

# *The Belltrees P.S. Bulletin*



## **Belltrees Public School — "We Give Our Best" Term 4 Week 5 2020**



Our students continually represent the school's motto of "We Give Our Best". Across the board, they have shown this year they will raise the bar and attain results that they can be extremely proud of.

The culture of high expectations at Belltrees Public School prepares students for success. This was evident earlier this year when Angus was successful in receiving a scholarship from the Public Education Foundation. This award recognises his capacity as a learner and will support him over the next 3 years. Congratulations Angus on your achievement and keep up your wonderful work.

## Principal's Message:

Things are heating up and our little school is getting busy. Excursions are back on the cards and we have jumped on the chance to get out and about.

So far we have learnt about Regen Ag from local farmers, Robotics at Blandford and Cricket at Ellersston. We are tremendously grateful for the organisation of these events.

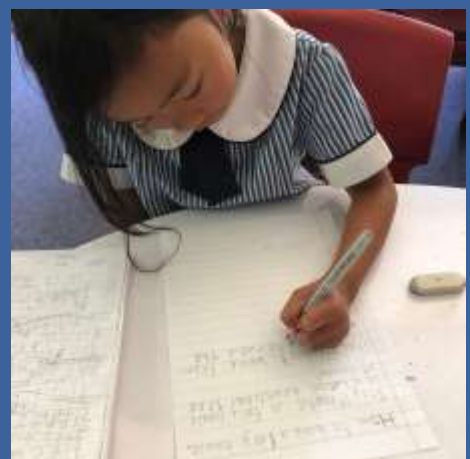
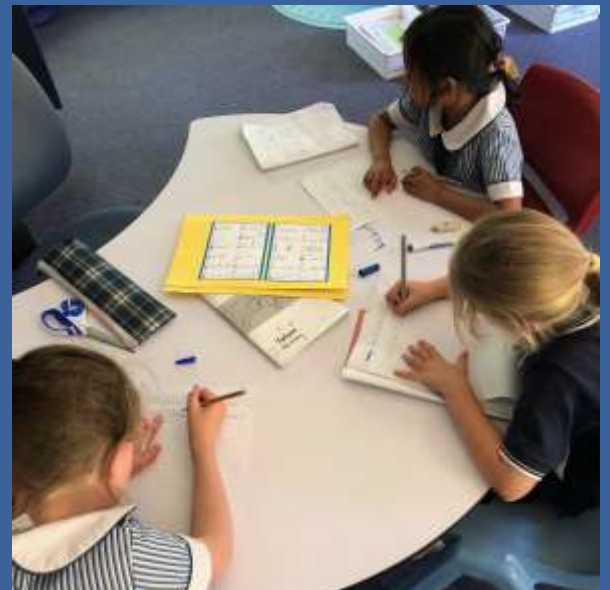
This week we have been holding our Authors week. Students have been working diligently on their writing, building the understanding of how to write for a purpose and engage the audience. We tuned in to Australia Reads webcast, to hear some of our countries best authors discuss their books, their inspirations and their methods. Scroll through further to read some of the students sensational work.

We have also had the pleasure of Mr James beginning his teaching practicum at our school. He has jumped into activity, teaching student AUSLAN, running our remembrance and NAIDOC celebrations, and leading karate lessons for sport. We are lucky enough to have him continue with us for another 3 weeks.

This weekend, our P&C will be running the canteen for the Gundy Campdraft which I would like to extend my appreciation for their continued support of our small school and through their fundraising which provides our students all the resources and experiences a child could wish for.

Shane Roberts

Principal





## Threatened Species Day at Belltrees School

Belltrees Public School is sited some 43kms. from Scone. It has 12 students of differing class ages. In early September students celebrated Threatened Species Day, each producing a one-page outline on Endangered Animals in Australia, on a species of their choice. Older students assisted younger ones when asked, with all presenting to a 'whole of school' class. Here are some extracts:

### Mountain Pygmy-possum

They thought Mountain Pygmy-possum was extinct until they discovered in 1980 they find it in Victoria and New South Wales National Parks. Mountain pygmy-possum has predators such as feral cats and foxes. There are only 2,000 left in the world that is so sad. They have one to three years in the wild however the male can live to five years and the females can live to 12 years.

