



THREATENED SPECIES

art & writing

COMPETITION



Teacher resource kit

backyard is how
diversity of native
animals



2017 Threatened Species Art Competition,
1st place winner, 5-6 age category.
Torres Raboso 'Eastern free tail bat'.



2017 Threatened Species Art Competition,
2nd place winner, 5-6 age category.
Carter Stanislav 'Painted honeyeater'

Introduction

The Macarthur region, our backyard, is home to a wide diversity of native plants and animals. Many of these plants and animals are at risk from a range of threatening processes such as habitat loss, competition with and predation by introduced species and disease. The populations of some of these species have dropped to the point that they are at risk of extinction in the immediate to long-term future, these species are referred to as threatened species.

The Threatened Species Art and Writing Competition (TSAC) is a regional environmental education program, involving Campbelltown City Council, Camden Council and Wollondilly Shire Council. The competition celebrates Biodiversity Month (September) and Threatened Species Day on 7 September.

The competition targets all stages of primary school, and is open to young people aged 5-12. TSAC encourages students to learn about a local threatened species and represent it in a piece of artwork or creative writing piece.

The artwork and creative writing pieces become part of a travelling exhibition across the Macarthur region at Council libraries as well as an engaging education resource for the wider community.

The competition is now in its ninth year and through its cross-curricula nature has been successfully engaging primary schools in Geography, Science, Visual Arts and English throughout the Macarthur region.

How do schools enter their artwork?



The TSAC encourages schools to engage and enter as many students as possible. Schools have the opportunity to win prizes and students can also win individual prizes based on their age category.

We want you to create an artwork that celebrates the beauty and uniqueness of our threatened plants and animals.

Entering the competition is easy. Simply complete the entry form with your artwork and send to one of the following venues:

- **Campbelltown City Council Civic Centre**

Customer Service Desk,
Cnr Queen and Broughton Streets,
Campbelltown

- **Camden Council Administration Building**

70 Central Avenue, Oran Park

- **Wollondilly Council Administration Building**

Customer Service Desk,
62-64 Menangle Street, Picton

By post:

Campbelltown City Council

Threatened Species Competition
PO Box 57
CAMPBELLTOWN NSW 2560

Camden Council

PO BOX 183
Camden NSW 2570

Wollondilly Council

PO Box 21
Picton NSW 2571

To download an entry form visit

campbelltown.nsw.gov.au/tsac • wollondilly.nsw.gov.au • camden.nsw.gov.au

Things to remember:

- **Artwork Entries will be judged in the following age groups:**

- o 5 to 6 years
- o 7 to 9 years
- o 10 to 12 years

- **Get as creative as you like with your artwork, using as many different mediums (pens, pencils, textas, sticks, cellophane etc) as possible**

- **If you choose to enter your class under one entry form, Council asks that you label the back of each artwork with:**

- o Student name
- o Class
- o Age

Entries close:

Tuesday 28 August 2018

How do schools enter their creative writing story?

We want you to write a short story that celebrates the beauty and uniqueness of our threatened plants and animals. You can get as creative as you like, however the story must include facts about one or more of the following:

- the plant or animal's habitat
- animal's diet
- the threats to the plant or animal
- how you think we can save the plant or animal from extinction.



Entry is open to writers aged 8 to 12 years.

All you need to do is:

- write a creative story that could be read to someone aged 5-6 years old
- make sure your story is no longer than one A4 page.

Creative writing criteria

- 50% for three or more accurate facts about your chosen species
- 20% Creativity
- 10% grammar
- 10% structure. Beginning-middle-end

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Campbelltown
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Open Access Learning grant

Open Access Learning is an initiative of the Australian Botanic Garden Mount Annan to support children of all abilities and socio-economic backgrounds to enjoy access to exhibitions and education programs delivered in the Garden.



