

The EcoMarine Possum and Bee Habitat

At DCSS



This year the EcoMarines decided to create a possum and bee habitat in our school. The first part of this project involved a lot of planning. During our Eco-marine meetings we had to decided on an area of the school to improve, pick the animals we would be creating a home for, research native plants that these animals like and talk about how we were going let everyone in the school know about our project. We had many meetings with our principal, Mrs Mabb to help us make decisions about our project. We all helped to raise awareness around our school with the younger kids and the parents about what was happening, but we did this in a fun way. We invited all grades to come and join us on World Environment Day where we held an animal hunt, at lunch time around the school and a colouring competition. At Under 8's day we set up a workshops to raise awareness about our project. We did a rubbish run teaching the kids which bin to put their rubbish in, made insect hotels for our garden, did a scavenger hunt with all the local animals and a bee fingerprint sign, which we are putting in our garden. We helped the kids learn about our local animals and the garden we were going to create.



The Working Bee

The next step in our project was to clear out the trees we didn't need and were no longer allowed to be planted on school site, to make a nice habitat for the bees and possums. We held a working bee day on the 18th of May to clear out the trees. The P&C, Mr Burn, Eco-Marine students, parents, teachers and Mrs Mabb participated in this event to help clear out the old plants. During the working bee we cleared out sticks and over grown plants. Mr Burn came back and cleared and flattened out the area using his machinery.

During the year we had been fundraising money through the collection of bottles and we planned to use this money to help buy the things needed for our animal habitat. After researching we decided to plant Callistemons, Grevilleas, Lilly Pillies, Liriopes and other flowering plants for the bees and possums.



Planting

First, we had a meeting with Mrs Mabb to figure out where we were going to plant the plants and how the area at the front of the school was going to look. Then some of the EcoMarines wrote a letter to Bunnings, asking if they could help us by getting some plants and grass we needed, within our budgeted amount. Bunnings kindly offered us the plants and grass we needed to build our animal habitat.

On the 4th of September we had a planting day at the front of the school. Mrs Mabb (our principal), Anna Murray, Mr Burn, Mrs Stanley and the Eco-Marines were all there to help plant. Mr Burn, Anna Murray and Mrs Stanley worked with part of our group to plant the plants at the front of the school while Mrs Mabb worked with another group to clear out the weeds from our vegetable garden and replant flowers for our bees and possums.

It took a few weeks to fully complete the garden. We had to mulch and water our plants and let them grow. Pretty, soon all the possums will be moving in!



Grand Opening

During Education Week in Week 4 we will be opening up our garden. We will be taking the classes on tours of our garden, pointing out the important aspects of it. We will be holding a grand opening on the 25th of October for the parents to kick-off our parent open afternoon. Student will also be painting kindness rocks to form the sides of our path.

