

Marine Studies Program (BRUV)

The Marine studies continued with great enthusiasm in 2019. In 2018, the weather proved to be difficult for regular visits in the first term. In 2019 the weather was a lot more favourable and we were able to get down to Rushy Point and Princess Royal Harbour regularly for the first ten weeks of the year.

The close examination of the local area inspired students to work in a variety of disciplines and skills. Students studied species of the intertidal zones at both along with the seagrass and sand of Rushy Point but also along the rocks near the Yacht Club. In such activities, students took photos of the species, researched them, used word processors to collate the information and emailed it to the teacher.



Students were able to use these experiences to inspire them in areas other than science. Students were able to make three-dimensional models of the local environment.

Students wrote poetry inspired by their experiences. The poetry incorporated their real experiences and note-taking at the beach on how they feel, cameras to photograph what they saw and digital technology to combine it all into a presentable form to be emailed to the teacher.

Limpet Mollusca – Gastropoda

Most limpet species have a cone-shaped shell and a muscular foot, with which they cling tightly to the reef or to other hard substrates. Grazing on algae at high tide, limpets generally return to exactly the same place where they left their mark on the rock at low-tide.



Periwinkle Mollusca – Gastropoda

This is part of Olivia Singer's research work and digital photography.

The equipment used in Marine Studies to create the baited remote underwater video (BRUV) proved problematic this year. Batteries were unreliable and were inconsistent in how long they would remain charged. This made it very difficult to commit the time needed to make a 'drop' and film. However, Little Grove Primary School has been able to secure two new cameras that have advanced technology from the older ones. Through a grant, school budgeting and assistance from Harvey Norman, the Marine Studies course has gained to new Kaiser Bas 4K Action cameras and two new 64G SSD cards. Therefore, a BRUV 'drop' will occur in Term 4, 2019.

The Marine Studies course has been run at Little Grove Primary School for over ten years now. It has offered students, hands on, real experiences to help inspire their learning. The course offers memorable experiences the can have for the rest of their lives. To quote the World Outdoor Classroom Day helps to explain the benefits the Marine Studies course has provided for the students.



"WHY OUTDOOR PLAY AND LEARNING?"

When teachers take learning outdoors they report some powerful impacts: Children's behaviour improves, whole classes are excited to learn, and individuals who feel inhibited by the curriculum often thrive in an outdoor environment.

When adults think back to their own happiest memories of childhood, they frequently recall the joy of playing outdoors. Play (and outside learning experiences) is not only central to children's enjoyment of childhood, but teaches critical life skills such as problem-solving, teamwork and creativity."

The Marine Studies course at Little Grove Primary School continues to go from strength to strength and will continue to be of benefit to students in the future.

Mr Marc Davies - Coordinator