Environmental Newsletter September 2021

What's happening around Campbelltown

Nature Festival

As part of South Australia's Nature Festival there are a number of opportunities to get out and enjoy the beautiful natural surrounds of Campbelltown.

Walks in Wadmore Park/Pulyonna Wirra

Join a walk through the wonderful Wadmore Park/Pulyonna Wirra which is home to an abundance of native flora and fauna. Come and learn about the natural wonders of the park or join one of the two sessions to understand the park from a Kaurna perspective.

*Wednesday **29th September** - evening session*

4pm - 5pm: Discovering the animal species of Wadmore Park

5pm - 6pm: A Kaurna Perspective with local Kaurna/Peramangk Elder

*Saturday **2nd October** - morning session*

9am - 10am: Birds of Wadmore Park/Pulyonna Wirra

10am - 11am: A Kaurna Perspective with local Kaurna/Peramangk Elder

11am - 12pm: Understanding Native Grasses - identification and benefits

WALKS DEPART FROM MARYVALE ROAD CARPARK

Bookings essential at: www.eventbrite.com.au/e/a-series-of-walks-in-wadmore-parkpulyonna-wirra-tickets-166751635631

A Day at The Gums

The Gums Landcare Group invites everyone to enjoy 'A Day at The Gums' on the lands of the Kaurna people, supported by the Campbelltown City Council and community groups from across the Council area. Catering will be provided by Athelstone Kiwanis free of charge and barista coffee will also be available.

Talks by special guests Sophie Thomson ('Verges Alive'), Dr Teresa Lebel (Fungi), Kate Buckley (Birds), Mike Moore (Butterflies) and Rosalie Laurence (Native Orchids).

A theatrical performance of 'Herding Caterpillars' the story of the Chequered Copper butterfly and its obligate ants will be performed with St Joseph's Tranmere providing some of the ant actors.

Walks, workshops and displays will also be available in the Hall and out in the fresh air.

The event is free to attend but bookings are required

www.eventbrite.com.au/e/a-day-at-the-gums-tickets-166370357217

For more information contact:
SGraham@campbelltown.sa.gov.au or

phone 8366 9208.

Kitchen caddy roll out

All households in Campbelltown will now have had their kitchen caddies for almost twelve months.

Providing kitchen caddies aims to divert as much of our food waste out of the blue bin as possible. To gauge the success of the roll out we have undertaken a survey of green bins in randomly selected streets to get an idea if people are using them and if so are they putting the bags in the right bin.

Some streets were champions with almost all households composting their food waste into the green bin – well done! However in other areas we did find a few of the compostable bags in the blue bin, and some food was going into the green bin in plastic bags which is not ideal. Overall Campbelltown is tracking well, however some food waste is still ending up in the blue bin heading for landfill.

A large proportion of our residents are using their kitchen caddies to their full potential and we are seeing more and more blue bins with very little in them which is encouraging! Sending food to landfill costs **six times** as much as composting it.

With this in mind we will be putting together an educational campaign, including videos of our residents from different ages and backgrounds, to help people use the system better, provide tips for using it and promote the value of using their caddies to keep food out of landfill.

If you have ideas for or would like to register to participate in this campaign please contact:

Rachael Hamilton at:
rhamilton@campbelltown.sa.gov.au to register your interest as we will be commencing soon.

Fourth Creek Erosion control trial

With the help of a Greener Neighbourhoods grant Council has trialed a new approach to erosion management along a small section of Fourth Creek next to Maynard Avenue in Campbelltown. This area has been undergoing a transformation with the upgrade of the Fourth Creek Trail and creekline stabilisation work.

The traditional approach from Council has been hard infrastructure engineering solutions including concrete, large rocks and gabion walls. This project is trialing a softer approach using revegetation to stabilise banks, from the water's edge to the upper bank.

Two swales have been constructed across the slope to slow the rainwater runoff and retain soil moisture. A variety of trees, shrubs and ground covers have been planted to stabilise the soil and protect it from erosion.

