



BIOBLITZ YEAR 10 CAMP

2022 Project Report

Dates: Saturday 17th and Sunday 18th September 2022

Venue: Amaroo Environmental Education Centre

90 Kleinton School Road

Kleinton via Toowoomba QLD 4352

This event is brought to the region
in partnership between:



**Queensland
Government**

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The Jarowair people of the Western Waka Waka nation have been custodians for many thousands of years of the land on which Amaroo EEC sits. We acknowledge their stewardship of the land and pay our respects to their elders past, present and emerging.

Background

Inspiring Australia called for Expressions of Interest from the various Regional STEM hubs to apply for a grant that focused on Sustainability and Citizen Science. Amaroo Environmental Education Centre (EEC), which is a member of the Darling Downs and South West Region STEM Hub, applied for two events: a Sustainability Showcase which will be a community event that will focus on the Amaroo EEC's Eco Classroom and other sustainability initiatives, and a BioBlitz Camp for Year 10 students in the Darling Downs Region. We were successful in receiving a grant for \$3,250 to implement both events. This report concerns the BioBlitz Camp. The budget analysis of funds expended is in Attachment 2.

A flyer was created (Attachment 1) and sent to every Secondary School with Year 10 students in the Darling Downs and Lockyer Valley Region (i.e. 150kms radius from Toowoomba) inviting two Year 10 students at each school to participate in the inaugural BioBlitz Camp to be held at Amaroo EEC on Saturday 17th and Sunday 18th September 2022.

Nine students from six Secondary Schools participated in the inaugural BioBlitz Camp:

Student's Name	School
Letiaa Trapp	St Ursula's College
Nuala Pierce	St Ursula's College
Jorga Hill	Warwick State High School
James Henry	Warwick State High School
Maggie Myer	Scots PGC College

Student's Name	School
James Sparshott	Highfields State Secondary College
Hudson Oliver	Darling Downs Christian College
Charlotte Polzin	Crow's Nest State School
Sarah Taylor	Crow's Nest State School



Cam Mackenzie, Principal, Amaroo EEC and Amanda Kilgour, Head of Science Faculty, St Ursula's College were the camps supervisors. Liz Mackenzie was the camp caterer.

We also invited a number of natural history experts to assist in the delivery of this environmental education emersion experience for the students. These mentors were:

Name	Expertise	Organisation
Trish Gardner	Local native plants	Toowoomba Field Naturalists
Greg Spearritt	Local native plants	Amaroo EEC
Greg Ford	Bats and other mammals	Balance Environmental
Sandy Robertson	Mammals and other wildlife	Land for Wildlife
Andy Howe	Entomologist	Uni of Sunshine Coast
Scot McPhie	Birds	Bird Life Australia
Kym and Peter Sparshott	Natural history	Leaftail Environmental
Dave Hoolihan	Data analysis	Qld Parks and Wildlife Service

Program

The program commenced with a Wildlife Showcase with Martin Fingland from [Geckoes Wildlife](#) presenting 15 captive native animals. The Showcase was open to the general public; 79 individuals and family participants, plus the 9 BioBlitz students and 8 BioBlitz volunteers attended, making a total of 96 participants. Three attendees won the lucky door prize which was an annual membership to [Wildlife Queensland](#) and an annual family subscription to [Wildlife Australia Magazine](#). This used the extra \$250 that was added to the original grant application as an incentive for participation.



Saturday 17 September 2022	
Time	Activity
10am	Arrival at Amaroo EEC, 90 Kleinton School Road, Kleinton
10:30 am	Registration
11:00am	Acknowledgment of Country and overview of Bio Blitz Program
11:30am	Lunch in Murri Room
12:00noon	Animal presentation by Martin Finland – Gecko Wildlife in Eco Classroom
2:00pm	Checking nest boxes in old tree – Ben Sparshott
2:30pm	Bushwalk and Magic Spot – Cam Mackenzie, Principal, Amaroo EEC
3:00pm	Plant I.D. – Greg Spearritt, Teacher, Amaroo EEC & botanical expert
4:00pm	Afternoon tea and set up tents
4:30pm	Mammal Trapping techniques and setting traps – Sandy Robertson, Fauna Bytes Ecological Services
5:30pm	Bird watching dusk chorus – Scot McPhie from Bird Life Australia
6:30pm	Showers
7:00pm	Dinner
7:30pm	Reptiles & Amphibians – A Photographic Presentation of Selected Local Species by James Sparshott
8:00pm	Mammal Presentation by Greg Ford, Director of Balance Environmental and Past President and Life Member of the Australian Bat Society followed by spotlighting for nocturnal mammals including hopefully bats.
9:00pm	Campfire

