

# Purple Pea Patrol

## Can you find it?

### UNIT OVERVIEW

The Purple Pea Patrol is a community-based awareness project supported by Red Hill Environmental Education Centre and the Central Tablelands Local Land Services. The project aims to educate students about the *nationally endangered* Small Purple Pea populations found in their local area and support them to raise awareness of the species within their local community. In the process, we hope that more populations of this beautiful pea will be discovered and protected!

### SCIENCE OUTCOMES

**ST3-4LWS-S** Examines how the environment affects the growth, survival and adaptation of living things

**ST3-2DP-T** Plans and uses materials, tools and equipment to develop solutions for a need or opportunity

### KEY INQUIRY QUESTIONS AND CONTENT

#### How do physical conditions affect the survival of living things?

- Describe how changing physical conditions in the environment affect the growth and survival of the Small Purple Pea.
- Understand that scientific knowledge is used to solve problems and inform community decisions about conservation

#### How do the structural and behavioural features of living things support survival?

- Describe the structural and/or behavioural features of the Small Purple Pea *Swainsona recta* and why they are considered to be adaptations for survival.

### ENGLISH OUTCOME

**EN3-2A** Composes, edits and presents well-structured and coherent texts

### CONTENT

Composes texts that include sustained and effective use of persuasive devices e.g. texts dealing with environmental issues.



# STAGE 3 – SCIENCE AND ENGLISH

## Purple Pea Patrol Outline



Students involved in this project engage with an authentic, real-world conservation program of a locally situated and *nationally endangered* plant species- the Small Purple Pea (*Swainsona recta*). Pre and post activities support student exploration of the importance of biodiversity, adaptations of Australian plants, threats to Australian flora, community engagement and design solution processes.

### AT SCHOOL PRELIMINARY ACTIVITIES Terms 3 & 4

Students undertake a variety of preliminary activities that will support their understanding of key concepts including the adaptations of Australian flora, biodiversity and conservation. Students conduct a baseline community survey to gauge current levels of awareness of the endangered species living on their doorstep at Flirtation Hill and in the Mudgee Common!

### INCURSION: LOCAL LAND SERVICES AND RED HILL EEC

#### Term 3- Early Term 4 Bookings through RHEEC

Students have the opportunity to engage with experts from the Local Land Services undertaking the Small Purple Pea conservation program. Students will learn about this remarkable little plant, how to identify it, the threats to its survival and what they can do to help! **Online format also available.**

### LOGO DESIGN COMPETITION

#### Entries close Friday 6<sup>th</sup> November, Week 4 Term 4

Students engage with the design brief to create a logo and slogan for the Purple Pea Patrol project. The winning design will represent the project and feature in future communications.

### SEARCH PARTY! Terms 3-4 during flowering season

Can you find it?! Students engage in targeted searches of potential Small Purple Pea habitat, recording site details and data. Searches may be conducted as a class/school or by individual students outside of school.

### VIRTUAL SHOWCASE & CELEBRATION Week 7 Term 4

Time to celebrate! A virtual showcase of entries will be uploaded to social media so students, their families and the wider community can appreciate their efforts and awareness is raised about the Small Purple Pea.

**For bookings or further enquiries about this program, please contact Red Hill Environmental Education Centre.**



*Swainsona recta* site at Flirtation Hill



Local Land  
Services