



Highly Commended

# Citizen Science Primary

The Year 3 Sealion Class KICE  
The Year 3 Glossy Black  
Class KICE

Kangaroo Island Community  
Education



# **Insects on Kangaroo Island**

**Year 3 Sea Lion and Glossy Black classes  
Kangaroo Island Community Education**

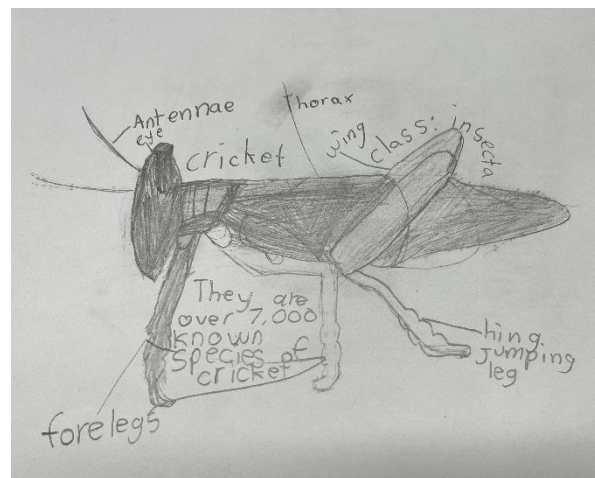
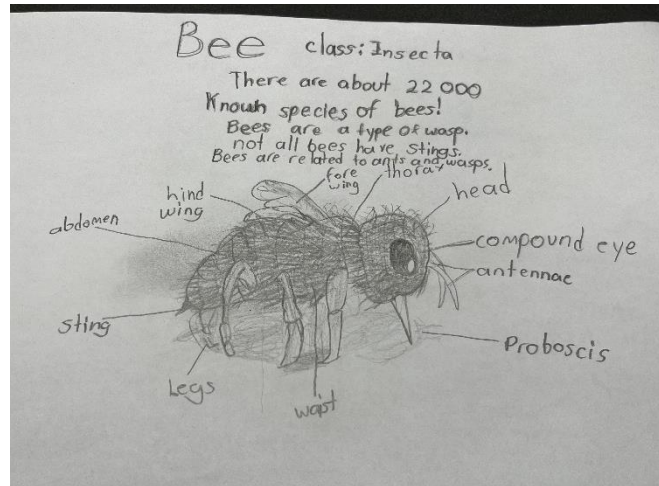
**Project ID: 0278-040**

## What We Did

We, the year 3 Sea Lion and Glossy Black classes from Kangaroo Island Community Education (KICE) chose to explore the kinds of insects we have on Kangaroo Island. We were inspired by Dr Rachel Pillar and the year 7 and 8 classes who collected data as part of an Insect Investigators project in 2022. We wanted to collect our own selection of insects and compare our data to the information the other classes found.

