



2018 NATIONAL LANDCARE AWARDS

11 October
Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre

Nominee: Berry Springs Primary School, NT
Category: Woolworths Junior Landcare Team Award

Berry Springs Primary School (BSPS) have been working towards raising public awareness about the plight of the threatened atlas moth through their Moth Mob project. Supported by Territory Wildlife Park (TWP), students have been creating innovative ways to share the plight of the atlas moth with the wider community through an integrated curriculum of science, arts, and English. Learning about the moth's history, biology, bio-geography, threats and breeding requirements, the students have not only become experts in the field, but also a powerful voice for this threatened species.

As a way of engaging the community, BSPS students held The Atlas Moth Masquerade Disco at TWP. The event included the unveiling of an art installation, picture book and song – all inspired by the atlas moth. Jasmine Jan from TWP coordinated an enthusiastic group which comprised of Artists in the Park, Tactile Arts, community volunteer groups and Berry Springs Primary School students to produce the installation displayed within the nocturnal house at TWP. Titled, The Felted Forest, the artwork depicts the lifecycle of the atlas moth.

CSIRO, Australian Science Teachers Association, Science Teachers of NT, and Maths and Scientists in Schools have all partnered with the project to ensure the student's get the most out of their learning. These range from scientists attending school to conduct invasive species investigations, through to Moth Mob and Berry Springs Primary School being showcased in the 2017 Science Week schools resource book Future Earth, as an exemplary project for schools.

Local atlas moth experts, Geoff Martin, Ian Morris, Graeme Sawyer and Richard Weir have run a series of educational presentations to both Berry Springs Primary School staff and students, as well as TWP keepers and staff. They are a constant point of reference throughout the project when information is being sought or assistance required. The Moth Mob has also presented at local school field days, the BHP Billiton Science and Engineering Awards in Melbourne, CONSTA 66 in Hobart, and the Festival of Teaching in Darwin.

Berry Springs Primary School students and TWP staff conduct regular site visits to local Monsoon Vine Forest areas, including Moth Block, East Point, Casuarina Coastal Reserve as part of knowledge gaining exercises. Through the project, students have been exposed to many new learning opportunities surrounding local environmental issues. A passion for the atlas moth has developed amongst the students, and they take great pride in being the voice for the Atlas Moth – especially since the moth does not have a mouth of its own.

The Moth Mob share their work amongst the school's networks via Facebook, school newsletters, on ABC radio, via Education Department Media, Northern Territory News, TWP networks and through other government and non-government organisations. There has been a reinvigoration amongst atlas moth and Landcare groups within Darwin, as the students' advocacy has brought the atlas moth's plight again into the forefront of community discussions.

This program is supported by Landcare Australia and the National Landcare Network, through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program.





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The knowledge these community members have gained in regard to the environmental issues surrounding the atlas moth has been incredibly valuable and they also act as advocates for this threatened species. The art installation at TWP, in particular, has been a very effective tool for sharing information with the general public. All visitors to TWP can now access the displays and be educated about the atlas moth's plight.

The Moth Mob project team has engaged and formed partnerships with a variety of government and non-government organisations and individuals to help maximise students learning around this endangered species. In the future, they hope to expand the project to include moth husbandry. At present, the school and TWP staff are working on developing their knowledge in this area in order to achieve successful outcomes.

Landcare is a grassroots movement that harnesses individuals and groups to protect, restore and sustainably manage Australia's natural environment and its productivity. Groups that fall under the Landcare umbrella work on a diverse range of environmental projects and include farmers embracing sustainable farm management and any community group that partakes in volunteer environmental activities. To find out how you can become a Landcare volunteer and for full details on all 2016 National Landcare finalists, visit www.landcareaustralia.org.au

Ends

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Web Summary

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