Soil filled sandbags planted with sedges have been placed at the base of the bank where erosive processes were clearly underway. The sandbags allow the sedges to establish a strong root system without being dislodged by high flow events. This has already been seen to be effective with a significant rainfall event just days after they had been placed and all the plants were retained.

We will be looking for further opportunities to use these techniques along our creeks as they are a cost effective option as well as providing additional habitat for wildlife and looking much nicer than the traditional approaches.

Athelstone School projects

Athelstone School have been working on a fantastic project both on school grounds and on Council land at Greenbank Road, Athelstone. The project has been developed with funding from the Federal Government and assistance from the Campbelltown Landcare Group, the Campbelltown Landcare and Environment Action Network (CLEAN), FauNature and Council staff.

The project aims to improve habitat for the local wildlife while providing students the opportunity to learn more about our local environment and the ecological processes that can be supported to achieve that goal.

The project includes:

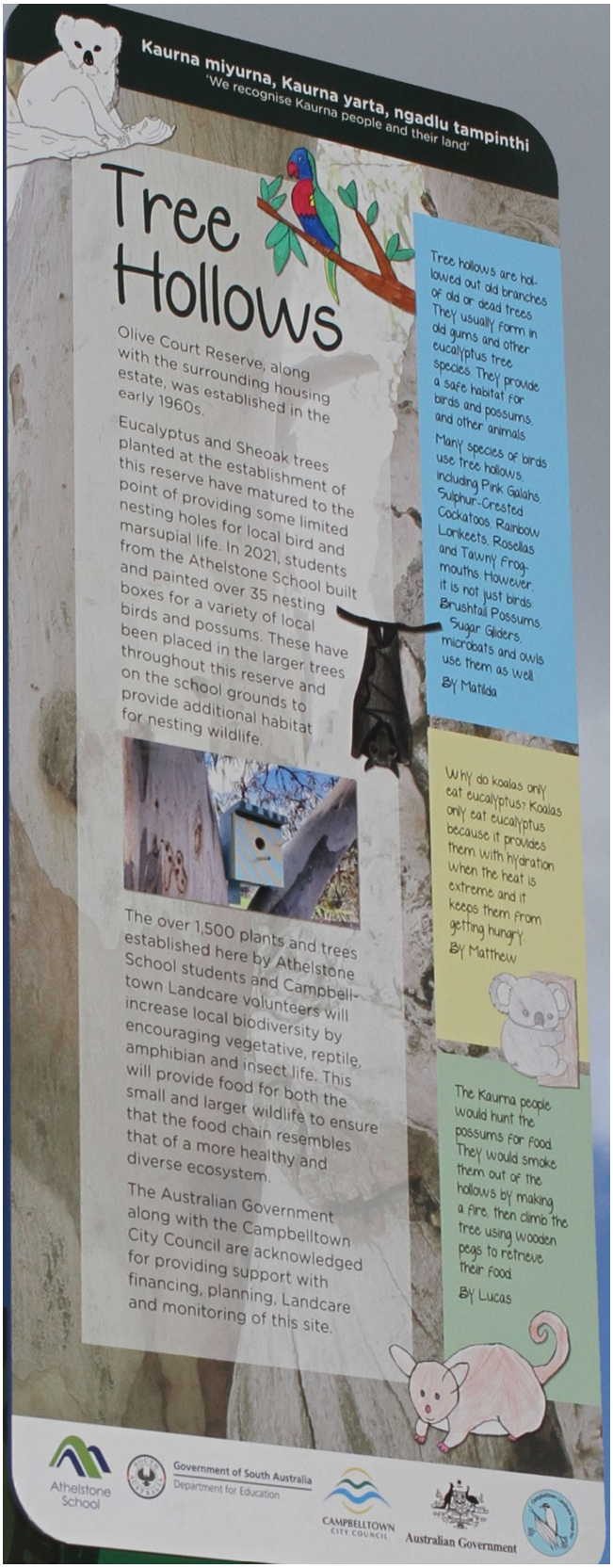
- A frog pond on school grounds
- A butterfly garden including trails and seating on school grounds
- A plant propagation area to grow plants for further revegetation projects
- Construction, decoration and installation of nest boxes
- A frog pond and revegetation in the Greenbank Reserve
- Signage providing information to the students as well as the wider community.