They eat nectar and pollen from eucalypts and bottlebrush trees. There are different types of pygmy-possums in the world like Western pygmy-possum, Long tailed pygmy-possum, Eastern pygmy-possum and Tasmanian pygmy-possum.

By Jack



### Glossy Black Cockatoo

The Glossy black cockatoo is an Australian bird that lives in coastal wetlands and drier forest areas.

They like to eat seeds from different types of She Oak trees. They also sometimes eat insect larvae.

Glossy black cockatoos look a little bit like a crow. They are black with a crown on their head. It is because of their colour that they get their name, they are black and their feathers look glossy.

Glossy black cockatoos are of least concern but their population is dropping in NSW, they are close to being listed as endangered. Their numbers are dropping because wild cats and possums they take the eggs out of their nest and eat the eggs.

Last year in 2019, scientists found out that there are about 370 Glossy black cockatoos.

By April & Angus



### Numbats

Numbats, *Myrmecobius Fasciatus*, are in a lot of danger from extinction, in fact they are listed as critically endangered with only about 1,000 left in the wild and about 500 in captivity.

These termite eater's population are dropping. The cause of this is habitat loss, due to clearing for roads, building and housing. Bush fires also play a part in affecting the population of their species. They are also hunted by other wild animals that prey on them such as foxes. But lucky for these reddish-brown, white striped creatures, Perth zoo is doing their best to save them from extinction.

They take great care of this wonderful species by helping to create a breeding environment where the Numbats are happy, safe, healthy with regular health checks and breeding more of their kind.

Numbats eat round about 20,000 termites a day. To catch termites, Numbats have to use their sticky, long tongues, and have to use their amazing sense of smell. Numbats are asleep in the day and are awake in the night. When termites are active Numbats are active.

By Riley & Audrey



### Spear-toothed Shark (*Glypis glyphis*)

The spear tooth shark is endangered due to incidental capture in commercial and recreational fisheries, as well as by habitat degradation. The spear tooth shark is an extremely rare species of river shark that lives in coastal marine waters and tidal reaches of large tropical rivers in northern Australia and New Guinea. They eat fish. Spear tooth sharks have a short and a broadly rounded snout.

This species has erected, broadly triangular, serrated upper teeth and slender, lower teeth which are not serrated. This makes the top teeth look different very from the bottom teeth. To help save them we should find alternative ways to fish and avoid fishing in their habitat.

By Darcy



### Northern Hairy-nosed Wombat

The Northern hairy-nosed wombat whose scientific name is known as *Lasiorhinus Kreftii*. It is known to be critically endangered. In fact, there are only about 250 left in the wild, and 10 in captivity, at Richard Underwood Nature Refuge. These species used to live in peace, but as the world evolved, their population started dropping due to floods, wildfires and disease.

Competing for food is really hard for these species, but also surviving without food in the wild. Grasses like leaves are caught in wildfires and affected Northern hairy-nosed wombats food supplies.