Eligibility

A subsidy of excursion cost and a travel subsidy is offered only to schools or classes registered as having special learning needs, remote or rural schools or special needs children's organisations on the ACNC register, or other school groups with proof of disadvantage as described in the terms on the website (see link below).

australianbotanicgarden.com.au/Learn/Primary-School-Excursions/Australian-Botanic-Garden-Primary-School-Excursion/Open-Access-Learning



2017 Threatened Species Art Competition, 3rd place, 10-12 age category.
Brett Langton and James Harnett, 'Eastern pygmy possum'.

Australian Botanic Gardens school excursion

Australia is home to many plants and animals that cannot be found anywhere else on earth. But – many of them are threatened with extinction! Many of our unique and irreplaceable native species only exist in minimal numbers and might vanish within the next decades. Nationally there are more than 1.800 Australian species and ecological communities at risk of extinction. 1000 species are at risk in NSW alone. The 7th September is Threatened Species Day. In our special workshop, designed specifically for the Threatened Art Species Competition, we find out why so many species are threatened and what we can do to prevent it. During the two-hour program, you will learn which plants in our area are threatened and the reasons why. Together with one of our educators, you will walk through the endangered Cumberland Plain Woodland and look for them.

To prepare you for the Threatened Species Art Competition, we will cover the basics of botanic illustration and draw plants using real specimens.

- Cost covers the whole excursion – educator and all materials needed
- Our programs have an educator to student ratio of 1:30
- ABG can accommodate up to 60 students per session (i.e. two classes)
- We can offer this excursion any time in the lead up to 7 Sept
- Some schools may be eligible to attend this excursion for free, see our Open Access Learning grant for more information

Cost

\$13 per student (minimum charge of 25 students)

Age group

6-12 years

Duration

2 hrs

Location

PlantBank, Australian Botanic Garden



*Image above is not of actual event.



Prizes

Artwork

The school who has the highest percentage of students entered into the competition will win the TSAC School Prize Package. The school prize package is designed to allow schools to continue with biodiversity education following the conclusion of the competition.

This year we are lucky enough to have the Australian Botanic Gardens Plant Bank and Symbio Wildlife Park sponsoring the competition. Both organisations are providing hundreds of dollars worth of prizes to the competition for individual winners and winning schools.

Creative writing

There will be one overall winner for best story. This person will win a family pass to Symbio Wildlife Park and an Eco Pack. As well as this, their story will be published in the inaugural Threatened Species Art and Writing Competition Storybook.

The two best entries from each school will be published in the Threatened Species Art and Writing Competition Storybook. The Storybook will include artworks that match the species that have been written about. Each school will receive a copy of the book and entrants whose story was published will also receive a copy. Copies will be made available to borrow, as an educational resource from all Macarthur libraries.

Award Ceremony

The competition will once again have an award ceremony to award winning individual and winning schools. Fittingly, the award ceremony will take place on **Threatened Species Day, Friday 7 September**, and be hosted by The Australian PlantBank at The Australian Botanic Garden Mount Annan.

The PlantBank is a science and conservation facility, boasting one of the most diverse places on the planet, "the seed vault", which holds seed collections from many of Australia's 25,000 plant species, including 25% of NSW's Threatened species.

As part of the award ceremony, you will be invited to explore the behind-the-scenes of the PlantBank with a research scientist and afterwards be taken on a Nocturnal Tour of the endangered Cumberland Plain Woodland. Be sure to bring a torch and walking shoes!

Complimentary drinks and nibbles will be served on arrival as you view the winning artworks on display. Runner-up artworks will play on a flat-screen TV.

Winning schools and individuals will be notified once the artworks have been judged and winning schools are welcome to bring a number of their students who participated in the competition.



2017 Threatened Species Art Competition entrants Anylia McKenzie and Tahlia Greenwood, with 2017 Mayor of Wollondilly, CR Judith Hannan.



2017 Threatened Species Art Competition school entrant winner Torres Raboso, with 2017 Deputy Mayor for Campbelltown, Cr Meg Oates.

Classroom Learning

The cross-curricular nature of the TSAC allows for many different educational activities that can link into HSIE, Science and Visual Arts. See Extension Activities for practical educational examples.

