

MS Bushland Study

Weed Management Plan to Conserve the Shenton College Middle School Bushland

Shenton College has a small patch of remnant bush at the front of the Middle School. As an assessment task, students were asked to compare that bush with the Shenton Bushland which is located next to the school and provides a wonderful example of a managed bushland. From this study student sampled the local bushland to determine what weeds were present. They then research these weeds to develop a Management Plan that would be implemented by Year 10 students as part of their Community Service programme. At this time, our attention was drawn to the Spatial Technology in Schools Competition which seemed to fit in admirably with our task so with the added incentive of a mentor to help us through, we incorporated the idea of mapping our weeds into the project.

Students sampled the bushland on a random basis, identifying the weeds within a 1m² area. The location of the sample area was identified using GPS and recorded together with main weed types and other relevant data. This information was imported into ArcMap as a shapefile and the management strategy for each weed was hyperlinked to the location.