

Emily attended Baldivis Primary School from yr 5-7 and represented Baldivis PS and the Baldivis Children's Forest at UNESCO in Paris in 2006 as one of two students plus Judith Hill and our Principal John Worthy as winners of the Australian Veolia Sustainability competition. Emily is now yr 10 and attends Comet Bay College and is still active in the forest as a volunteer. Emily helps at nightstalks, fairs and community days.

How does the forest make you feel?

The forest makes you feel like you are part of something important. It makes you feel like you have a say in what goes on there. The forest makes you feel welcome.

What is great about being in the forest?

For me the greatest part of the forest is its smell. Its smell sets it apart from other similar places, I like the eucalypts, the mulch and the wetlands paperbark trees. Another great part of the forest is the bush classroom, I remember having a sleepover there.

What do you do in the forest?

When I'm in the forest, I help with nightstalks. I set up display tables, put out chairs and mats and speak to people coming along to the nightstalk. I then make milo at the end of the night for the kids. Other people participate in planting and activity days.

Who else goes to the forest?

Kids from many schools in the area go to the forest on activity days. Some groups also go there to do community service. Other people volunteer to help there.

Why should kids get involved with the forest?

Kids should get involved with things like the forest because these areas are important to future kids. Not many kids would have a local forest where they can help replant trees and then watch them grow. The forest has changed so much since I started going there 6 years ago.

Anything else?

I'd like to add that the forest is one of my favourite places to be and that its very important to preserve things like this. So I send my thanks to the people who run it.

Emily Rayner Year 10 Comet Bay College.