

Our wonderful Wirra

We would like to acknowledge the original custodians of the land on which we learn and work, the Kurna people. This land was once native Stringybark forest ("Wirra") before European settlement. We are thankful to the Kurna people for sharing their Wirra with us, and are committed to learning about and caring for the native flora and fauna together.

Adjoining our Kindergarten's outdoor learning area is a very special patch of remnant native vegetation called the "Wirra". In 2015 we became more proactive in our quest to take responsibility for the Wirra. We have been working with Rob Wallace, NRM Education Coordinator with the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges Natural Resources Management Board. With Rob's help we developed a Site Environment Management Plan (SEMP) to support our Kindergarten community to further develop sustainable practices. This plan includes our commitment to respect and nurture the native flora in our care, in the hope that its inhabitants can thrive within the Wirra and surrounding areas.

The Southern Brown Bandicoot is a nationally endangered species found in the Mount Lofty ranges.



Southern Brown Bandicoots struggle to survive because over 85% of natural habitats in the Mount Lofty Ranges have been cleared. Much of the remaining vegetation occurs in very small patches and is in poor condition. A single bandicoot typically requires between one and six hectares of habitat. Many habitat patches in the Mount Lofty Ranges are not large enough, or of sufficient quality, to support populations of bandicoots.

The survival of the Southern Brown Bandicoot is dependent on the protection and restoration of habitat. If we, as a community, can take shared responsibility for this, hopefully we can make a difference! Our wish for the Kindy Wirra is that it will become a Bandicoot habitat (if not already), and a valuable learning space for children, their families and the local community.

The school Wirra on the corner of Strathalbyn/Fairview Roads is part of the Aldgate Valley Nature Walk/Valley of the Bandicoots, and the walk passes alongside our Kindy Wirra. Perhaps you have wondered what the "B" signposts represent, or maybe you have already experienced this beautiful walk?

We welcome your involvement in the control of weeds in the Wirra, enabling the native flora to regenerate over time. This is a long term project and help will be needed from our community over the coming years. Grandparents and other caregivers are more than welcome to be involved! We look forward to working with you and your child to nurture our rare native Australian patch, and hopefully one day we see evidence of the Southern Brown Bandicoot making its home there (as well as an increase in other native species!)

Thankyou 😊