

# Year 11 explores Hawkesbury Sandstone Ecosystem

In Term 3, Year 11 Biology students from Meriden visited Camp Kedron and Ku-ring-gai National Park to deepen their understanding of ecosystem dynamics, focusing on the Hawkesbury Sandstone ecosystem. The excursion provided an immersive learning experience, allowing students to observe and analyse various native plants and animals in their natural habitats.

The day was filled with hands-on activities, including counting trees in quadrats, measuring soil moisture, and identifying plant adaptations. Students observed the waxy cuticle of the Red Bloodwood tree and the unique adaptations of bush rats and brown antechinuses. Despite the cold weather, the students remained enthusiastic, exploring the structural adaptations of trees and comparing abiotic factors between different areas of the landscape.

Highlights of the excursion included identifying trees, examining leaves, and observing the behaviour and adaptations of native animals. The students appreciated the opportunity to apply classroom knowledge to real-life experiences, enhancing their understanding of how species adapt to their environments.

The excursion was a valuable and enriching experience, combining education with the enjoyment of nature, and was highly appreciated by all who attended.

**Mrs Jennifer Juhn**  
Acting Assistant Head of Science



Farnia Afjool holding a pregnant crayfish



Sara Hawley, Lauren Kim and Tabitha Alex with local fauna