Curriculum outcome links

Stage 1

Geography	GE1-1	GE1-2		
Science	ST1-2VA	ST1-9ES	ST1-11LW	ST1-14BE
Visual Arts	VAS 1.1	VAS 1.2	VAS 1.4	

Stage 2

Geography	GE2-1	GE2-2	GE2-3	
Science	ST2-2VA	ST2-8ES	ST2-11LW	
Visual Arts	VAS 2.1	VAS 2.4		

Stage 3

Geography	GE3-1	GE3-2	GE3-3		
Science	ST3-2VA	ST3-10LW	ST3-11LW		
Visual Arts	VAS 3.1	VAS 3.2	VAS 3.3	VAS 3.4	
English	EN3-1A	EN3.2A	EN3-4A	EN3-7C	EN3-8D

Artwork inspiration

Be creative with art mediums and styles! There are many different mediums you can use to create your artwork!

Here are some options:

- chalk
- charcoal (soft or hard)
- coloured pencil
- crayon
- watercolour
- use your hand as a paint brush
- sand
- dirt
- sticks and stones
- bark





Extension activities

The following are a list of activities that can be done in and outside the classroom prior to, during, or as extension activities for the TSAC:

- **Museum exhibition**

Imagine your artwork is going to be displayed as part of a museum exhibition.

Create some signs and additional artifacts that will teach others about the threatened species. You might like to include information such as its scientific name, distribution, life cycle, interesting features and common threats.

- **Nature Rubbings**

Walk around outdoors to collect various textured objects. These could include leaves, tree bark, rocks etc. To make a rubbing, place a piece of paper on top of the object. Rub the paper gently with crayons until textures appear. The object and its texture will be 'imprinted' on the paper. You might like to use the rubbings or collage of rubbings in your competition artwork.

- **Native Plant Seed Bank**

Visit the ABC Splash website and watch the video clip about the native plant seed bank (splash.abc.net.au). Research a local threatened plant species and find out where it is found, threats it faces and what is being done to conserve it.

- **Aboriginal Significance**

Research local plant species and identify a plant that is culturally significant to local Aboriginal people. You may find that there are plants in your school grounds that have cultural significance. Draw a detailed diagram of the plant and identify its parts and how they are used.

To have help with this, you can contact the Tharawal Aboriginal Land Council Tharawal (LALC). The LALC work with the Campbelltown, Wollondilly, Camden and Liverpool communities, empowering both indigenous and non-indigenous people in traditional ecological knowledge.



- **Make a difference**

Research some environmental groups that help protect and conserve Australian biodiversity. Locate a local group and learn how they are helping protect threatened species. Groups might include Bushcare, Macarthur National Parks Association or the Macarthur Centre for Sustainable Living. From this, you could start your own environmental group.

- **Native Garden**

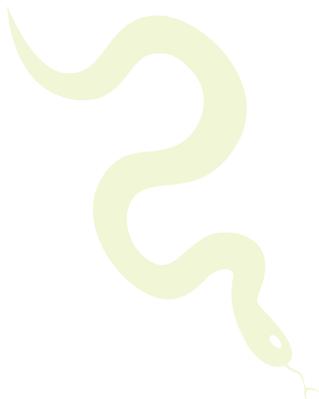
Design a native garden for home or school. Identify some local plant species that could be planted to attract wildlife. Did you know that Council supplies each school with 50 native tubestock species as part of National Tree Day, which will be held occurring this year on Sunday 30 July.

- **Weed Warriors**

Investigate a local invasive species that threatens native habitat. Create a poster to educate others about the problems caused by this weed and alternatives that can be planted in the garden.

- **Nature Charades**

What is it like to be a tree? How does a baby animal feel? Get an understanding of different parts of the environment by pretending that you are those parts. Natural objects: a plant or rock. Animal: Baby bird, flying fox, squirrel glider. Present event: wind blowing through the trees, land clearing.



