

Community Assistance Program

Environment and Sustainability Scheme

FY2019-20 Grants Report

Rockhampton Regional Council's Environment and Sustainability Scheme supports community-led environment and sustainability initiatives that further the objectives of Council's Environmental Sustainability Strategy.

Grants provided in FY2019-20:

As at August 2021

Number of grants awarded	13
Number of grants acquitted	13
Total grant funding awarded	\$26,450

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Capricornia Catchments:

Helping Capricornia's yellow chat and friends

The Rockhampton Region is home to the critically endangered Capricorn yellow chat and a range of other significant bird species including the bar-tailed godwit, curlew sandpiper, greater sand plover and lesser sand plover. Significant breeding and habitat areas are located around the Fitzroy delta's wetlands and associated grasslands on seasonally inundated marine plains (this includes areas in Bajool, Marmor and Port Alma). Capricornia Catchments are seeking funding from local industry and the Queensland Government Threatened Species Program to support local management initiatives in line with the Australia Government's species recovery plan. This grant provides seed funding to coordinate preliminary planning and site work.

This project received assistance from Rockhampton Regional Council's Community Assistance Program – Environment and Sustainability Scheme in August 2019.

This project is now complete. Key outcomes include:

- Capricornia Catchments educated and involved neighbouring landholders in the protection and restoration of critical habitat areas for the Capricorn yellow chat.
- The area of habitat being managed for species recovery was increased by coordinating on-ground restoration works at a significant habitat site (Bajool) in conjunction with the landholder, Birdlife Capricornia and Capricornia Corrections Centre.
- Volunteers undertook weed identification and chemical application training to further develop their fieldwork skills, survey and monitoring methods.



Key project facts

Grant awarded: \$3000

Delivery: August 2019 to June 2020

Project partners: Rockhampton Regional Council, Capricornia Catchments, Birdlife Capricornia and Capricornia Correctional Centre

Project completed: March 2020

Capricorn Conservation Council:

Communicating for conservation, website upgrade

Capricorn Conservation Council is the principal not-for-profit environmental organisation in Central Queensland. The community-based conservation group was established in 1973 and works to engage in discussion, collaboration, education and on-the-ground activities which promote conservation of our environment. Capricorn Conservation Council's Hut is located on Council land at Haigh Park Rockhampton, is governed by a Management Committee made up of a group of dedicated volunteers and employs a full time Coordinator and a part time Project Officer (with both positions funded by the State Government). This grant provides funding to help upgrade this not-for-profit community group's website.

This project received assistance from Rockhampton Regional Council's Community Assistance Program – Environment and Sustainability Scheme in August 2019.

This project is now complete. Key outcomes include:

- Capricornia Conservation Council developed a fully revised and functional website which is designed to empower the community to understand the value of our natural environment and better engage in activities to protect, maintain and enhance this environment.
- Staff integrated existing databases, website content and other information into a single website and source of information for the community.
- Staff developed a training manual, procedures, social media policy and privacy statement, suitable to support the good governance and long-term operation of the website.



Key project facts

Grant awarded: \$3000

Delivery: August 2019 to June 2020

Project partners: Rockhampton Regional Council and Capricorn Conservation Council

Project completed: July 2020

Access Recreation Inc: *Waste Warriors recycling and waste management program*

Access Recreation Inc. is a not-for-profit organisation, offering support to any person with a disability aged from 7-65 years. They currently service over 300 clients across the region and offer a wide range of learning and lifestyle group programs designed to improve their quality of life and foster their independence. This project was designed to introduce program participants to the concept of recycling and standardised waste management.

This project received assistance from Rockhampton Regional Council's Community Assistance Program – Environment and Sustainability Scheme in April 2020. This project is now complete. Key outcomes included:

- Access Recreation established standardised Containers for Change collection bin at each of its three program locations (Jardine Street, Berserker Street and Cambridge Street).
- Access Recreation staff helped participants to learn about waste management and how to avoid, reduce, reuse and recycle by developing specialised lesson plans for each of their programs.
- Access Recreation staff assisted participants to identify recyclable items, explore ways to sustainably manage their waste products and to share this information within their home environment and with their friends and family.
- Participants visited the Containers for Change refund centre and learned about how eligible containers were collected, sorted and processed.
- Access Recreation staff are continuing to reinforce this program by modelling appropriate waste behaviours, creating new social norms around recycling in their centres and providing ongoing education and awareness to their staff and participants.
- This project assists members of our community to divert resources from landfill.



