

Save the Bilby Challenge 2017



Teacher information

Curriculum alignment

The Save the Bilby Challenge 2017 (STBC2017) is a competition providing students with invaluable and relevant learning experiences that are multifaceted and targeted to support the delivery of the Australian National Curriculum. This alignment with the Australian National Curriculum encourages quality pedagogy in classrooms, promoting student success.

Holistically, the competition provides opportunities for the demonstration of all of the General Capabilities, depending on the method of implementation. The competition, when delivered across a diverse range of *Learning Areas* is specifically designed to engage students in **Critical and creative thinking**, **Personal and social capability**, and **Ethical understanding** (Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority, 2017).

The dynamic nature of this competition caters to several *Learning Areas* within the Australian National Curriculum. The time frame provided by the Save the Bilby Fund caters to the flexibility required by classroom teachers. As a result, STBC2017 can be implemented as an ongoing classroom-based learning experience, a culminating task or as an extension/accelerated learning activity.



Please refer to the table on the following page to identify the relevance of STBC2017 to specific *Learning Area* Strands.

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LEARNING AREA	RELEVANT STRANDS	RECOMMENDED YEAR LEVEL
ENGLISH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ LITERACY ❖ LITERATURE ❖ LANGUAGE 	Foundation to Year 10.
MATHEMATICS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ NUMBER AND ALGEBRA ❖ STATISTICS AND PROBABILITY 	Year 2 to Year 10.
SCIENCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ SCIENCE UNDERSTANDING ❖ SCIENCE AS A HUMAN ENDEAVOUR ❖ SCIENCE INQUIRY SKILLS 	Foundation to Year 10.
HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES (F-6/7)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ INQUIRY AND SKILLS ❖ KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING 	Foundation to Year 7.
GEOGRAPHY (7-10)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ GEOGRAPHICAL KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING ❖ GEOGRAPHICAL INQUIRY AND SKILLS 	Year 8 and Year 10.
THE ARTS (Media Arts and Visual Arts)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS 	Foundation to Year 10.
TECHNOLOGIES (Digital Technologies)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING ❖ DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES PROCESSES AND PRODUCTION SKILLS 	Foundation to Year 10.

Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority, 2016

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A note to teachers

Save the Bilby Fund is proud of its record over many years of engaging with schools across a wide geographical spread and bringing bilbies and their conservation story to students of all ages. Our ongoing involvement with schools is being lead by this new annual competition.

We thank you as teachers for your support of STBC2017 this year and look forward to working with you in 2018 as interest and involvement in the competition grows.

Competition testimonial from Kiri Griffiths

As Humanities Head of Department and as a junior secondary English and Humanities teacher, I have seen the value in the integration of Save the Bilby Fund Face the Challenge (FTC) Competition. Approximately 11 years ago, when I was a teacher in training, my journey in supporting the Fund in the classroom began.

I introduced my classes to the bilby mainly in Geography as a case study to reinforce the geographical concept of 'interconnectedness'. After seeing first-hand how engaged students were by the bilby, I decided to use the FTC Competition as a research project for students.

More recently, we have used the crossword competition as a class project. The students have been working in groups, developing their research and literacy skills whilst also learning about the plight of the bilby and other Australian wildlife. The students are brainstorming ways in which they can raise the profile of the bilby and increase awareness within our school community about protecting not only our threatened species but also our environment. This is a key focus for our school being an agricultural school.

As the Humanities Head of Department, I ensure that the FTC competition is integrated into our yearly overviews in English and the Humanities and Social Sciences as an accelerated learning project in our Signature Excellence Program. Additionally, the written component of the competition serves as an engaging tool for NAPLAN preparation. This completion is used in Term 3 of Year 8 to teach the genres of persuasion and narrative.

This is a competition that has allowed my students over many years to engage in learning that can really make a difference to our world and of course to the survival of the bilby.

This new competition STBC2017 adds a new dimension to the teaching and learning focussed on the plight of the bilby. Now that students have the flexibility of delivery and are required to create an artefact to raise awareness, the links to the curriculum are stronger than ever.

In 2016, two of our students won first place and runner up in the STBC. The two winning students decided that it was in the spirit of the Save the Bilby Fund to share their prizes with all of their peers who entered. The opportunity to introduce a live Bilby to each and every student who had investigated Bilbies and their conservation was invaluable. The students made real life connections with their writing and this experience will not only stay with them for life but continue to serve as a reminder of the importance of playing a part in the solution.

Thank you to the Save the Bilby Fund for providing young people with the opportunity to voice their opinion and develop into active citizens!

Kiri Griffiths

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