



Maggie the magpie by Hannah

## Great giveaway

To celebrate our 6th edition of Kids Branch we've got some fantastic prizes to give away!

Our mascot Maggie wants to hear about any of your environmental stories. Maybe you've got beautiful drawings of Maggie flying or feeding that you could send in, or perhaps you've got some funny environmental jokes we can share? Send in your entries to either 5 May Terrace, Brooklyn Park 5032 or email [kids@treesforlife.org.au](mailto:kids@treesforlife.org.au).

Carly

## Students help and learn

Last year Trees For Life was pleased to have several visit requests from schools. In our last edition of Kids Branch we showed you some work by the Lockleys North Primary School.

In November Sue from the Bush For Life program paid a visit to both Hahndorf and Macclesfield Primary Schools. Sue gave the students a demonstration on how to get rid of the weed Monadenia from native bushland. Some of the great student work is featured, and is also on our website.

Earlier in 2008 both Loretto College and St Peters Girls School helped raise funds for our work by holding a student casual day. In return for a gold coin donation students could choose to receive either a TFL sticker or ribbon. If you would like more information about this for your school email [kids@treesforlife.org.au](mailto:kids@treesforlife.org.au).

## Lookout Monadenia...

by Lewis & Jack, from Hahndorf Primary School

On Thursday the 6th of November 2008, Rooms 10 and 3 went to Yantaringa to pick Monadenia Orchids. These orchids are weeds from Africa that are overpopulating Australia. They are green with about 40-100 little purple and yellow flowers.

We walked with our buddies along Pine Avenue past the oval to Yantaringa. When we got there, Sue from Trees For Life talked to us about the Monadenia. Our shoes were sprayed with methylated spirits and we started searching for the Monadenia Orchid. Isaac found an orchid approximately 40 cm long.

In total we got about 1000 plants. After that we walked back to school.

Overall it was a good day.

## Why trees?

Whether it's planting them or saving them, you may ask why are trees so important? Trees are in fact one of the world's most valuable resources and are vital to our existence.

Trees are responsible for one of the most important processes on the planet - the production of oxygen. They take in the stuff we don't want (the carbon dioxide) and pump out the stuff we do want (oxygen).

Trees roots bind soil together holding in vital nutrients and minerals.

Trees provide shelter and food for millions of species of birds and animals.



Drawing by Danielle



Drawing by Holly

Sue helped us cut out monadenia

## Did you know?

Did you know that the tallest living tree in the world measures in at 115.55m high? This tree is a coast redwood named 'Hyperion' that lives in Redwood National Park in California. It is believed to be 'only' 600 years old, and was discovered and given the title of 'tallest living tree' in 2006, after a brave man climbed it and dropped a measuring tape from the top. An Australian tree, mountain ash (*Eucalyptus regnans*), found on Mt Baw Baw in Victoria held this record in the late 1880s standing as high as 143m - that is higher than the Sydney Harbour

Bridge! Mountain ash is the tallest of all flowering plants and, appropriately, the species name 'regnans' comes from the Latin word for ruling.

Quiz: True or False? Write X for your answer.

- True  False  
The number of growth rings is used to estimate the height of a tree.
- True  False  
Some individual trees have been recorded to have lived for over 5000 years.
- True  False  
Coast redwood seeds are about the same size as tomato seeds.