Participants at Access Recreation utilise their Containers for Change bins to recycle cans and bottles to help divert waste from landfill and create funds to re-invest in other sustainability initiatives.

Key project facts

Grant awarded: \$250

Delivery: May 2020 to June 2021

Project partners: Rockhampton Regional Council, Rockhampton Regional Waste and Recycling, Access Recreation Inc and community participants

Project completed: July 2021

C&K Crescent Lagoon Community Kindergarten: *Hands on learning for sustainability*

C&K Crescent Lagoon Community Kindergarten believes in hands on learning experiences that engage children with their natural environment. This project was designed to improve the learning environment and help children to develop sustainable practices in their everyday lives.

This project received assistance from Rockhampton Regional Council's Community Assistance Program – Environment and Sustainability Scheme in April 2020.

This project is now complete. Key outcomes include:

- C&K Crescent Lagoon established a worm farm, native bush tucker garden, frog habitat and compost system at the Kindergarten.
- C&K Crescent Lagoon's new facilities are helping to educate local kids on simple sustainability themes like wildlife habitat, composting, growing your own produce and water-wise gardening.
- The project was delivered in conjunction with children and their families, and integrated into the kindergarten program, ensuring a lasting legacy at the Centre that helps to increase sustainability awareness and action within the local community both now and in the future.

See project photos overleaf.

Key project facts

Grant awarded: \$500

Delivery: May 2020 to June 2021

Project partners: Rockhampton Regional Council, C&K Crescent Lagoon Community Kindergarten

Project completed: July 2021



C&K Kindergarten with materials for their hands on learning project proudly supported by Council's Environment and Sustainability Scheme.



C&K Kindergarten staff and students building their vegetable garden and planting seedlings.

Capricornia Catchments:

Revitalising catchment communications

Capricornia Catchments is a local not-for-profit natural resource management group. This project has provided their website with a much needed upgrade to ensure that their members and the broader community have access to the information and resources they need to be proactive in sustainable natural resource use and management.

This project received assistance from Rockhampton Regional Council's Community Assistance Program – Environment and Sustainability Scheme in April 2020.

This project is now complete. Key outcomes include:

- A new and fully functioning Capricornia Catchments website that provides up-to-date information on current projects, partners and key resources.
- Capricornia Catchments staff were trained on maintaining the website to ensure this project delivers lasting benefits to the local community.

Key project facts

Grant awarded: \$3000

Delivery: May 2020 to June 2021

Project partners: Rockhampton Regional Council and Capricornia Catchments

Project completed: July 2021

Multicultural Australia:

Tucker Time extended community meals

Multicultural Australia's Tucker Time program works with 2nd Bite and local businesses to collect food that can be turned into meals and distributed to local community organisations. The creation of the meals forms part of the training for participants and uses food that would normally go to waste to help feed vulnerable families in our community. Tucker Time also takes part in workshops and community events as part of the program to help create awareness and build capacity in the community.

This project received assistance from Rockhampton Regional Council's Community Assistance Program – Environment and Sustainability Scheme in April 2020.

This project is now complete. Key outcomes include:

- Multicultural Australia increased their capacity to support community workshops and events that raise awareness around food waste and using leftover food through the development of easy to use recipes.
- Multicultural Australia purchased a range of sustainable packaging, crockery and utensils to ensure that they keep their environmental footprint minimal and lead by example at workshops, presentations and events.
- Multicultural Australia's continued efforts in food rescue, food donation and community workshops resulted in thousands of meals being shared across the community by hundreds of disadvantaged residents.
- The Program has increased the amount of food being rescued locally by partnering with local suppliers such as Aldi, Coles, Nandos and Bernie's Pies.
- Through the hands on training, the Program has also increased skills and employment opportunities for dozens of disadvantaged people.
- Multicultural Australia has helped to divert hundreds of kilograms of food waste from landfill, whilst supporting some of the most vulnerable members within our community.

