



2023 Women in STEM Scholar

Beth Thompson



Citizenship: Australia
District 23

Pursuing bachelor's degree in psychology at Edith Cowan University, Australia

Beth Thompson holds a bachelor's degree in education and a graduate certificate in lower secondary mathematics and is a regional ambassador for the Mathematical Association of Western Australia. Beth is currently collecting mathematical and behavioral data on land and marine life to inform STEM modules for primary and high schools. She is revolutionizing the access of life-long, community-based learning for rural students to help them develop to their full intellectual capacity.

For National Science Week 2023, Beth contributed to the Taxonomy Tournament Database of Indigenous Flora. The project originated at Murdoch University in Perth, Whadjuk Noongar Country. To make the project culturally responsive and applicable to students outside of the metropolitan area, Beth coordinated the Southwest arm, including collaboration with the Wardandi Noongar Cultural Custodian on location-specific knowledge. Beth then focused on the critically endangered Western flat butterfly. She discovered the butterfly relied on one food source, the black-eyed Susan, and that this had been replaced by an introduced variety. She involved nurseries, community organizations and land care groups to locate and germinate native species. Her goal is to reestablish the butterfly population endemic to the Southwest of Australia.

Beth's interdisciplinary knowledge base includes education, mathematics, language development and Indigenous STEM inquiry. She is currently completing a bachelor of psychology, specializing in addiction studies at Edith Cowan University. Beth plans to combine her knowledge of marine life with psychology to conduct research into cognitive trauma, including the effect of subconscious rumination on learning.