

Summary:

With the help of Adam Blake and Fiona Copley from Trust for Nature, the students chose to set up an ongoing project involving habitat enhancement and monitoring on a block of land at Minimay owned by MECU finance institution. The Minimay Block is about 20 minutes from Goroke and this area has one of the last remaining food supplies Stringybark and Buloke for the rare South-eastern Red-tailed Black Cockatoo. After deciding on their hypotheses, the students set up two study transects at Minimay, measuring 50 x 50 metres. They also designed their own observation sheets to record their observations. Several times throughout the year the students measured and recorded soil moisture and Ph, weather conditions and insect numbers. They also learnt about the various cloud types and passed their knowledge onto the grade 5/6 class. With assistance from members of the Kowree Tree Group and Grampians Wimmera Mallee Water the students were involved in the direct seeding of Buloke trees and habitat monitoring. Early in 2010 these students will hand over their program to the following Year 9 students to continue on with this long-term project.