Project photos are shown over the page.

Key project facts

Grant awarded: \$3000

Delivery: May 2020 to June 2021

Project partners: Rockhampton Regional Council, Multicultural Australia key local stakeholders, local suppliers and the broader community

Project completed: April 2021



Multicultural Australia's Tucker Time program uses unwanted and left over food suppliers to create meals for hundreds of locals in need. The Program also delivers hands-on training to increase skills and employment opportunities for dozens of disadvantaged members of the community.



Parkhurst State School P&C Association:

Butterfly garden

Parkhurst State School has long held focus on environment and sustainability issues as part of the school's Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics and Environment (STEAME) program. The School recognises the vital role that butterflies play in pollinating flowers and fruit. Students had been collecting eggs and larvae to raise within the school's 'Butterfly Nursery', but this project has extended on those activities by turning an overgrown, unusable garden area into an educational and environmentally responsible butterfly garden.

This project received assistance from Rockhampton Regional Council's Community Assistance Program – Environment and Sustainability Scheme in April 2020.

This project is now complete. Key outcomes included:

- Establishment of a new butterfly garden at the school, through appropriate ground preparations, native plants and irrigation.
- Carefully selected host and nectar plants encouraging an increase in native wildlife and pollinators within the school grounds.
- Continued delivery of key educational and environmental outcomes for the school that help to engage students in hands-on learning.
- Strong links with the Australian Curriculum, that also encourage students to sell host plant seeds to the school community as a fundraiser for the ongoing costs of the garden and butterfly nursery.
- Continued education of the broader school community through the School's newsletter, social media platforms, photographs, videos and guest speakers.

Please see overleaf for project photos.

Key project facts

Grant awarded: \$2000

Delivery: May 2020 to June 2021

Project partners: Rockhampton Regional Council, Parkhurst State School P&C Association and the broader Parkhurst State School community

Project completed: June 2021



Parkhurst State School students getting ready to prepare the new garden area at the start of the project.



Parkhurst State School garden area after the completion of the project, including new soil, garden edging, pathways, native plant species and irrigation.

Rockhampton Girls Grammar School Board of Trustees: *Agricultural garden outdoor learning space*

Rockhampton Girls Grammar School has developed a new interactive outdoor learning space for students. This project received assistance from Rockhampton Regional Council's Community Assistance Program – Environment and Sustainability Scheme in April 2020.

This project is now complete. Key outcomes include:

- Establishment of a new outdoor learning space and food garden, including ground preparation, purchase of garden materials, soil, tools, fruit trees, vegetables and a sprinkler system.
- The School has integrated the area within their agricultural science and home economics programs for both primary and high schools students, and collaborated with Fitzroy Basin Association on key learning areas.
- Students will also benefit from associated activities including cooking with their own produce, marketing opportunities and understanding the value of products.
- Students have had the opportunities to study a variety of areas including soil health, plant growth, integrated pest management systems, water runoff and efficiency, food production systems, protecting natural resources, maintaining agricultural productivity, nutrition and healthy eating.
- Project outcomes have been captured and communicated to the wider school community through various communication channels including newsletters and social media.

Project photos are shown overleaf.

Key project facts

Grant awarded: \$3000

Delivery: May 2020 to June 2021

Project partners: Rockhampton Regional Council, Rockhampton Girls Grammar School Board of Trustees, Fitzroy Basin Association and the broader school community

Project completed: June 2021



RGGS students showcasing the progress on their outdoor learning space and home grown produce.

Stanwell State School P&C Association:

Let there be water!

Stanwell State School is a small school with no permanent water supply. It relies on rainwater tanks and water pumped from nearby Neerkol West Creek to flush toilets and water the school's oval. To build the school's capacity to use its resources wisely and better cope with dry conditions, they required assistance to repair and improve efficiency of the current creek pumping lines and increase the school's water storage infrastructure.