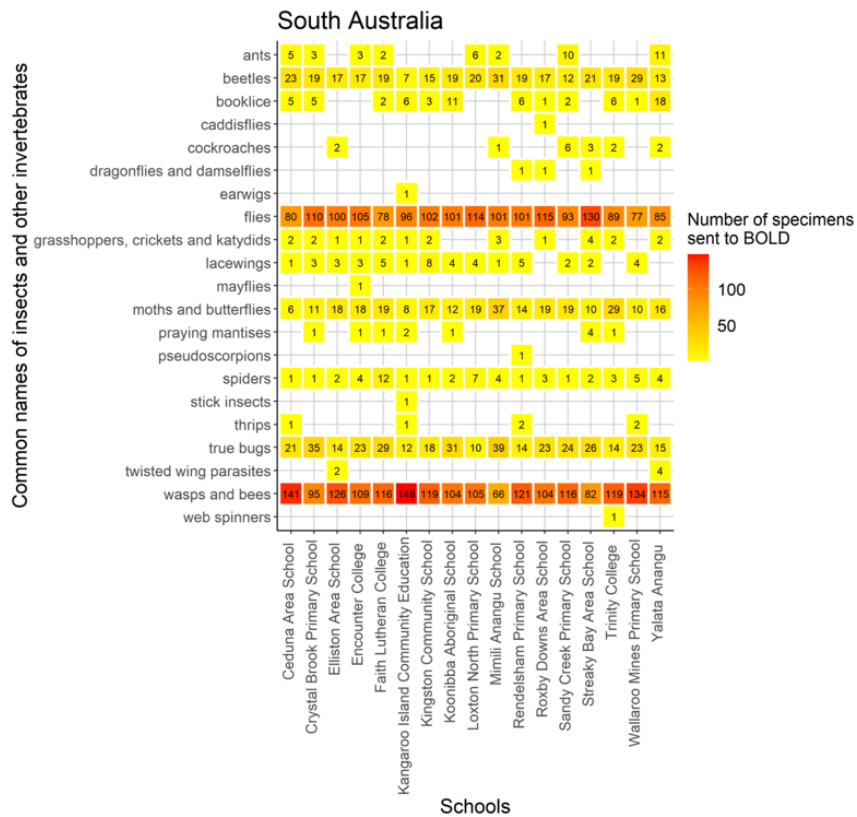
## The Process

**Step 1:** We did some research on insects and how they are classified. We learned about the morphology of insects and how insects can be compared and classified. Part of our research was looking at preserved specimens which we then sketched and labelled.





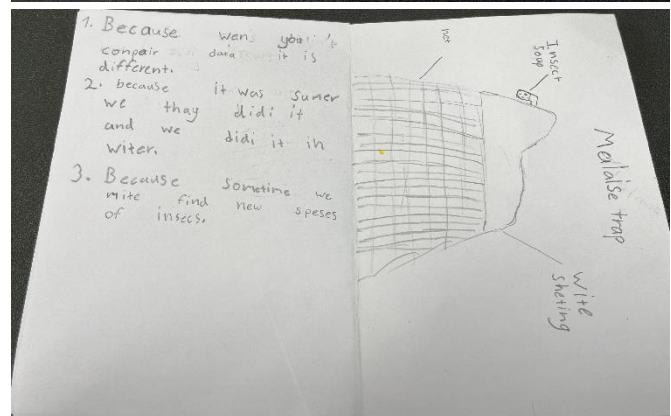
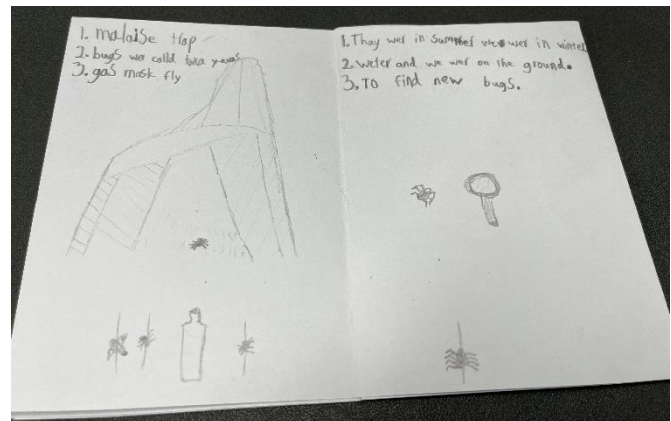
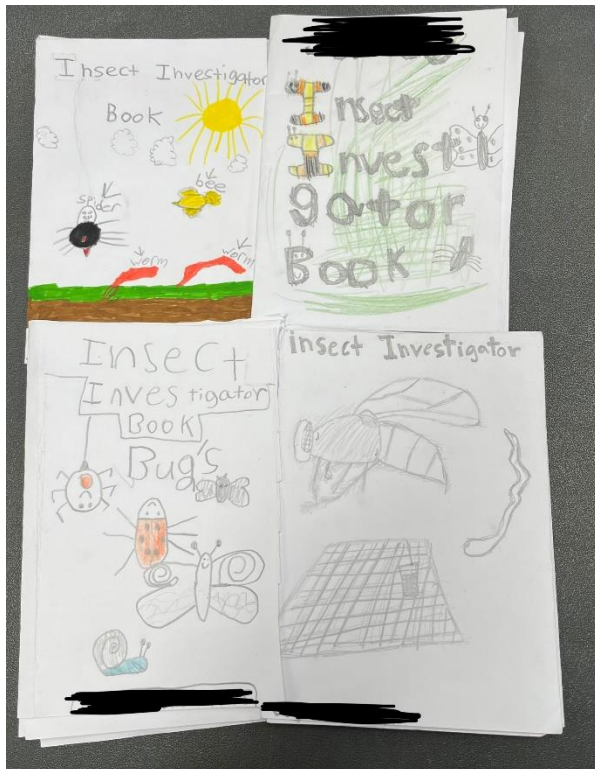
**Step 4:** Dr Rachel Pillar visited and presented the Insect Investigator data to us from 2022.