If you like getting outdoors and learning about our native plants and animals, and being in a team of people that helps to protect these species and improve their habitat, contact your Council's Environment team to see how you can get involved!

How can your school become a haven for native flora and fauna?

There are many ways in which your school can become a haven for native flora and fauna.

- **Create habitat for native animals and birds in your backyard or school**

A habitat is the specific place that plants or animals live. It could be in a log, under a rock or the hollow of a tree. By using different materials that have the potential to pollute the environment, we can repurpose them to help create new habitat that will allow native plants and animals to thrive in your school.



Here are some examples:

- **A piece of PVC piping that would otherwise go to the tip can be used for logs that an animal can find shelter in or a plant can use to grow in.**
- **Old bits and pieces of wood or any other hollow object can be reused to create a bird house that would allow native birds to find shelter**

- **Leave dead wood and rocks in the bush**

Although dead wood and rocks might not seem like much to us, plants and animals use these things as shelter and a source of food. This is why it is important that we leave these things where they lie.

- **Join a community group, such as a local Bushcare group**

If you like to get outdoors and spend time in the bush or other natural environments you can contact Council to see what fun activities you could get involved in with your family and friends on the weekend.

- **Set up your own eco-warrior team at school**

Together, you and your team could become the eco-champions of your school. Through posters, group discussions and assembly announcements you can ensure that the whole school is aware of the threatened plants and animals that may call your school home.



Don't forget National Tree Day! Councils offer schools a number of seedlings to celebrate School National Tree Day. This year, School National Tree Day is happening Friday 27 July 2018. Contact your local Council before this date to find out more information. Removing weeds and replacing that space with native plants is a great way to help prevent weeds growing back in your school gardens!

- **Remove known weed species from your garden and replace THEM with local native plants**

Sometimes our gardens are full of plants that are not native to our country, and they prevent our native plants from growing. We call these plants weeds. By removing weeds and planting native plants you are helping not only the plants but the native animals that need these plants to survive.

Through the TSAC, you will learn about many native plants that you can plant in your garden!

- **Visit a local national park or nature reserve**

Getting outdoors and visiting our national parks and reserves shows the support and interest in these natural areas, meaning they become very important places to protect for the community.

The Macarthur region has some beautiful natural areas to visit. To find out all about the areas you can visit each Council's website or contact them and they can give you all the information you need to get out there and enjoy the natural environment.

Campbelltown City Council

Phone: 4645 4000, visit campbelltown.nsw.gov.au

Camden Council

Phone: 4645 5007, visit camden.nsw.gov.au

Wollondilly Shire Council

Phone: 4677 1122, visit wollondilly.nsw.gov.au



A local treasure!

Cumberland Plain Woodland - A Critically Endangered Ecological Community

Prior to European settlement, much of Western Sydney, including the Macarthur region, would have been draped in the unique Cumberland Plain Woodland Community, consisting of a mix of large gum trees, patchy shrubs and grasses. This rare woodland community provides habitat to a wide range of native plants and animals, forming vital areas of habitat within a wildlife corridor that has the potential to connect the bushland between the Georges and Nepean River.

Due to land clearing for farming and houses it is estimated that only around 6% of the original bushland remains in small patches scattered across the Cumberland Plain. Along with clearing, weeds are one of the biggest threats facing these patches of bush.

The Cumberland Plain Woodland Community provides habitat for a range of threatened plant and animal species including:

- Koala
- Grey-headed Flying Fox
- Cumberland Plain Land Snail
- Diamond Firetail Finch
- Spiked Rice flower

Many parks and reserves in the Macarthur region contain Cumberland Plain Woodland communities. You may like to visit one of these areas:

