Saturday 4th July 2026 – The 11th Annual Bush Block Busy Bee

At Parkfield, we consider ourselves very fortunate to have an area of natural bushland, the Bush Block, located on our school's site. This important ecological area provides habitat for our native wildlife as well as being used for a variety of purposes by different classes during lesson times. For several years now, our Bush Block has continued to be very popular with students, across all year levels, during Monday, Wednesday and Friday lunchtimes, where honky nuts and 'diamonds' (black rocks) have become extremely valuable currency as children barter and trade items to build their bases and 'shops'! It is our hope that by giving our students the opportunity to play in and learn about the natural environment, it will inspire them to protect and preserve it now and into their future lives!

For over a decade, the Bush Block Busy Bee has been an annual tradition, engaging numerous members of Parkfield's community to assist with maintaining this important piece of land. It started as a Buddy Class project for the students in my class and those in Mrs Jan Sullivan's in 2016. Since her retirement, this tradition has continued with our Year 1/2 buddies in Room 4 and their teachers, Ms Narelle Pickering and Ms Nat Else. Over the past 11 years, families of students from our classes have developed this area by planting natives to provide a haven for animals and birds, creating a seasonal frog pond and establishing an environment that is conducive to nature play, where students can discover the beauty of the great outdoors!

This year's Bush Block Busy Bee took place on Saturday 4th July 2026 and, as with previous years, there was a fantastic turn out with representatives from both classes attending as well as current Parkfield students who have been involved in this event in past years. In addition, we were delighted to be joined by former students who have already completed their primary school journey. A special mention to Jayden Roberts who has been involved since the inaugural event back in 2016, when the Bush Block was still an untamed wilderness, and who continues to assist with the Busy Bees year after year!

During the customary two hours, this incredible bunch of 'busy bees' were able to reinvigorate our precious Bush Block by conducting general maintenance, including re-filling the sand pits, extending the brick pathway with pavers, resetting the commemorative Parkfield 25-year anniversary mosaic stepping stones, demarcating the garden beds with edging, pruning existing flora and imbedding new native plants before placing mulch around them to protect them. Every year I am overwhelmed by all that is achieved in such a short period of time, proof that many hands do indeed make light work!

An enormous **THANK YOU** to the huge team of current and former Parkfield students and their family members for giving up their time to assist: Xavier Lord, Aoibheann Kallis, Austin and Harper Smith, Dani Hay, Vance Wallrodt, Travis Booth, Ariella Gorham, Nazare Henderson, Phoenix Tingwell-Crew, Aiden and Liam Wilkes, Sydney Oliver, Adam and Jack Pendlebury and Jayden Roberts.

I would also like to express my deepest appreciation to my wonderful colleagues, Nat Else and Kelly Brown and my parents for their assistance. Thank you also to our principal, Charlie Serravite, for his ongoing support with this project. Finally, I extend my heartfelt thanks to our gardener, Mark Bradley, for all his advice and assistance prior to and on the day.

Please turn over

THANK YOU to you all! This year's Busy Bee achievements were only possible because of your enthusiasm, skilful teamwork, and serious muscle power! Your community spirit and service are greatly appreciated.

As caretakers of our Bush Block, we continue to hope that the wider Parkfield community will recognise what we are trying to achieve within our precious, natural haven and will treat it with respect. As with the school buildings, our Bush Block is 'Out of Bounds' after school and during the weekends and school holidays. Therefore, we ask that if you happen to be passing, please keep an eye out and report anything unusual, or anyone doing the wrong thing, to the Australind Police immediately on 9720 6200. Thank you.

Sarah Dunbar-Stuart