

Bournda Environmental Education Centre's first Bird Olympics video transcript

Music and student noises as students walk through bush

[Teacher speaking] What I'd like you to do is stand really still so we are quiet.

Cause often the way you find birds is by listening.

Pick a leaf and just focus on it and have a good look.

A lot of the birds that you would be looking for will be the same size as a leaf on that tree.

[screen text - Doug Reckord, Principal Bournda EEC]

[Doug Reckord speaking] We're here at Bournda Environmental Education Centre which is located in Bournda National Park on the far south coast of NSW.

We provide support for schools in activities that require fieldwork or experiences in the outdoors.

I think that outdoors is where kids belong, their connections with nature help them to grow and flourish.

[music]

This region is home to former birdcalling champions who were best in the state.

The natural thought was how can we bring that tradition back to life and make it part of our program.

[whistling]

We're very excited because we've got some of the former champions of the past and we've also got a wooden trophy prepared by a local carpenter Robert Whiter.

Today's winners will be the first school to have their name on this new trophy.

[screen text - Bruce Chapman, Gary Beveridge, Jim Burton NSW bird calling champions, 1953-1962.]

[Gary Beveridge speaking] Oh well it teaches them about nature and gets them out and about, you know hopefully out and about.

And um get to see what's out in the real world instead of stuck in a groove you know.

[Doug Reckord speaking] Big warm welcome to the bird callers of the past, put your hands together for them. [clapping]

Bruce and Jim have kindly offered to confer over the marking sheet.

They're looking for clarity - how clear you are making the sound, the enthusiasm with which you do it and the accuracy. That's what we're looking for.

I'm thinking some of them are coming in a little bit raw on the bird calling stakes but we'll see how they go.

But they've had a little bit of practice, even if it was in the car on the way here [chuckle].

First student we have is Max, Max from Tanjar [max makes bird noise]

We'll give the judges a little while to come up with the score for that

Barn owl [unnamed student making barn owl noise]

[unnamed student making grey shrike thrush noise]

[unnamed student making bird noise] wait no no

[unnamed student making bird noise - kookaburra] [clapping] woah who's not laughing [asks Bruce Chapman]

Whip bird [unnamed student 1 - whip bird noise]

[unnamed student 2 - whip bird noise]

[unnamed student 3 - whip bird noise] [gets it wrong shakes head and mumbles sorry I got confused]

[Bruce Chapman speaking] There is two separate calls for the male and the female whip bird.

The female puts two whips on the end of the call [judges demonstrate call Bruce does the initial whip and Jim adds the two whips]

[Bruce Chapman speaking] yes that's right, that's what you get at the end of it.

You don't realise that until you get back in the bush that some of these birds do have different calls between the male and the female.

[student 4 - whip bird noise]

[Doug Reckord speaking]

We've got 19 names on it that means everyone has had a go.

Keep learning cause you could spend your whole life looking at birds and never know it all.

[Gary Beveridge speaking]

Makes me feel really good, proud to see it's being revived, it's renewed or in the process yeah, hopefully it takes off you know.

[Doug Reckord speaking]

At the end of the day we want students outdoors, listening to birds, calling to birds and and really you know connecting to nature in a positive way.

[Students and Judges making bird noises]