**Step 5:** We compared the two data sets and recorded our findings in our Insect Investigator Books.

Our Research	
Worms	26
Caterpillar	1
Slug	1
Snail	24
Spider	13
Flies	11
Ants	12
Grubs	1
Bee	6
Millipede	3
Earwigs	2
Slaters	21
Butterfly/moth	1
Stink bugs	9

Insect Investigators	
Worms	0
Caterpillar	0
Slug	0
Snail	0
Spider	1
Flies	96
Ants	0
Grubs	0
Bee	148
Millipede	0
Earwigs	1
Slaters	0
Butterfly/moth	8
Stink bugs	0



## What We Learned

We learned many things about insects, their observable features, morphology, and the types of insects that can be found on Kangaroo Island. Based on what we already knew about insects we were able to suggest why these insects are important to our environment.

‘The insects help the soil and help the plants to reproduce’ – Alby

‘There are different kinds because there is lots of weather change’ – Levi

We also learnt about ways to represent data by constructing column graphs and other types of graphs. We were able to draw conclusions based on the data and explain why they might have happened. We thought carefully about the variables that may have impacted the data and talked about whether it is fair to compare these data sets. We decided that to compare data accurately we need to do more research.

‘We used bug catchers, but they used a Malaise Trap’ – Rhylan

‘Worms were the most common for us’ – Brax

‘We can discover how different traps work. Air traps get air creatures, floor traps get floor creatures’ -Jared

‘It is different because they used their Malaise Trap in Summer’ - Rubi

‘When you compare the data it is very different’ - Emily

‘They found more flying insects because it was Summer when they did it’ – Belle

‘I noticed we found more worms than bees because it was a rainy day’ – Alyssia

‘I learned from Dr Pillar that they [insect collection] change depending on the weather’ – Zach

‘The big kids went to the bush but we just stayed at school’ – Ilithya

When Dr Pillar visited us she explained that Insect Investigator group discovered a new species of parasitic fly on Kangaroo Island. We learned that new species of insect are identified by their physical features first, just like the features we looked at in the beginning of our research. Then they go through different testing by scientists, including DNA testing.

Two representatives (Ilithya and Levi) from our classes were able to go along to a Zoom meeting with the year 7 and 8 students where they met with taxonomists to discuss naming the species. Our previous learning of morphology of the fly developed students’ technical vocabulary and understanding of how new species get names and described. Using this knowledge our classes put forward several name ideas including...

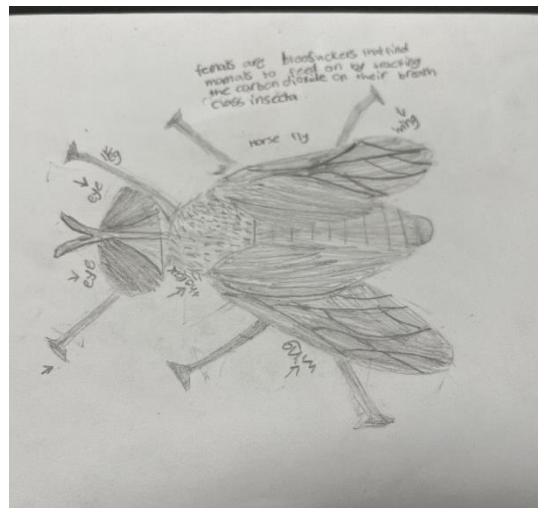
Gold Fly – Jax

Blue Spotted Fly – Dane

Crystal KICE Fly – Makenzie

Rainbow Abdomen Fly –whole class idea

Teal Thorax Fly – whole class



## Importance of Our Research

The information from our research is important so we can understand the biodiversity on Kangaroo Island. This is particularly important here because we had bad bushfires in 2020. By documenting and describing the insects found on the Island in different seasons we can understand how the natural environment is recovering.

‘I think this could be useful because we could discover more new species of fly’ – Alyssia

‘Scientists can learn more so then we can learn more about insects’ – Lex

‘It might be useful for knowing what type of insects are on KI’ - Connor

## What’s Next

Based on our observations we have decided that to compare our results accurately we will need to repeat our research in the summer months. We have decided that our next insect collection data will mainly be used to compare winter insects and summer insects found at our school site.