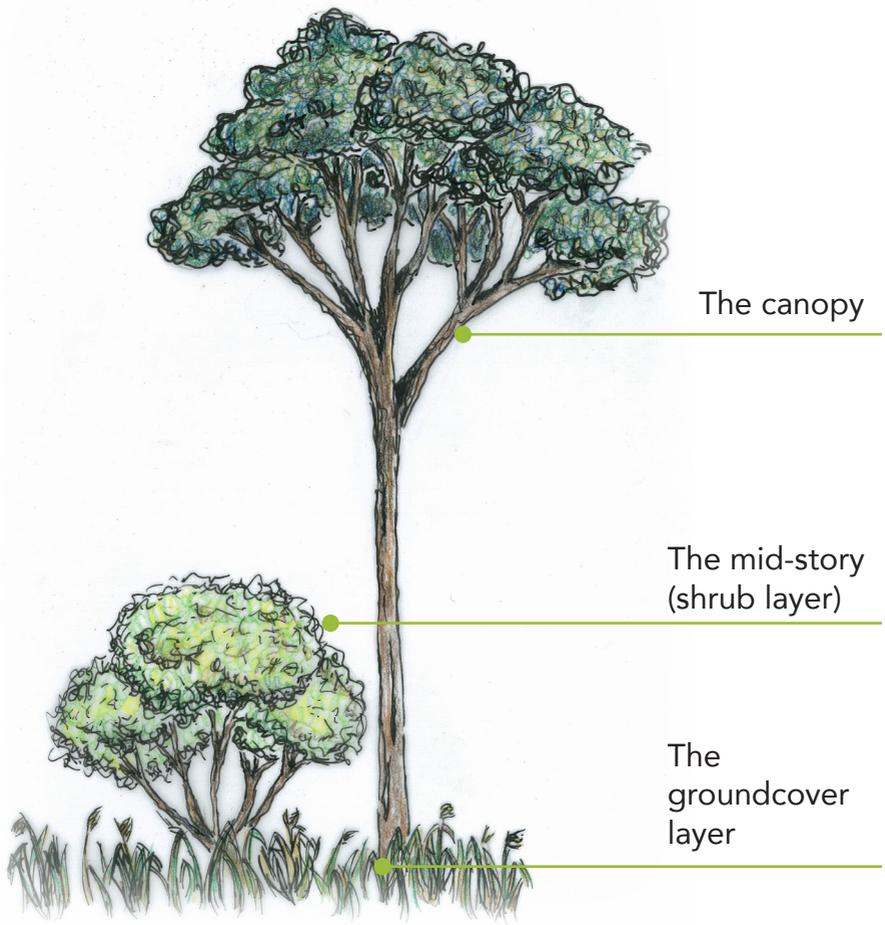
- Ingleburn Reserve, Ingleburn
- Noorumba Reserve, Rosemeadow
- Australian Botanic Garden Mt Annan

Did you know?

It's not only dogs that can play dead. Many of the ground species of the Cumberland Plain Woodland have thick rootstocks, in the form of taproot systems, underground tubers and the like.

This allows the plant to survive even if it looks dead after severe weather conditions such as drought or fire.







Become an Eco-School!

Eco-Schools is an international program of the Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE), and aims to empower students to be the change our sustainable world needs by engaging them in fun, action-orientated learning. Australia is the 55th country to launch this program and it gives Australian schools the opportunity to develop and improve the environmental management of the school, underpinned by curriculum development and community engagement in environment and sustainability themes.

Eco-schools Australia schools will have access to the following...

1. Gain full access to Eco-Schools Australia website
2. Eco-Schools 7-Step framework guidelines and resource templates
3. Practical case studies written by Australian Eco-Schools – the who, what, how, where and when of being an Eco-School
4. Action project and lesson ideas, organised by sustainability themes
5. Eco-Schools Awards applications and the ability to apply for Eco-Schools Awards
6. Teaching resource sharing forum
7. Eco-Schools Profile Page to store Eco-Schools data and awards submissions
8. School Search – connect with other Eco-Schools in Australia and view their environmental education initiatives.

To register to become an Eco-School, there is a \$110 (incl. GST) annual registration fee. This fee gives you access to everything listed above.

The Macarthur region has been the first in Australia to take on board the Eco-School program. It is now in over 100 schools throughout Australia. To know more about the Eco-School program visit eco-schools.org.au



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