Our Bell Eco Schools team has had a busy year with events, activities and assisting classes when their curriculum units are linked to environmental issues.

The year started with Clean Up Australia Day with our event being assistance in our local Landcare “Adopt-a-patch” project by removing noxious weed like Mother-of-Millions and Prickly Pear as well as and non-native grasses such as Green Panic. The aim of the Bottle Tree Scrub Project is to regenerate the patch back to its original state with native species.

Next was our participation in the Young Judges’ Competition where the students were asked to judge three items from the Produce section - Barley, Pumpkins and Forage Sorghum and rate these into first, second and third placings according to their qualities.

Place getters were: Harrison McLaughlin - First, Bailey Roberts-Zahl - Third and Sarah Morrow - Second.

On request from Mr McNaughton we set about putting in a large flower box to grow flowers and foliage to use to make the school wreaths for ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day with the year 7 students being responsible for watering it.

As part of our Biodiversity theme we are monitoring bird species in Bell and compiling local bird species list. We had guest speaker, Mrs Bernice Seton to share her vast knowledge of Australian birds with us and then attending a “Birding with Bernice” workshop to help complete our bird booklets.

The Eco Schools team assisted at Under 8’s Day with some craft activities using recycled materials. Sock puppets, wind spinners and CD Hovercrafts.

The Year 2 / 3 Class were studying a Science unit called “Good to Grow’ where they had to grow an animal and a plant to monitor its growth. In came “Ginger Ninja” the guinea pig followed by the planting and growing of Nasturtiums and Sunflowers in pots which have since been planted into the garden outside the Year 5 / 6 classroom for everyone to enjoy.

Also as part of their unit and the Prep – Year 1 Digital Technologies we were able to have a guest speaker from the WDRC Waste Education Program come in and speak to the students about the benefits of using earthworms to reduce and recycle our food scraps.

For EnviroWeek, the Eco Schools Team organised a Swap Party which was a huge success for rehoming unwanted items. The Team also made Terrariums in jars and passionfruit butter which was sold to purchase seedlings for the vegetable garden.

Recycling waste paper is a major aim of our team with paper being reused in art and scribble pads, shredded for garden mulch and into fire bricks.

The team created an Eco Code to reflect the themes of Eco Schools Program that we are currently working on for our accreditation which they then turned into a rap. Here are the words to the rap:
Bell P – 10 State School Eco Code RAP

We are the eco school committee, and we like to keep our school pretty.
We recycle all our paper, so then others use it later.

We are the eco-school committee, and we like to keep our school pretty.
Everybody in the school knows, in the bin the rubbish goes.
We are the eco school committee, and we like to keep our school pretty.

Drips, drips go away, down the drain they will stay.
This is why we made this rap, so you will remember to turn off the tap.

We are the eco school committee, and we like to keep our school pretty.
Leave your lights on, it is a waste, working for the man, you’ll taste.

We are the eco school committee, and we like to keep our school pretty.

Before we go to university, we need to learn bio-diversity.

We are the eco school committee, and we like to keep our school pretty.
We have a natural aura, habitats for all fauna and flora.

We are the eco school committee, and we like to keep our school pretty.
We are citizens, Global, our cause, Kenya Kids is noble.

We are the eco school committee, and we like to keep our school pretty.

Written by Year 8 Eco Committee Students, 2016.

Our application was submitted at the end of term three to Keep Queensland Beautiful to keep our five star Cleaner Greener accreditation and also to Keep Australia Beautiful with the aim of achieving a Silver Award which would make Bell the third Eco School to achieve this level in Australia. At the moment, we are still awaiting the outcome of these achievements but are quietly confident of success.