Sunday 18 September 2022	
Time	Activity
5:00am	Check mammal traps and harps – Greg Ford and Sandy Robertson
6:00 am	Bird watching dawn chorus – Scot McPhie from Bird Life Australia
7:30am	Breakfast
8:30am	Interesting Insect-Plant Relationships - An Overview of Two Local Projects being Studied in Conjunction with Dr Don Sands (retired CSIRO Entomologist) - Peter Sparshott
9:30am	Invertebrate trap inspection and I.D. - Andy Howe, Uni of Sunshine Coast and Kym and Peter Sparshott, Leaf-tail Environmental
10:30am	Morning tea
11:00am	Data capture using Esri GIS and other Citizen Science website tools (e.g. Australian Atlas, Wildnet and iNaturalist, with assistance from Dave Hoolihan)
12:30pm	Decamp
1:00pm	Lunch
2:00pm	Depart

Outcomes

All students received a BioBlitz Camp booklet which enabled them to record any natural history encounter that they experienced. The booklet included space to record notes or event sketches, which some of the students made use of in the Magic Spot.

All students and some of the volunteer natural history experts were able to access iNaturalist and upload observations to the [Amaroo BioBlitz 2022 project](#).

The screenshot shows the iNaturalist project page for 'Amaroo BioBlitz 2022'. The header features a banner image of a sign for 'Amaroo Environmental Education Centre' with the project title and dates 'SEP 12, 2022 - SEP 19, 2022'. To the right, there is an 'About' section with 'Members 10', 'Discover and record wildlife at Amaroo', and 'Read More >'. Below the banner, a navigation bar shows 'Overview' (selected), '4 OBSERVATIONS', '4 SPECIES', '2 IDENTIFIERS', and '3 OBSERVERS'. A 'Stats' button is also present. The 'Recent Observations' section includes a 'View All' button and four observation cards: 'Gum Trees' (Tribe Eucalypteae), 'Spiders' (Order Araneae), 'Australian Long-eared B...' (Genus *Nyctophilus*), and '*Symplecta pilipes*'. Each card includes a photo, a user profile icon, and a timestamp of '2 months ago'.

Wildlife Observations

Bats were detected either through trapping or through audio recording by Greg Ford, Matthew Head and Sandy Robertson, all of whom have been vaccinated for the bat lyssavirus. (NB: No one else handled any bats.)

- Gould's Wattled Bat *Chalinolobus gouldii* (calls only)
- Chocolate Wattled Bat *Chalinolobus morio* (caught and calls)
- Gould's Long-eared Bat *Nyctophilus gouldi* (caught and calls - but calls of the genus can't be differentiated so Lesser LEB *N. geoffroyi* possibly also present)
- Little Forest Bat *Vespadelus vulturnus* (caught and calls)



- Ride's Free-tailed Bat *Ozimops ridei* (calls only)
- Northern Free-tailed Bat *Ozimops lumsdenae* (calls only)
- White-striped Free-tailed Bat *Austronomus australis* (heard by those with good hearing - and spotlighted by James "The Whiz" Sparshott)
- Eastern Bent-winged Bat *Miniopterus orianae oceanensis* (detected by Matt with his Anabat Walkabout)

Birds observed in the early morning dawn and evening dusk bird walks with Scot McPhee.

Saturday 17th September at 5pm

Galah	<i>Eolophus roseicapilla</i>
Australian King-Parrot	<i>Alisterus scapularis</i>
Red-backed Fairy-wren	<i>Malurus melanocephalus</i>
Noisy Friarbird	<i>Philemon corniculatus</i>
Yellow-faced Honeyeater	<i>Caligavis chrysops</i>
White-throated Gerygone	<i>Gerygone olivacea</i>
Yellow-rumped Thornbill	<i>Acanthiza chrysorrhoa</i>
Pied Currawong	<i>Strepera graculina</i>
Willie Wagtail	<i>Rhipidura leucophrys</i>
Grey Fantail	<i>Rhipidura fuliginosa</i>
Leaden Flycatcher	<i>Myiagra rubecula</i>
Silvereye	<i>Zosterops lateralis</i>



