

HANDS-ON WORKSHOP

Bringing Back the Butterflies - The Ongoing Legacy of Community Action

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Abstract

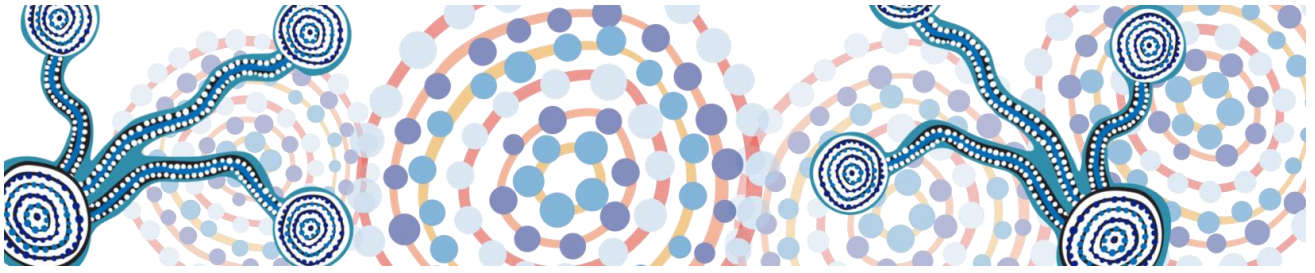
Bringing Back the Butterflies (BBB) connects people with Education for Sustainability. BBB's aim is to support schools and communities to increase urban biodiversity by planting endemic butterfly attracting species and learn about the butterfly life cycle and local ecology. All BBB gardeners receive interpretive signage which invites deeper understanding of our natural environment. School plantings are located where parents, caregivers and passersby can read about BBB and participate. Biophilia is even more effective when linked to the curriculum. Students learn:-

- The butterfly life cycle
- Ecology of butterflies and other species.
- Kurna people and language
- Biology and biodiversity
- Healthy landscapes
- Place making and community health
- How to transform our environment and have direct physical connection with nature
- Hands on understanding of natural systems.
- They are the changemakers

Schools use BBB as a vector for engaging families and neighbours with campus activities while also highlighting their community leader status. Meaningful community connections are possible when neighbours establish their own BBB garden. This, together with interpretive signage provides a discussion point to build better community relationships. As BBB evolved we established teams of volunteers to assist the aged and infirmed to establish their verges. Such inclusion deepens community interactions and reduces isolation. As BBB plots are established they will be linked to our urban nature walks to be found on the BBB website. Community benefits of BBB include:-

- an understanding of biodiversity and sustainability issues
- a deeper appreciation of our 'place' in the environment
- positive community connections
- more inviting, cooler and friendly streetscapes
- more meaningful neighbourhood interactions

BBB has generated significant excitement and support from a multitude of organisations and individuals. We now have a supporter base of over 1500 people.



Acknowledgement

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we meet and pays respects to their Elders past and present.

Speaker Profile

Website links