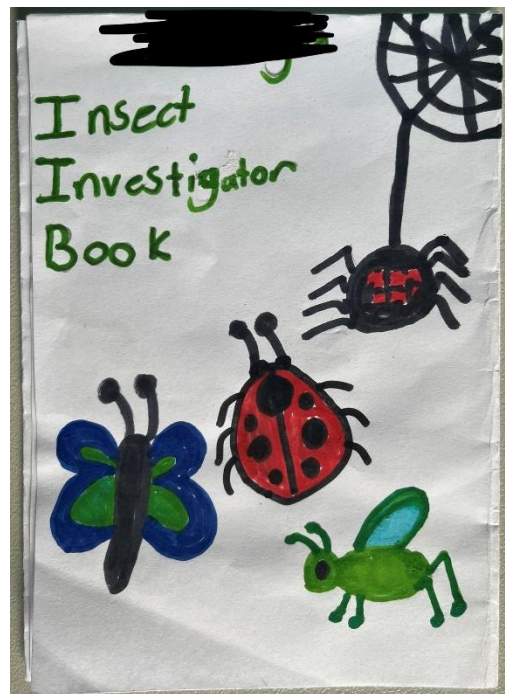
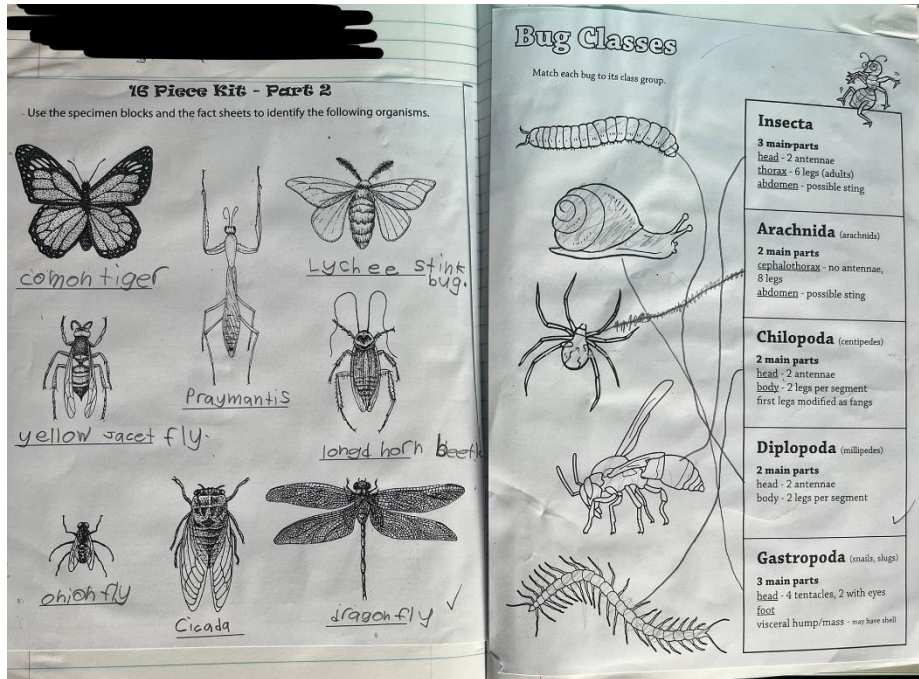
## Acknowledgements

Special thanks to Dr Rachel Pillar and the Year 7 and 8 Insect Investigator teams for sharing their skills and research results with us.



## Appendix A – student work sample


This is a complete sample of student bookwork that went along with this research. This was completed alongside several class tasks and hand on learning opportunities for students.



1. I Notice that we had so many worms.

2. I was surprised because there was bely any bees.

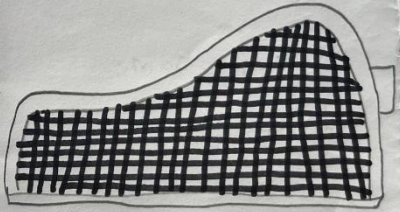
3. I think we need bugs because it is inportant to know wether they have all name or not.



I learned that the flies # bugs are going to be sent to canada and last year they cort diffrent things.


malaise trap

bug name  
blue butt  
flic



The big kids did it in summer and we did it in winter and we had diffrent equimant. The big kids went in the bush but we just stayed at school. Say we were to catch a new bug it could be good for medison food and maby good for plants who know

when the big kids did it.



when we did it.

