

Big Backyard Project at Somerville Secondary College



A big thank you to Catherine Arnold and Catherine May, teachers at Somerville Secondary College, for enabling students to take part in the Big Backyard Project. Here's what some students from 7A, 7B and 7C, together with Tiarna, Bailey, Chloe, Jack, Travis and Cameron, had to say about their involvement:

"The project was to paint a mural to beautify the wetlands ... and it was looking really bad with all the graffiti. The group I was in painted a koala ... the school is going to look better and for the local residents it's going to mean that they are going to be even more proud of our community."

"The people in our group are Cam, Matt, Berry, Jordan, Mark. I really enjoyed working with Tony because I got to learn more painting skills. I think the project will mean a lot to the community because they will be proud of us working on something together."



"I did enjoy working with Tony because he is a professional artist. It was cool ... I got to hear some stories so, yeah, it was good ... Other schools might use it and it might make parents want their kids to come to SSC."

"Our school did a big backyard painting and it will go in the wetlands at the back of the school. I think it's a good idea ... that it covers all the tags on the fence so that the school looks nicer ... not saying that it's not already. I really enjoyed the big backyard activity. My group painted a wombat ... it looks really good and all the others look great too." - Tiarna

"The big backyard project was a very awesome experience. Tony the artist helped us make the big painting of animals ... to cover up all the tags ... it improved my painting skills and my drawing skills and I had a new

experience - I used charcoal to put the outline on and then we rubbed it lightly with a cloth and went over the top of the charcoal with a permanent marker and then we painted it. Some of the year 11 people helped us. It was very nice of Tony to help us and I hope he comes back. It was awesome!" - Bailey

"Year 7s worked with some year 11 VCAL students and Tony (the artist). It will give Somerville Secondary College ... a better look when the projects will be up. We had to outline the drawings in charcoal and then rub it off lightly and then go over the outline in sharpie and then we got out the paint and started to paint in the lines ... I would like to thank Tony Sowersby so much for teaching us new techniques in drawing and letting us work on this project with him." - Chloe



"I liked how we got to have a part of the project with the year 11s. For our part we painted a wombat with a kangaroo in the middle ... and trees around the painting as well. It was one of the best opportunities for art that I have had all year so far, and I learnt a lot. I worked with three other people as well." - Jack

"At first it seemed really hard to draw all these pictures but then Tony turned a projector on and projected it on the board. It was donated. I was really interested in the charcoal drawing and how it just rubs off into a faint line and then we went over it with a permanent marker and then we painted it. My group painted an emu." - Travis

"As we started ... we realised that it didn't look like a kangaroo. But Tony said to finish and you will see what it looks like. So we continued and finished and it looked like a proper kangaroo. We added some more background stuff and ... used many different colours to make the picture look cool. Once we had finished we looked at all the different ones that other groups did. They all looked spectacular. This BIG BACKYARD PROJECT was a great idea." - Cameron

For more information about the Big Backyard Project, contact Liz on Elizabeth.Tomazic@mornpen.vic.gov.au or 9590 1669.

