully grown. He really enjoyed making the previous grass and gravel verge into an attractive habitat. The next stage is to research shade-loving plants to fill the gaps between the established plants.

Manil

An interest in endangered species prompted Manil to develop two posters - one outlining what the different vulnerability ratings were for animals at risk, and one sharing information about three endangered Australian species - the Tasmanian Devil, the Southern Cassowary and the Great White Shark. Manil also developed a quiz as another way of sharing and increasing people's knowledge about endangered animals. Staff shared his work with members of the YEC as well as promoting them as a resource for teachers to share with their students.

Noah

Noah worked with his class to build bird boxes for parrots and kookaburras and put them in the trees around their school and in the adjacent reserve. His class spent a few lessons designing the layout and deciding on information to include on four large interpretive signs which have been installed at the reserve. This was all part of a large Federal grant project to increase habitat and biodiversity in the area, which included a lot of planting of native species by the school and local Landcare groups last year.

Peta

Peta designed a monitoring project for nest boxes at Arbury Park Outdoor School. On two separate days, she recorded the height, orientation, nest box type, nest box condition, animal occupants, eggs or evidence (e.g. remains, chew marks, scratches) for 34 nest boxes. She found possums, ducks, lorikeets and rosellas in the boxes, as well as eggs of the bird species, plus some unintended guests like wasps. Just over one third of the boxes were being used by animals, but no bats were found using the bat boxes. Thanks to her data, the school knows which boxes need maintenance.