

Albion Primary School Biodiversity Audit Report

Audit date	Wednesday 28 August 2019
Who?	Marita Ryan and 8 student leaders



Total area of school	2.0 hectares (20,058m ²)
Total area of buildings	
Audit tool	Modified Greening Australia
Ecological Vegetation Class (EVC)	
Plains Grassland EVC 132* (source DELWP NatureKit) Mostly trees <1m, landscape dominated by grasses and other small flowering plants. Cracking basalt soils prone to seasonal waterlogging. This information supports informed decision making, planting and landscaping within school grounds. *This is the pre-1750's EVC for the land the school occupies.	
Albion Primary school is within 1km of endangered Plains Grassland and Riparian Woodland along the Kororoit Creek.	

Biodiversity Score	57 out of 100
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Biodiversity Audit Score Sheet

		Notes	Score
Large native trees (over 6 metres)	30	15 per hectare	7/10
Large trees (over 6m)	42	21 per hectare	10/10
Native shrubs/understory	2%	<5% understory on site	0/25
Organic litter/mulch	90%	75-99% mulch in gardens	7/10
Weeds	2	Weeds present, some action	8/15
Rocks and logs	14	> 5 large rocks or logs	5/5
Soil management	3	Soil managed effectively	5/5
Habitat extras	9	9/17 possible extras	15/20
Habitat Quality Assessment Score (out of 100)			57

Actions school can undertake to increase biodiversity score:

- Upload this document to ResourceSmart Schools Biodiversity Module and add score to annual settings.
- Make a plan for biodiversity actions.
- Plan to increase biodiversity by 2 to 5 points per year
- Planting of garden beds with native plant species each year, including staggered replacement of non-native with native species.
- Increase planting of understory smaller than 6m to ground cover plants and climbing plants
- Identify areas of the schools grounds that could be planted. Look for areas of healthy grass growth that could be turned into garden beds, rather than trying to plant areas of high compaction or traffic.
- Continue to mulch and plant all exposed soil beds.
- Label plants and create interpretative signage, perhaps a reflective walk with native plants.
- Selected addition of habitat extras (see list).

Interesting features

- The school is very close to Kororoit Creek. Explore connections along streets and through backyards to determine the greater biodiversity of the neighbourhood and the school's possible contribution to this.
- It was raining heavily during the audit. Birds and other wildlife were hard to observe. Repeat this part of the audit during Aussie Backyard Bird Count in October.

Audit worksheet

Attribute	Total	
Number of trees on school grounds (Over 6m)	42	
Number of trees planted this year OUTSIDE of school grounds	0	
Number of trees planted this year ON school grounds	0	
Large native trees (over 6 metres)	30	
Rocks and Logs	26	
Native Shrubs/Understory: (count squares on map)	26	113m2 or .013ha
Percentage of your GARDENS are covered in mulch/organic litter	90%	
Weeds present - some action taken to manage weeds		
Soil Management		
1. Is the school ground free of erosion? Erosion is the wearing away and movement of soil by wind and rain.	N	
2. Is the school ground free of compaction? Compaction is when the soil is packed together, making it hard for plants to grow.	Y	
3. Are the garden beds in the school mulched?	Y	
4. Is your school doing anything to help protect the soil (fencing off areas, putting in paths or putting in plants)?	Y	

Number of habitat extras: (maximum 20)	
Composting Area	Yes
Worm farm	Yes
Vegetable garden and/or fruit orchard	Yes
Plants and/or animals in the classroom	
Frog pond and/or wetland	
Bird bath	
Plants in the school ground have labels/name tags	
Nest boxes	
Indigenous food garden (bush tucker garden)	
Outside bins have lids OR all our bins are inside the buildings (none outside)	Yes
School grows (propagates) indigenous plant seeds	
Green house	
Limited spraying of chemicals in grounds	Yes
Fallen branches and leaf litter in garden beds	Yes
Water from taps use to water gardens (buckets under bubblers)	Yes
Native plants naturally regenerating (new plants growing without help)	Yes
School plan to reduce litter in the school ground	Yes
Total Habitat Extras:	9

Birds observed during the audit

4 Sparrow

Blackbird

(Raining heavily during audit)

Other animals noted in school grounds

Raining heavily during audit, none noted.

A Biodiversity Audit helps you to understand the range of living things that share your school.

The higher the score, the more likely you are to have a school ground that is healthy for all living things - humans, birds, reptiles, mammals, insects, bacteria etc. That means that you are providing food, water and shelter for lots of living things.

Your score of 57 means you are well on the way to great biodiversity. You should aim to increase your score by 2-5 points every year.

Some easy ways to increase biodiversity are:

- Make sure there is mulch on all garden beds.
- Go through the list of habitat extras and choose some things to add to the school garden.
- Choose local native plants for the garden beds when you need to do some planting.
- Have a look around the school grounds for other places where you could swap grass for gardens.
- Participate in National Tree Day and plant new plants every year.
- Participate in the Aussie Backyard Bird Count in October find out exactly what birds visit your garden and community.
- Look out for ways to partner with local Friends groups so you can work with the community on biodiversity.
- Grow some local native plants from seed or cuttings to sell or share with the school community.
- Sign up to the Brimbank Little Leaflet Newsletter for more information about biodiversity in Brimbank. <https://www.brimbank.vic.gov.au/environment-and-sustainability/natural-environment>
- Contact Martha Ragg MarthaR@brimbank.vic.gov.au at Brimbank Council to let her know you'd like to know more about biodiversity and how you can increase it.
- There are lots more tips on this website <http://www.habitatsteppingstones.org.au/>
- This booklet from a neighbouring council is also really useful for plant and garden ideas <https://www.wyndham.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/2017-08/Habitat%20Heroes%20Booklet.pdf>

Your school biodiversity is important not just for your school. Your school is connected to the biodiversity around your school. In gardens, in parks and as a community, everyone is connected.

Think about how you can share this information with the school community. Can you create a presentation for school assembly? Could you write something for the newsletter? Is there another way to explore, share and increase your biodiversity.