



STEP Environmental Award

\$250 Award for a Year K-12 student

STEP is awarding a prize of \$250 for the best environmental project. The winning entry can be from any category and will probably fit into one of the following topics:

- environmental management
- habitat restoration
- rare or threatened species or communities
- understanding ecosystems
- biodiversity

STEP is a community based environmental organisation based in northern Sydney established in 1978. Our aim is to preserve natural bushland from alienation and degradation. Our activities include conducting educational walks and talks, publishing books, walking maps and a regular newsletter, advocacy for bushland protection, provision of educational grants. See www.step.org.au for more information.

Evette Khaziran, Redeemer Baptist School, *Give me a home among the gumtrees*



Habitat conservation in an urban environment was the main focus of Evette's observational study. In February 2017, a family of 5 sugar gliders were discovered in a nesting box that Evette and her group had built and installed in bushland near her North Parramatta school in 2015 for a Technology project. Over the next 5 months she used video cameras and night sensor cameras to observe the sugar gliders movements and

behaviour. From her observations she noticed them struggling entering and exiting their box so she built and installed 2 modified boxes, with a platform and within a week the family had resettled in one of these new boxes.



2017 STEP Environmental Award winner, Evette Khaziran receiving her award from John Martyn