

Bank Revegetation Project

The bank is a much-loved area of our school, used for nature play under the large habitat trees that provide shade and cover. We also use this area when learning about biodiversity. Increasing the biodiversity of our school grounds is a priority. Each year we add to the biodiversity of this area by planting indigenous plants.

However, it has been a challenge establishing plants on the higher slope area of 30m x 5m in size

We wanted to renovate this area by:

- Creating paths for students to walk through.
- Dig in large rocks and logs to stabilize the soil and catch fallen leaf litter to create top soil.
- Install a watering system attached to water tanks
- Fence off parts of the area.
- Plant out the area with indigenous plants
- Mulch the area.

This project will add to the work that our school community has already done to increase the biodiversity of this area.

Beginning with the stabilization of the soil and installing of an automatic watering system. This will ensure that plants have the best chance of survival. Importantly plants will be watered on a regular basis and throughout the summer. The fencing will stop students from entering this area until the plants are established. The small shrubs will provide thickets to attract the smaller bird species such as silver eyes, superb fairy wren and eastern spine bill a few of the birds that are missing from our current species list. Rocks and logs will provide habitats for skinks and bluetongue lizards that we hope to entice back to this area. We also want to add flowering plants that will add to our list of native bees already spotted to our garden.

Curriculum Links

This year, students from grade 3/4 have been learning about weathering and soil erosion. They collected soil samples from two areas on the bank- top and bottom of the slope. They compared the samples, identify differences, predicted which soil would be the best to grow plants and explained why. Students also completed a Plants and Soil Erosion Experiment. They were able to apply what they learnt from this experiment to our bank area and made the recommendations to stabilize the soil for this project.

Student Involvement

Environment Club Students

- Weed removal
- Identify soil erosion and compaction areas.
- Create signage
- Mark out the areas to best position logs and rocks to protect the soil from further erosion and to capture the falling leaf litter.
- Maintain the area on an ongoing basis.

Students from grade 3/4

- Plant out the area.
- The area once established will be used for learning about biodiversity. We know minibeasts already live under the logs and rocks and we have sighted and identified several fungi species. We hope the smaller shrubs and flowering plants will attract birds and insects. Students in grades 1-4 learn about minibeasts and birds each alternate year and carry out minibeasts and bird audits. So far, we have identified 30 different species.

We will continue with our yearly indigenous plants planting schedule until we have achieved a thriving habitat for birds, insects, and reptiles.

Community Involvement

We asked members from the Bushland Team from the City of Greater Dandenong to recommend which plants to plant in this area. We have received a donation of the plants from CGD. Bushland Team from CGD have supported us each year for Tree Planting Day by coming on site to help us plant out the chosen area. We were also successful in getting a grant from Planet Ark for \$400 worth of Indigenous plants which were supplied by Greenlink Sandbelt Indigenous Nursery.

Bank area before Planting Day



During the last week of Term 3, onsite students helped to plant 400 indigenous plants on the bank.

