



Bush Tucker Garden Project

2018 – Landcare Grant

Participants: Bentons Square
Butterfly Class

Projects Achievements



Our Bentons Square Nature class enjoyed the opportunity to design, develop and maintain our "Bush Tucker Garden" this year. Through the success of our project we were able to achieve wonderful hands on teaching and learning opportunities. We have learnt about caring for our local environment to help support its fauna and flora. As the site we use has many rabbits, the children have also learnt about introduced plants and animals and the devastating impact they have on our native habitats and wildlife. The hands on nature of our projects has given our students the opportunity to learn about biodiversity in a way they understand.

Project Challenges



Our project mostly went according to plan, we had a few challenges with sourcing some local native plants, which meant that we could only plant four different species. However the children were still happy with their choices. Luckily each plant has a different traditional use which provides rich learning opportunities. Next year we will be able to make teas, dig up some tubers and pick berries and flowers from our fruiting bushes.



Working with families and the community



This project has encouraged stronger links and communication between the kinder and the Mornington Peninsula Shire, as well as the local Landcare group. During our outdoor sessions the children have demonstrated ownership of the project by talking about the plants and how they can be used with our parent helpers.

Key out puts of the project

- We planted roughly 40 local indigenous plants, this was all that we could source. We have additional plants ordered for April 2019.
- Community connections : Contacting local landcare group, Mornington Shire, Briars nursery to gather information regarding appropriate plants for area.
- Events: Planting day
- Ongoing during care of our plants during our nature kinder sessions
- Each nature session we remove litter from the site.
- Local Aboriginal Elder - Murrindindi visited our Bush Tucker garden and ran a session on traditional Aboriginal ways of living. As well as taught us more about the plants we chose for our bush tucker garden and how they were traditionally used.
- Learning about biodiversity: Each nature session the children discuss the changes they are noticing in our plants for example the growth, condition of the soil, buds/ flowers, insects or bird life they notice.
- Researching what types of plants were growing at our site and what were appropriate to purchase.
- Research: working as a group to decide, where, how and what we needed via collaboration and discussion to make a plan for our project.



Educational learning outcomes

The children participated in the research, design and planting of our bush tucker garden. They learnt about which local plants would be appropriate and non-invasive for the site and recorded their ideas through drawing and writing in our program plan. During this research stage we learnt about sustainability, making connections to the traditional Aboriginal way of sustainable life. This knowledge supported us to make changes in our classroom to have more sustainable practices. Using internet research as well as books and pamphlets the children explored basic biological science learning how the plants support and sustain life.

Environmental outcomes

Many of the plants we chose are insect and bird attracting. Much of the site is dry and dusty, we are hoping with the additional plants in conjunction with us caring for the area will improve the quality of the soil.



Maintenance Plan



The bush tucker garden we developed in 2018 will be maintained each year by the nature preschool class at Bentons Square Kindergarten, we plan on attending the site weekly in 2019.



Participants quotes

- Teacher "Participating in our bush tucker project was a wonderfully rich hands on learning experience, which connected us and helped us to better understand and care for our local bush land."
- Ayla - "I learnt that planting is fun"
- Owen - "we had to get water from the creek to water the plants"
- Tahlia - "tree guards stopped the bunnies from eating our plants"
- Erica - "I learnt that some leaves and flowers are soft, smooth and some bumpy"
- Billy - "The plants looked good"
- Lachlan - "I had fun digging holes in the group and putting the plants in"
- Harvey - "I had fun using the shovel and using my hands to put the plants in"



Murrindindi's Visit –
Sharing of knowledge.
Murrindindi for taught
us about some
traditional uses for our
Bush Tucker plants, as
well as other plants at
our nature site.



Documenting our project

In these pictures the children are recording the growth of the plants, we have created a book of the children findings.



Documenting changes



Observations of nature, using pencils and watercolour paints. The children drew and painted a picture of a plant they found interesting. We have also made these paintings into a book.

Thank you for viewing our project report, we hope you enjoyed learning about our Bush Tucker Garden project