Sunday 18th September at 5am

Australian King-Parrot	<i>Alisterus scapularis</i>
Pale-headed Rosella	<i>Platycercus adscitus</i>
Rainbow Lorikeet	<i>Trichoglossus moluccanus</i>
Scarlet Honeyeater	<i>Myzomela sanguinolenta</i>
Noisy Friarbird	<i>Philemon corniculatus</i>
Yellow-faced Honeyeater	<i>Caligavis chrysops</i>
Spotted Pardalote	<i>Pardalotus punctatus</i>
White-throated Gerygone	<i>Gerygone olivacea</i>
Speckled Warbler	<i>Pyrrholaemus sagittatus</i>
Brown Thornbill	<i>Acanthiza pusilla</i>
Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	<i>Coracina novaehollandiae</i>
Grey Shrike-thrush	<i>Colluricincla harmonica</i>
Willie Wagtail	<i>Rhipidura leucophrys</i>
Leaden Flycatcher	<i>Myiagra rubecula</i>



Mammals were trapped in Elliott Traps or larger cage traps, supervised by Greg Ford and Sandy Robertson who both have animal ethics approval for animal trapping.

- 2 x [Antechinus flavipes flavipes](#) (Yellow footed Antechinus)
- 3 x [Rattus fuscipes](#) (Bush rats)
- 2 x [Mus musculus](#) (House mouse)
- 1 x [Trichosurus vulpecula](#) (Common Brush tail possum)



Plants identified using a site-specific Identification Key developed by Amaroo staff included:

<i>Acacia maidenii</i>	Maiden's Wattle	<i>Eustrephus latifolius</i>	Wombat Berry
<i>Acacia pustula</i>	Possum Blossom	<i>Everistia vacciniifolia</i>	Small-leaved Canthium
<i>Alectryon diversifolius</i>	Scrub Boonaree	<i>Gahnia aspera</i>	Rough Sawsedge
<i>Alphitonia excelsa</i>	Red Ash	<i>Geijera salicifolia</i>	Brush Wilga
<i>Angophora floribunda</i>	Rough-barked Apple	<i>Geitonoplesium cymosum</i>	Scrambling Lily
<i>Angophora leiocarpa</i>	Rusty Gum	<i>Hydrocotyle laxiflora</i>	Stinking Pennywort
<i>Brachychiton populneus</i>	Kurrajong	<i>Jasminum didymum</i>	Native Jasmine
<i>Cheilanthes sieberi</i>	Mulga Fern	<i>Jasminum simplicifolium</i>	Stiff Jasmine
<i>Cupaniopsis parvifolia</i>	Small-leaved Tuckeroo	<i>Lantana camara*</i>	Lantana
<i>Denhamia bilocularis</i>	Rough Orangebark	<i>Lobelia purpurascens</i>	White Root
<i>Dichondra repens</i>	Dichondra	<i>Notelaea microcarpa</i>	Native Olive
<i>Dodonaea viscosa</i>	Hop Bush	<i>Oxalis perennans</i>	Oxalis
<i>Einadia hastata</i>	Berry Saltbush	<i>Parsonsia straminea</i>	Monkey Rope Vine
<i>Eleaodendron australis</i>	Red Olive Plum	<i>Passiflora suberosa*</i>	Corky Passionfruit
<i>Erythroxylum</i> sp. 'Splityard Creek'	Redwood Bush	<i>Pimelea neoanglica</i>	Poison Pimelea
<i>Eucalyptus acmenoides</i>	White Mahogany	<i>Pittosporum viscidum</i>	Birds Nest Bush
<i>Eucalyptus crebra</i>	Narrow-leaved Ironbark	<i>Santalum lanceolatum</i>	Sandalwood
<i>Eucalyptus mollucana</i>	Gum-topped Box	<i>Solanum nemophilum</i>	Bush Tomato
<i>Eucalyptus tereticornis</i>	Forest Red Gum	<i>Solanum stelligerum</i>	Devil's Needles



Video Record

A video that captured part of the first day of the BioBlitz Camp including the Wildlife Showcase was developed and is available for viewing on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/wqZLDfgQvAw>