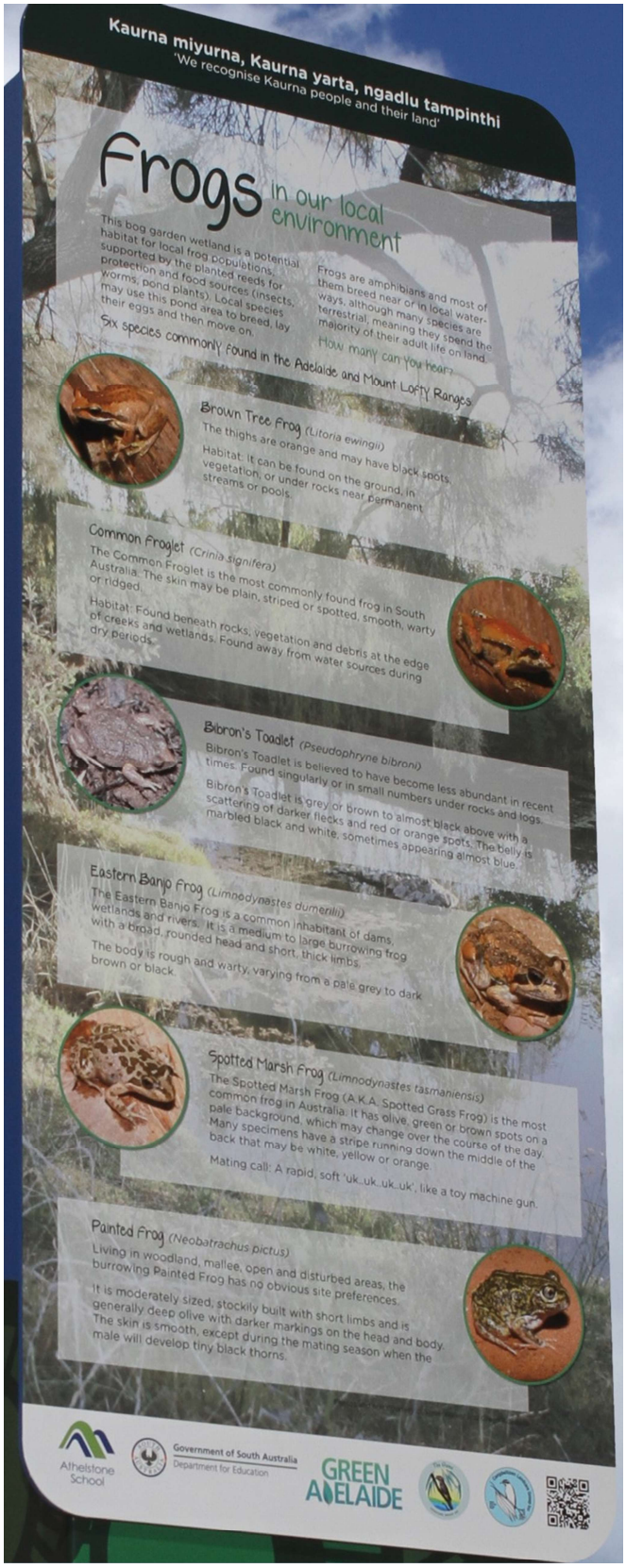
The Green Adelaide education team have assisted with the design and construction of all the on-school elements.

The CLEAN group have also been invited to set up the new Community Nursery on a temporary site at the school before it finds its permanent home. This is a wonderful opportunity for collaboration and the sharing of skills with the students in their own propagating development.

Council staff have assisted with the construction of a small frog pond within the Greenbank Reserve and support with other off-school work including placement of nest boxes and mulching of the revegetation.

The photos on the right show the location and the area before and after earthworks. The area has now been mulched and planted with local plants that will stabilise the banks and provide habitat for some of our smaller wildlife including insects, lizards and we hope eventually some frogs!





As always if you have any questions, comments or suggestions please contact me at SGraham@campbelltown.sa.gov.au