This project received assistance from Rockhampton Regional Council's Community Assistance Program – Environment and Sustainability Scheme in April 2020. This project is now complete. Key outcomes are as follows:

- The School repaired the polylines from their creek pump and installed an additional water tank.
- The project strengthened the school's capacity to use water wisely, offer a safe and suitable sporting facility for local students and the wider community of Stanwell.
- The project has also enabled the school to progress a number of other sustainability projects that required a reliable water supply (including enhancements to the school's food garden, worm farm and aquaculture area).
- The school also hopes that the enhanced water storage capacity will provide the school with a secondary water supply that can be utilised in times of disaster, supporting their role as an evacuation centre and water station for the Rural Fire Brigade trucks.
- As a result of the improved water security, this project has also assisted the school to up-skill students in sustainable water use, food gardens, healthy cooking and business/entrepreneurial skills.

Project photos are over the page.

Key project facts

Grant awarded: \$3000

Delivery: May 2020 to June 2021

Project partners: Rockhampton Regional Council, Stanwell State School P&C Association and the broader school community

Project completed: July 2021



Stanwell State School students with the school's new self-made aquaponics system. The School has also grown succulent plants to sell as part of their fundraising to support the project.



Wycarbah and District Landcare Group: *Weed control through shared resources*

The Wycarbah and District Landcare Group supports its local community to increase awareness and participation in natural resource management through a range of group activities, field days, property tours and newsletters. The Group sought funding to support the purchase of a portable weed spray unit for shared use by the local community. They also intend to work with the Regional Agricultural Landcare Facilitator to run a weed identification day and chemical application training for local landholders. Council's funding contribution assists the Group to build local capacity to identify and effectively treat pest plants in the parishes of Wycarbah and Kalapa.

This project received assistance from Rockhampton Regional Council's Community Assistance Program – Environment and Sustainability Scheme in November 2019.

This project is now complete. Key outcomes:

- The Group were able to purchase a portable weed spray unit for shared community use.
- Local landholders participated in local weed identification and chemical application training.
- Increased landholder capacity to identify and effectively treat pest plants (including parthenium, lantana, rubbervine, prickly acacia, giant rats tail grass, mother of millions, parkinsonian, harrisia cactus and others).
- Supporting local agricultural industry to be more proactive in managing their biosecurity obligations, whilst protecting native vegetation and biodiversity.

Key project facts

Grant awarded: \$3000

Delivery: Nov 2019 to Sep 2020

Project partners: Rockhampton Regional Council, Wycarbah and District Landcare Group, Regional Agricultural Landcare Facilitator

Project completed: Sep 2020



Wycarbah Landcare members received weed identification and herbicide application training to support the use of their new Quikspray unit, purchased with assistance from Stanwell Corporation, Capricorn Pest Management Group, Regional Landcare Facilitator and Council's Environment and Sustainability Scheme.



Waraburra State School P&C Association:

Growing our knowledge

Waraburra State School has developed a new outdoor learning space for sustainability-based educational opportunities within the school grounds at Gracemere. The 'Growing our Knowledge' project has helped students to learn how to grow food, practice sustainability and engage in real-life learning experiences that teach life-long skills. Council's funding contribution has supported the School to help students grow their own food and in doing so, instil in the students an understanding of healthy eating and respect for themselves, the environment and the community.

This project received assistance from Rockhampton Regional Council's Community Assistance Program – Environment and Sustainability Scheme in November 2019.

This project is now complete. Key outcomes include:

- Establishment of a new outdoor learning space at Waraburra State School, incorporating fruit trees, vegetable gardens, compost bins, worm farms, insect hotels and natural bird attracting elements.
- Increased connection and involvement of students, teachers and parents in all facets of planning, preparation, harvesting and ongoing maintenance of the gardens.
- Increased sustainability as students learn how to grow their own food, whilst also observing the connections between pollinators and pests, seasonal changes, plant growth and water-wise gardening.
- Fresh produce has been made available via the schools tuckshop, encouraging healthy eating and a sense of pride in the students achievements.
- The use of compost bins and worm farms has also helped students to divert food waste from landfill, whilst enriching garden soil.

