

News from the ASBP partnership

Showing students the science of seeds

Introduction by Damian Wrigley, National Coordinator, Australian Seed Bank Partnership

Seedbanks and the science that underpins our work provide practical and fun options for students to engage with native plant conservation. Seedbanks provide a safe space for students to understand the importance of Australia's native plants and to explore the science and techniques that underpin native seed collection, use and conservation. We would like to say a big thank you to the students from Woodlupine Primary School in Western Australia and Kildare College in South Australia for helping our seed banks to conserve native species and for sharing their perspectives on what they've learned from our seed science experts.

Woodlupine Primary School and the Western Australian Seed Centre

ANDREW CRAWFORD^{1*} AND TREVOR PHOEBE²

¹ Western Australian Seed Centre, Kensington, Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions.

² Woodlupine Primary School, Western Australia.

*Corresponding author: Andrew.Crawford@dbca.wa.gov.au

Nestled in the foothills of the Darling Range in Western Australia lies Woodlupine Primary School. Like all primary schools, the basics of a good education, including reading, writing, mathematics and science are covered. However, the school was seeking to instil more than these basics in their students, they were wanting to develop skills, attitudes and knowledge that would help them meet the changing demands of the 21st century. There was a realisation that the planet is facing some significant environmental challenges, and rather than waiting for others to come up with solutions the school was wanting a way of becoming involved in conservation in a practical, but meaningful way.

It was with this thinking that the idea for the seed project was born. School Principal Trevor Phoebe had heard about the work being carried out around Australia by the Australian Seed Bank Partnership, and so approached the partnership for ideas of how to become involved. He then contacted the Western Australian Seed Centre where the idea of establishing a seed production area, to grow and collect seed of conservation significant plant species, was developed. The project was officially launched in May 2019 and seed has already been collected from two of the three species established in the initial trial phase of the project (*Bossiaea modesta* and *Puccinellia vassica*). The third species, *Schoenia filifolia* subsp. *subulifolia* has flowered and seed is in the process of being collected.

On the next page, we have some contributions from the students of Woodlupine Primary School, their thoughts on the project, and what they are learning from it.



Bossiaea modesta. Photo: Andrew Crawford



Drawing of *Bossiaea modesta*. Declan – Year 5, Woodlupine Primary School

The project is important because

The bosia modesta is endangered and if we don't look after it, it will die out and then more plants will die.

Alice – Year 5, Woodlupine Primary School

We can help them and if we don't there might not be anymore and they might not grow again.

Aoife – Year 5, Woodlupine Primary School

it helps endangered flowers grow by storing seeds in the seed bank.

Harvey – Year 6, Woodlupine Primary School

lots of plants are becoming endangered

Lexi – Year 5, Woodlupine Primary School

we learnt about how to ~~save~~ some endangered plants and facts about them, which tells us how to save these plants. it also helps us engage in social activities.

Jesse – Year 5, Woodlupine Primary School

Everyone needs to help endangered flowers and try to bring them back and that is what we are doing in W.P.S.

Makayla – Year 5, Woodlupine Primary School

If we don't protect them or help them, its likely it will go extinct.

Skye – Year 5, Woodlupine Primary School

That different plants have different require~~x~~ requirements like some plants have to have particular soils, temperatures, etc

Alice – Year 5, Woodlupine Primary School

From doing this project i have learnt

I have learned that theres alot of endangered plants and that we can do alot to help them

Aoife – Year 5, Woodlupine Primary School

that flowers and trees are very important to us and if we don't save the nature we will be in danger

Febe – Year 6, Woodlupine Primary School

To save plants and dont disrespect them

Hunter – Year 4, Woodlupine Primary School

facts about the bosiaea modesta and how alot of plants/flowers are endangered, I also learnt how we can save these plants. I learnt that the bosiaea modesta grows in the south ^{west} of WA.

Jesse – Year 6, Woodlupine Primary School

I think

More schools and homes should be looking after this plant.

Alice – Year 5, Woodlupine Primary School

Other school should start doing it because it is very educated, exiting, and you can save the world!

Febe – Year 5, Woodlupine Primary School

We should save indangered plants so they dont get instinked.

Hunter – Year 5, Woodlupine Primary School

This project is good our school is helping native plants to bring them back. because if we don't start making changes who will so that is why me and the rest of the kids did this project.

Makayla – Year 5, Woodlupine Primary School