

Year level excursion. Year 2 to Urrbrae Wetlands as part of the science topic "Waterworks"

I've been before, oh what a bore but today I saw an awful lot more- A koala that was tagged and a regular visitor but nameless! As we were from Woodend we duly named him Woody! This was after exploring a playground that had radically different equipment from ours at school.



Prior to all that - and the whole reason for going, was to find out how the wetlands work. Anne-Louise took us on a cracking paced walk to see the entry points of local storm - water which carries with it, masses of leaves, rubbish from roadways and fertilizers from gardens and a high salt content. Trash racks collect the mess and the water enters the sediment pond. The racks have to be emptied every 4 weeks such is the amount of leaf litter. Reeds growing clear the salt and fertilizer and the water seeps into the exit pond. From there much cleaner water flows out and joins the waterways to the Patawalonga and enters the sea. Samples from each pond were tested for salt levels and turbidity with the levels being reduced from pond 1 to pond 2 by about half.



Whilst one group did all this around the ponds the other group went searching for Aquatic Macro Invertebrates.

Nets and trays with swooping, jiggling and sweeping actions caught lots of tiny water life. Sort and count meant using spoons and pipettes to put them into an ice cube tray. Inside to use the microscopes connected to computer screens to view our finds. A chart allowed us to identify what we found. Thanks to 2 extra science teachers and Many Parent volunteers - we had small groups to do this and nobody went swimming! In between introductions, change overs and final wrap up we managed to fit in fruit, recess and lunch.



Lots of new learning, new science vocabulary and Tony the bus driver delivered us safely back despite the massive chit chat assaulting his ears!
Rooms 4, 6 and 20 - Staff and Students.