Project photos are shown overleaf.

Key project facts

Grant awarded: \$2000

Delivery: Nov 2019 to Sep 2020

Project partners: Rockhampton Regional Council, Waraburra State School P&C Association, Waraburra school community

Project completed: April 2021



Waraburra State School have enhanced their student eatin area by establishing new vegetable gardens and composting systems to help provide nutritional food and reduce waste.

Berserker Street State School P&C Association: *Automatic watering system for kitchen garden*

Berserker State School's P&C has challenged the Year 6 students to design a sustainable automatic water system for the school's kitchen garden. Council's funding contribution assists the P&C to help students to design, install and maintain a watering system that not only helps to increase their ability to grow their own fruit and vegetables but also helps them to learn about the principles of using water wisely.

This project received assistance from Rockhampton Regional Council's Community Assistance Program – Environment and Sustainability Scheme in November 2019. This project is now complete.

Key outcomes are as follows:

- As part of the Year 6 Science and Technology Unit, students designed, installed and maintained a sustainable watering system within the school's kitchen garden.
- Students worked together to review different options and seek input and expertise from across the school community.
- The watering system has increased the school's ability to grow their own fruit and vegetables year round, whilst also helping students to learn about using water wisely.
- The project has created enduring opportunities as each year, the Year 6 cohort will revisit the project, ensuring it is well-maintained and where appropriate, adding to or designing adaptations to the watering system.

Key project facts

Grant awarded: \$500

Delivery: Nov 2019 to Sep 2020

Project partners: Rockhampton Regional Council, Berserker Street State School P&C Association, Berserker Street school community

Project completed: July 2021

Emmaus College P&F Association:

Partnering for sustainability

Emmaus College's Parents and Friends Association sought an Environment and Sustainability Scheme grant to support the Student Sustainability Committee (Eco Club) to increase sustainability awareness and action across the school community.

This project received assistance from Rockhampton Regional Council's Community Assistance Program – Environment and Sustainability Scheme in November 2019. Council's funding contribution has assisted the P&F to purchase materials to support the Student Sustainability Committee, helping students to learn about and actively participate in these sustainability initiatives around the school.

This project is now complete. Key outcomes include:

- Emmaus College students researched, planned and delivered a Sustainability Day to help educate fellow students about sustainable practices. The Day involved guest speakers from Council, CQUni and Fitzroy Basin Association and focussed on reducing single use plastics, reducing paper use in classrooms, recycling paper and cardboard and planting native trees, as well as an airing of the sustainability documentary *2040*.
- Following on from the success of the Sustainability Day, the Eco Club has taken steps to establish a community garden and meditation space at the College. These new areas will enable students to take time out to connect with nature and grow, harvest and use their own fresh produce.

 Emmaus College Rockhampton
3 December 2019 · 🌐

Today the newly formed Climate Sustainability Committee ran a block course for Year 8 students.

The day involved:

- Converting old t-shirts into reusable bags
- Climate fact bingo
- Screening on 2040
- Tree planting in the Yarning circle
- Sustainability scavenger hunt
- Sustainability stalls/activities

The students were lucky enough to be supported by the Connecting Cultures Committee who ran activities and prayer in the Yarning Circle.

The students were also supported by Miss Jeffcoat (Diocesan Director of Catholic Education), Ms Rowan (Assistant Director: Mission Catholic Education), Mrs Brittany Lauga, Mr Barry O'Rourke, Cr Cherie Rutherford (Deputy Mayor), Cr Rose Swadling, Cr Drew Wickerson, Cr Ellen Smith, Nik Mungilwar (CQU), Mrs Kløver (P&F Association) and Daniel Rea (Flow Centre)



Key project facts

Grant awarded: \$500

Delivery: Nov 2019 to Sep 2020

Project partners: Rockhampton Regional Council, Emmaus College P&F Association, CQUni, Fitzroy Basin Association, Darumbal indigenous elders and the Emmaus school community

Project completed: October 2020



Emmaus Sustainability Day 2019