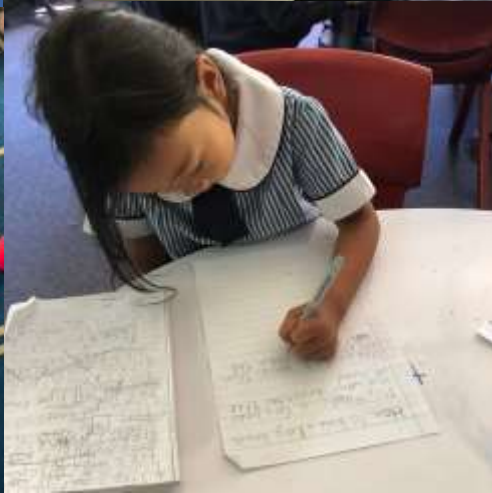
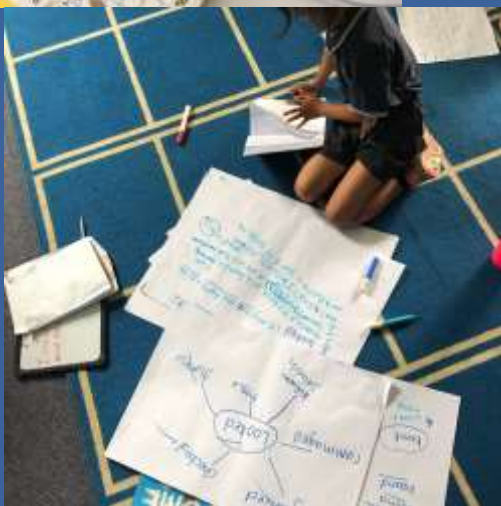
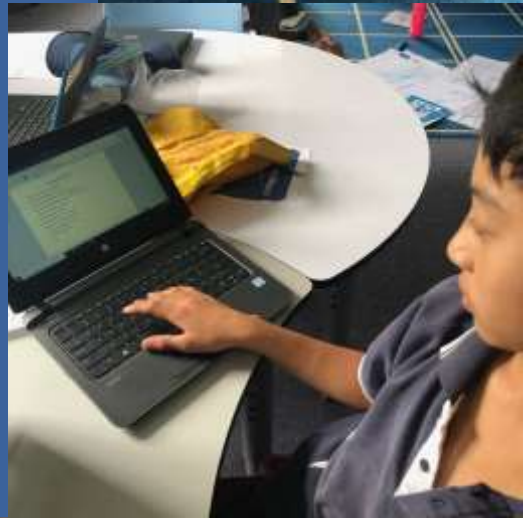
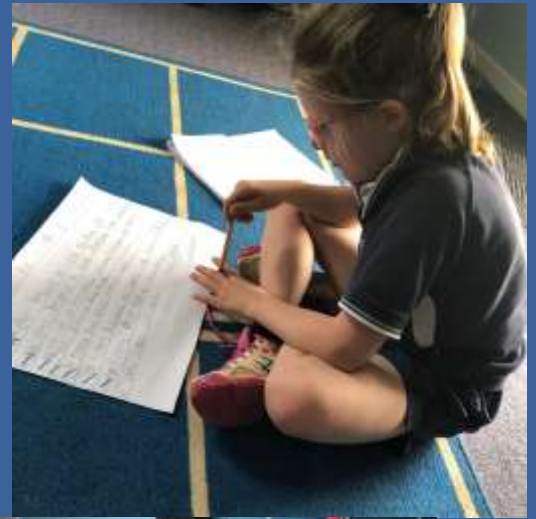
2008, the year when the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection, along with some sponsorship, ensured the Recovery Plan was organised for the Northern hairy-nosed wombat.

Northern hairy-nosed wombats use their long sharp claws to dig up holes in the ground to live in.

By Riley







Throughout this week, in line with Australia Reads, our students have been participating in Authors Week. Students have been encouraged to write towards what inspires them. From letters to friends to information reports about the Battle of Thermopylae, our students have been constructing very interesting writing pieces. There are many wonderful examples here from our students. I anticipate many writers will thrive from our little school in the future.



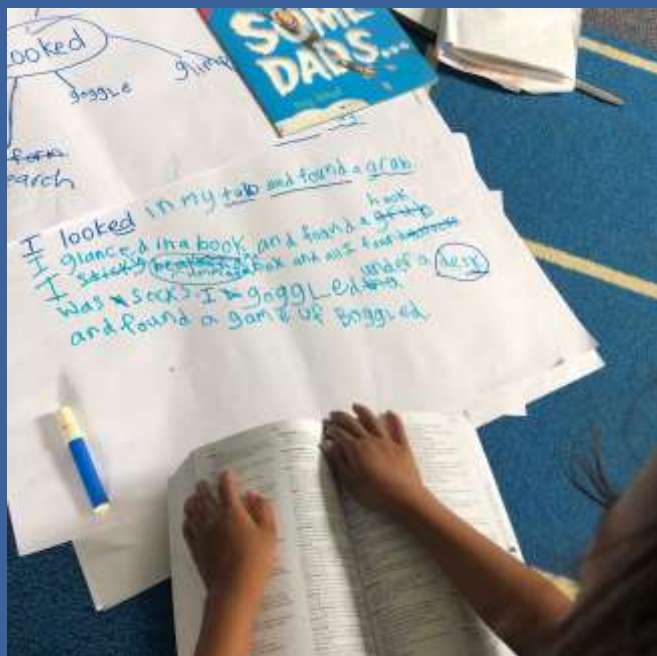
Dear Baya,  
 How are you? I'm feeling  
 Happy because I had a good  
 Lunch and a happy day. I go to  
 Belltrees public school and we have  
 a sand pit. I build a sand castle all  
 the time and we all have a  
 playground. When I After I play  
 in the sand pit I get sand all over  
 me. What kind of school do you  
 go to? I hope you answer back.  
 from Trix + T. Peres.



