I was proud of the team’s adoption of Collaborative Leadership. Everyone put in and shared the load of organising this week-long project. The schools also joined in this process and helped with site preparation, easing some of the load on our team.

Lyn Thomson, Richmond Landcare
After lunch a creative afternoon session saw students choose to either create: watercolour art; poetry; an action poster/flyer; a news story for local media; or weave with natural fibres; expressing their new understanding and appreciation of the Big Scrub Rainforest. The day concluded with an evaluation and reflection session with the students.

As a result of this project, 400 locally grown and endemic trees and shrubs have been planted in four Big Scrub Rainforest remnants, increasing habitat for fauna and insect species. With support from Southern Cross University researchers, 12 of the students from the Big Scrub School Days are creating a community network internet blog to share their knowledge and inspire others in the ecosystem rehabilitation process.

These 12 students are also working collaboratively as young researchers with Southern Cross University to create a book by young people for young people about the story of the Big Scrub Rainforest, which is expected to be published in late 2018.

"The students were very engaged as they learned about the Big Scrub by listening to local Aboriginal stories told by Bundjalung Elder Lois Cook, a Senior Law Women and Custodian of the Nyangbul Country. Working with the Bundjalung community in this way deepened the authenticity of the project and allowed NRGEE to deliver a holistic history of the Big Scrub."

Cindy Picton and Tamlin McKenzie, Dorroughby Environmental Education Centre

"A key achievement was the student’s extensive learning and engagement, as demonstrated in their evaluation responses and their successful transfer of knowledge into art, stories, rap poems and films. This creativity was also an impressive demonstration of what students can do with a student-centred approach."

Marianne Logan, Southern Cross University

This project has been assisted by the New South Wales Government through its Environmental Trust.