

## Project Update: June 2021

Since I started in April 2021, it has been a busy period. I have successfully completed a tree climbing course and have now placed an order for tree climbing gear. This will allow me to gain a skill that few tree ecologists have - to access tree canopies and conduct ecological research within the forest crown. This slot into our work of documenting the pollinators of different indigenous forest trees and answer relevant and novel research questions.

I have also taken school students on a hike through my research area (indigenous forest), and they learned new information about the forest and all the biodiversity within the forest.

Also, I organised a project by which I raised funds for one school, in order to have a raffle ticket competition by which students could win a prize. The money was then spent on buying an indigenous tree for each student that participated, and we spent a whole day planting these trees on the school grounds. Each student now has his / her own tree on the school campus, which will grow into an indigenous forest in years to come.

I am in the process of establishing an NGO, Forests for Schools, to expand this to more schools in the area.

My field work is set to commence in August 2021, and I still have a lot of site visits, ordering of equipment, reading and writing to do before then. I am working on a review paper, and recently submitted a paper to an international journal for consideration for publication.