### Belltrees song lyrics

I just woke up in the morning, and,  
 We've been working nonstop, at all,  
 We've been Feeling happy and having self-control,  
 We've also been Finding answers we never knew before.  
 We're thinking harder, every day  
 Cause I just wanted to say,  
 We're reading time and time again  
 Sharing our futures with our friends  
 Cause you know we'll never end,  
 But you know we'll be  
 Cause

I



Dear Jazmin  
 How are you going?  
 I'm Happy because the sun is  
 Shiny. I go to Belltrees Public  
 School. We have chickens, sheep at  
 our school. I did basketball for PE  
 today. We do jobs. I water the  
 sunflowers. I play on the play ground.  
 It is so fun! Do you have jobs  
 at your school?  
 Do you have any animals at  
 your school?

from Audrey to Jazmin.



Our school is committed to providing students the education that will prepare them for their futures. One focus of this goal is delivering a rich curriculum for Science with an emphasis on regenerative agriculture. Earlier this term, students visited local farms in the area to witness the fantastic work people are doing to work with the environment on their properties. Thank you Ms Russell and Ms Payne for hosting us.











We have been very lucky to have Miss D, our brilliant SLSO, teaching the students about basketball for PE. Miss D has been running the students through drills to develop skills in dribbling, passing and co-ordination. The students have enjoyed playing on a half court against each other and the teachers.

Miss D has also been working with small focus groups to further develop literacy skills. Our Kindergarten students have really enjoyed building their phonics skills with Miss D and it has been fabulous to see their enthusiasm and success in this area of learning.

Thank you, Miss D!



### Succulent and Sensory Garden

Making the school a welcoming environment is always a passion for our students and staff. With the introduction of our school's greenhouse, we needed to beautify this space. Using recycled timber from our playground border, the school established garden beds and pathways for the green space. These beds are now being established as beautiful succulent gardens under the watchful care of our infant girls.





## HOWZAT!

Finally we were able to interact again! Ellerston Public School and Cricket NSW organised a blast of a day in Week 3. Our students joined with Ellerston and Blandford to practice their cricketing prowess. From slogging the ball to the fence to rolling the old should over, the students thoroughly enjoyed the day and learnt a whole lot of skills.







Last Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> November, our students travelled to Blandford for a Robotics immersion day. Blandford Public School, in association with 'Doing it for our Farmers', organised this wonderful event, at no cost to the students. The students investigated a range of known and new technologies that inspired them about coding, movie-making and a wide range of future-focus skills. They were also tickled pink to have jumping castles and inflatable darts as part of the day as well. These opportunities to work with other partner small school are always a great opportunity and provides the time for student to build wonderful friendships with their peers from other schools.





As the nation stopped to reflect, on the 11<sup>th</sup> hour, of the 11<sup>th</sup> day, of the 11<sup>th</sup> month, so did Belltrees Public School. Commemorating this day is one of the most important events in the calendar. Our students first walked down to the Belltrees Church to lay poppies at the cenotaph. We spoke about Lieutenant-Colonel Donald Cameron who is remembered on this monument. Cameron joined the armed forces as part of the Belltrees Troop. After many distinguished battles, he is most prominently remembered for the lead he took in the battle of Beersheba. We returned to school for our official ceremony with our students taking the lead in this event. Lest we forget.







Waste reduction is important and we are learning how worm farming can help with this problem. Our old faithful worm farm was retired and our upgrade from Worms Downunder is amazing. The kids busily set up our worms' new pad. Looking forward to the benefits our new farm will provide our little school and how it will continue to teach our students the importance of reducing food waste.

We are very grateful to Belltrees Pastoral Company for their kind donation. They organised for the turning circle for drop-off and pick up to be gravelled. This kind act will help make life simpler and safer for our students, parents and community. Thank you!



Thank you to these supporters of our small school who have assisted us over the last 5 weeks.

