

Board Report - Term 3 Week 2

Developing a native bee and butterfly friendly garden

As you know from previous newsletters, part of the school's strategic plan is to regenerate our lovely bush environment. You will have seen the work that a dedicated group of parents, grandparents and ex-parents have been doing removing the weeds and encouraging the bush to regenerate between the preschool and primary.

You are probably also aware that the steep slope between the admin building and hall has become overgrown with weeds. I have been keen to fix this area and to that end I have spoken at length to Mia Dalby and to an organisation called Bushlink to develop ideas on the best way to approach the problem. Bushlink is an organization who have a team of people with a disability and a support worker who are willing to work with school children to show students how to carry out tasks correctly and explain best practice bush regeneration and gardening techniques. The outcome was the idea to turn the area into a native bee and butterfly garden.

I am actively seeking funding to make this happen. We have recently been informed that a grant we applied for was unsuccessful (only 18 grants from the 2000 applicants were successful). So far we have the funds to engage the Bushlink Team for two days to work with our children, and just today I have heard from Marina Grassecker, the Managing Director of a local Terrey Hills business, Harvest Seeds and Native Plants, that she is willing to donate 100 tubestock plants and provide us with advice.

Do you know of anyone who would like to donate \$605 (or multiples thereof) to enable us to continue to engage the Bushlink Team for additional days. If they donate to the Kinma School Building Fund then their donation is tax deductible.

The plan is for the Bushlink Team to come for a day, two weeks apart, to work with our children and we would like this to continue for terms 3 and 4 this year. By then we believe that the garden will be established and the children will have the skills to maintain the area.

Once established we would like to install a hive of the native stingless bees *Tetragonula Carbonaria*. To buy a hive is expensive with the hive and bees costing around \$650. However, you may know someone who has an existing hive and may be able to donate a hive when they divide theirs.

This is a wonderful opportunity for the children to work alongside people with disability and to will give our kids the confidence to embrace inclusion and diversity throughout their lives.

Please let me know (9451 9669 or pamwebs@gmail.com) if you are able to help in any way. Also, if you are in the market for plants, please visit Marina to see if she can help you. The nursery is on Mona Vale Road at Terrey Hills.

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