



Camberwell Primary School

Our Indigenous Garden

A Biodiversity Learning Story

In 2020 and 2021, we have been focusing on completing the Biodiversity module, and have been working towards achieving our 2nd star. Prior to working on the module our biodiversity score was 52. The score is calculated by doing a biodiversity audit and which we did in 2020 with our student environment team and we identified areas we could focus on to increase our score.

In 2020 we were selected by Boroondara Council to be part of the *Schools for Wildlife* Project. The aim of this project was to support primary schools to plan and plant an indigenous habitat garden on their grounds to increase biodiversity, provide habitat for wildlife, foster a sense of connection to nature in students and support environmental curriculum outcomes

As participants in the *Schools for Wildlife* project we were guided and supported through the process of creating an indigenous habitat garden on the school grounds.

Staff attended a Professional Development session where they discussed the project background, implementation and linking to the curriculum.

5A with Miss Jackson were selected to take part and proved to be enthusiastic garden designers, they had a session with Claire from CERES where they learnt about biodiversity, local animal habitat needs and habitat gardening.



Session 2 involved planning the garden and the garden design was developed by a professional landscape designer, based on the outcomes of this session.



The area around the portables was selected and we a lot of wonderful help from Boroondara council it was cleared of weeds and non-indigenous plants such as agapanthus, a small frog bog was installed and the area mulched.

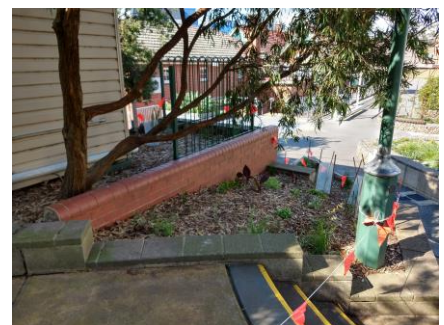


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In the final session the students planted the garden with Claire from CERES, the area was fenced off and signs made by the students to request other students did not access the area and took care when near the new plants.



The garden is growing beautifully and we are enjoying some spring flowering.



The plants were provided by the Conservation Collection Indigenous Plant Nursey who also kindly donated an extra 650 indigenous tube stock to the school. Around 350 of these plants were planted on the junior campus and in the new flag garden on national Tree day and the remainder were taken home and planted by staff and students.



The biodiversity audit was revised in October 2021 and included the new plantings, frog bog, more mulching, 6 green cones and 4 compost bins. Our school is now currently sitting at a score of 71 thanks to the work we have done in the school and being part of ResourceSmart Schools which has guided our practices in the areas of curriculum, campus, culture and community and continues to provide clear goals moving forward.