

Species Mapping Opens Doors to Our Future Nyindamurra Family School.

Building on from last year's project, students worked with scientists and the community to protect the remnant forest around their school. They GPS mapped flora quadrants and fauna pitfall trap lines. They then collected and compared data on the numbers and diversity of indigenous species in both degraded and pristine areas of the forest. Analysis showed a greatly decreased biodiversity in the degraded area, even though the forest looked similar. Students will continue mapping and monitoring trends, as well as hand information onto future students so that environmental care can continue.

The project involved the whole school and students weeded out watsonia from an experimental area. They mapped the trees they planted there to monitor future changes and so learn what will be required for successful rehabilitation.

To hone their observation skills for species identification, students studied fine line drawing of the surveyed flora and fauna. Using the artwork, layout for a book to promote local environmental awareness has commenced. Examples of this artwork are included on the competition poster along with maps, photos of fieldwork, part of a data table and a comparison graph.