

## POISON GULLY WEST - MAKE IT A NAME NOT A REALITY!

### END OF YEAR REPORT

The students from classrooms 2 and 14, years 5, 6 and 7 embarked upon an exciting project, to bring the wildlife back to Poison Gully West.

We began by taking the students to the Reserve to pick up rubbish and generally discover what impact people had had upon the Reserve. We enlisted the help of The Kalamunda Shire. Mr Dale Allan the Environmental Officer visited the site with us and explained the role that the Shire played in rehabilitation and the help they would be able to assist us with. He brought with him a number of rubbish bags for us to use.

During this time we applied to Coles of Kalamunda for a grant of over \$3,000 that would help us to purchase nesting boxes, rushes, sedges, rubbish bags and gloves. Whilst we were waiting to find out if we had been successful we carried out a number of experiments and activities at the Gully with the students. The local residents and parents joined us and helped out with these activities.

We arranged for a variety of jobs that the students could apply for. These were

Flora experts

Insect experts

Fauna experts

Historians

Newspaper Journalists

Educational Officers

Tree experts

Campaign Managers

Photographers

Cartographers

The students had to complete an application form for the vacancy that they believed would suit them the best. Once the groups were ascertained they were given a variety of jobs to complete.

We integrated topics into our project, one of the most successful projects was combining the Poison Gully activities with Government issues. We were honoured to have visits from Eric Ripper MLA Member for Belmont, Sharryn Jackson Federal member of Hasluck, Elizabeth Taylor - Shire President 2004, Judy Edwards and Peter Garrett Environment Minister. The students escorted the V.I.P's around the reserve pointing out the projects that had been carried out, and future projects.

The work that the students produced back at school, across all learning areas, were displayed at, The Royal Show, Forrestfield Shopping Centre and Kalamunda Shopping Centre. The students were also invited to present a radio programme explaining their involvement in the project on Kalamunda local radio stations.

Overall the Poison Gully West project got bigger and bigger. There were many "spin offs" from the project. Apart from the importance of learning about our environment the students have also learnt a lot about a variety of employment opportunities and University and TAFE courses offered.

June Winter

Year 6/7 Teacher

Edney Primary School