Building Milestone

Since its opening in 1976, Bunyaville EEC’s classroom, staff room, admin office and resource storage have been in the one small building. We have no record of which school had the honour of being the class to initiate the Mick Finn Building 37 years ago. On 14 November 2013, we were proud to have the dedicated and enthusiastic Enoggera State School Year 2s and Ms Wilcox as the last class to use the Mick Finn building. One child captured the energy and drive of these young learners, and the soul of our much-loved building, with the comment, “I don’t want today to end!” Over the next few months the building will be transformed to function solely as staff and administration space. Students’ indoor learning experiences will happen in our long-awaited new building (below)!

Erosion makes sense

The beauty of Bunyaville Environmental Education Centre programs is that learning happens in a real-life context. Last term, Eatons Hill State School’s Year 4 teachers brought their classes to BEEC’s Here Today Gone Tomorrow program, specifically to give the students first-hand experience of the processes of erosion and concepts they were exploring in class. This was the second year that the EHSS teachers participated with their students in the Here Today Gone Tomorrow program, as the previous year’s students were able to make more sense of the topic by being physically engaged with real examples of erosion in the natural environment. They also noted that students performed better in assessment than classes who had missed such an opportunity.

Not only do students leave Bunyaville with a deeper understanding of erosion and its causes, we believe they are empowered with positive attitudes towards addressing erosion problems. In the local area, erosion is often managed through revegetation of cleared areas especially along waterways and the EHSS students weeded and planted 70 native seedlings in heavily used recreational areas to prevent erosion occurring. As an added bonus, many parents enjoyed participating in this bush care and learning alongside their children.

Enoggera students - final students in old classroom.

The new building.

Eatons Hill State School students.
**Around the Ridges and Gullies**

All too often when discussing bushland remnants like Bunyaville Conservation Park, talk turns to those critters now rarely seen, or some that have disappeared forever. It is therefore nice to be able to bring to you a story of survival. In this case, it is the continued presence in Bunyaville Conservation Park, of the Yellow-tufted Honeyeater (*Lichenostomus melanops*).

South East Queensland lies just within the distribution range of the Yellow-tufted Honeyeater. The Brisbane Wildlife Survey 1980-81 reports it as being “uncommon east of the Great Divide but was recorded from Bunya.” In the early 1990s as part of Nature Search 2001, it was recorded from then Bunyaville State Forest, from within the Albany Creek and Kingfisher Creek catchments. A colony also existed at the new suburb of Cashmere, several kilometres to the north. In 1997 the Yellow-tufted Honeyeater even got a brief mention in State Parliament, when Premier Borbidge announced the indefinite cessation of logging in Bunyaville State Forest.

Since then what? The fate of the Cashmere colony is unknown. Within Bunyaville Conservation Park no records from the Albany Creek catchment have come to notice, while the Kingfisher Creek colony appears to be doing reasonably well. I often ask birdwatchers where they would go to see Yellow-tufted Honeyeaters? Girraween National Park is often the reply. Girraween National Park is a fair way from Bunyaville Conservation Park, even for an animal that has wings. Being a forest honeyeater would complicate matters even further.

For some time I have been monitoring the Eremaea Birds website, that receives survey results from observers throughout Queensland on a regular basis. The nearest record of Yellow-tufted Honeyeaters to Bunyaville Conservation Park so far, has been a State Forest west of Warwick. While a little closer than Girraween, it is still a long way from Bunyaville Conservation Park. It is therefore likely the colony at Bunyaville is totally isolated. An event such as a high intensity bushfire could wipe the colony out for good.

The easiest place to observe Yellow-tufted Honeyeaters in Bunyaville Conservation Park is the creek crossing on the GT Firebreak. You’ll need to refer to a map of Bunyaville Conservation Park. Any information on other colonies of Yellow-tufted Honeyeaters within the region would be greatly appreciated.

Till next time

Richard McGuire.

**A Welcome Helping Hand**

Hello,

My name is Dianne Robinson and I am honoured to have held the position of Treasurer of the Bunyaville Environmental Education Centre P&C Association since mid 2011. I was recently retired from a career in banking and bookkeeping and was looking for some volunteer work where I could give back to the community, so I registered my details with Queensland Volunteers and it was through there that the Centre found me and asked me if I would be interested in being their P&C Association’s Treasurer, which I was only too happy to do. Having grown up on a rural property outside Roma, I’ve always had a keen interest in conservation of environment, local fauna and flora etc., so this seemed a natural fit for me and a way to keep my mind active and while helping a local community in need.

The P&C Association had only been formed for a couple of months when I first started in the Treasurer’s position. BEEC are in the unique position of not being able to draw from a body of students’ parents as the Centre does not have a permanent student population, so all committee members are volunteers from the wider community. So with the help of a small, but very willing group of committee members, we quickly got the P&C up and running and commenced our fund raising. We’ve conducted several successful ventures raising much needed funds for the Centre. We have recently seen the long awaited new educational block built on the site and are now looking forward to raising more funds to enhance the students’ experiences and the teachers’ resources.

I have found this position to be most rewarding and I’ve had the privilege of meeting and working with some wonderful new people as well. I wish the Centre and the P&C Association continued success in all their future ventures and am very thankful that I could offer a helping hand when needed.

Best wishes always.

Dianne Robinson
Volunteers Grant

This year, the Bunyaville P&C were successful in receiving a volunteers grant of $4,200. Di, Rod and I went on several ‘shopping expeditions’ to spend the money – well…someone had to do it! The P&C now own the following items to support our dedicated volunteers: BBQ; high pressure cleaner; microwave; kitchen crockery/cutlery; sandwich toast; peculator; outside notice board/inside whiteboard and shade sails. Thanks Dez for storing most of these items in your garage at home until the work on our facilities is complete.

Debbie Ledger
Experienced Senior Teacher

You have made a difference

Volunteers play an important part of what we do at BEEC.

Each year it is important to have as many of our members as possible renew their support for our work. We are grateful of their generosity and contributions enabling us to achieve so much more.

I would like to express my thanks to those who have contributed to BEEC this year.

Veronica Doyle
Volunteer Co-ordinator

Contact us

Street Location
Bunyaville Conservation Park
Off Old Northern Rd, Everton Hills 4053
(Do not post to this address as it is a 640ha forest)

Postal Address
PO Box 294, Albany Creek Qld 4035

Email Address
the.principal@bunyavileec.eq.edu.au

Web Address
http://www.bunyavileec.eq.edu.au/

Telephone
(07) 3353 4356
Fax
(07) 3353 2624