

Community Assistance Program

Environment and Sustainability Scheme

FY2020-21 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 FY2020-21:

As at February 2022

Number of grants awarded	11
Number of grants acquitted	9
Total funding awarded this year	\$23,800

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Central Queensland Indigenous Development: *Community garden and sustainable living workshops*

Central Queensland Indigenous Development Limited provide support to some of the most vulnerable people in the Rockhampton community. This project has helped CQID to empower their clients to establish and maintain their own vegetable and herb gardens in their own backyards as well as at the CQID Community Garden (located on the grounds of CQUni Rockhampton). Grant funds helped to provide a specialist workshop provider, training resources and garden materials.

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

As part of the program, CQID directly engaged with 20 participants. Key outcomes included:

- Participants were engaged in a multi-week sustainable gardening program.
- Participants gained practical skills and confidence for improved self-sufficiency and sustainable living.
- Participants learned how to reduce waste by recycling and repurposing common household materials and learned how to compost, harvest and save seeds, propagate plants, create edible landscapes and preserve their own food.
- CQID supported participants to increase their sense of wellbeing and connection to community, whilst reducing waste and increasing sustainability awareness.



Key project facts

Grant awarded: \$3000

Delivery: July 2020 to Sep 2021

Project partners: Rockhampton Regional Council, Central Queensland Indigenous Development, Synergy Consultants, local community participants

Project completed: Sep 2021

Bundara Kindergarten: *Encouraging sustainability through play*

Bundara Kindergarten believes in the importance of 'learning through play' and are working hard to integrate sustainable practices at the kindy. This project has helped young students to reduce, reuse and recycle waste by enhancing the available learning and waste management resources.

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

Key outcomes are as follows:

- Bundara Kindergarten established a new centralised 'waste separation area' for their teachers and kindy students.
- Teachers continue to engage students in practices to reduce waste, properly identify recyclable items and separate items for recycling.
- Students continue to share what they have learnt at kindy with their families at home, helping to improve the quality and quantity of materials recycled by the broader Bundara community.



Key project facts

Grant awarded: \$1000

Delivery: July 2020 to Sep 2021

Project partners: Rockhampton Regional Council, Bundara Kindergarten and the local community

Project completed: Aug 2021

Capricorn Conservation Council:

Citizen science – introduction to eDNA

Capricorn Conservation Council has established a new citizen science environmental DNA (eDNA) program to engage the local community, whilst also generating new scientific knowledge. They recognise that healthy bushlands are resilient due to the myriad of interactions between our animals, fungi, plants and microbes. This work has focussed on Australian fungi and explored the crucial role that different species plays in healthy ecosystems. Grant funds have been used to help purchase specialised equipment and workshop materials.

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

Key outcomes are as follows:

- Capricorn Conservation Council established a new Wild Fungi eDNA monitoring program in the Rockhampton Region and coordinated citizen science workshops for the local community.
- Local residents learnt about eDNA, which is an exciting and innovative science capable of detecting a species from a single drop of water or speck of dust (an incredible tool for monitoring native and invasive species in our environment).
- Capricorn Conservation Council has identified and verified the fungi discoveries made during this program via the Australian Genome Research Facility and added the data to reputable scientific databases.
- Research in this area is helping land managers to integrate fungi as a management tool that supports both conservation and farming objectives.



Project Manager Sherie Bruce collects fungi from decaying timber during a site visit within the Rockhampton Region.

Key project facts

Grant awarded: \$3000

Delivery: July 2020 to Sep 2021

Project partners: Rockhampton Regional Council, Capricorn Conservation Council and community participants

Project completed: July 2021

St Peter's Catholic Primary School P&F Association: *Don't waste our environment*

St Peter's Catholic Primary School is working towards zero waste and is an active participant in Council's Recycling Hero Schools Program. This project aims to educate the school community on the benefits of recycling and how every student can make a positive contribution to our community. The School is keen to reduce their impact on landfill and the natural world whilst also reducing costs associated with waste collection so that this money can be reinvested in school sustainability projects.

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

The project achieved the following outcomes:

- The School introduced recycling bins, specialist collection bins and compost bins.
- Students, teachers and families learnt how to recycle right with yellow lid bins, reduce their plastic waste and compost food waste.
- Year 4 students addressed waste challenges as part of the curriculum and acted as bin monitors during lunch times to help educate students on their waste and packaging.
- Over a 10 month, the school reduced their general waste from 7 x 240L bins to under 3 x 240L bins each week. In July 2021, they reported that they had finally reduced the School's total waste to landfill to just 1 x 240L bin each week!
- The School encouraged students to develop sustainable practices in their everyday lives.



St Peter's students show RRWR Kelly Smith, Keep Australia Beautiful Judge Gail Langley and Councillor Kirkland their new recycling operations and Recycling Hero vests.



Key project facts

Grant awarded: \$3000

Delivery: Nov 2020 to Jun 2021

Project partners: Rockhampton Regional Council, Rockhampton Region Waste and Recycling, St Peter's Catholic Primary School P&F Association, St Peter's school community

Project completed: March 2021

St Peter's Catholic Primary School P&F Association: *Don't waste our environment (part 2)*

Based on the success of their recycling efforts, St Peter's Catholic Primary School wanted to commit to the next stage of their 'Don't waste our environment' initiative. Part 2 focussed on improving green waste management in their school gardens. The School used the grant to help them purchase a garden mulcher and additional composting equipment.

This project received assistance from Rockhampton Regional Council's Community Assistance Program – Environment and Sustainability Scheme in April 2021. This project is now complete.

Key outcomes for the school are as follows:

- The School reduced waste to landfill by composting and mulching garden green waste, helping them move further towards zero waste.
- By reusing their food and garden organics, the School was able to help retain nutrients and soil moisture in the school gardens whilst also reducing weeds.
- Teachers integrated garden waste considerations into their Year 4 Humanities and Social Sciences (HASS) Curriculum.
- St Peter's continued to lead their school community by example.



St Peter's invested in a garden mulcher and additional composting equipment to help them progress further towards their target of zero waste.

Key project facts

Grant awarded: \$1500

Delivery: May to November 2021

Project partners: Rockhampton Regional Council, Rockhampton Region Waste and Recycling, St Peter's Catholic Primary School P&F Association.

Project completed: June 2021

Stanwell State School P&C Association:

Recycling Hero Schools program

Stanwell State School has taken up the challenge to fight for a greener, brighter future and is an active participant in Council's Recycling Heroes Schools Program. The project aims to educate the school community on the benefits of recycling and how every student can make a positive contribution to our community and our environment. The School is keen to deliver a full education program involving a series of lessons and hands-on activities that can be linked to the national curriculum across a number of subjects and year levels.

Key expected outcomes:

- Improved understanding of existing waste streams.
- Improved hands-on educational opportunities.
- Enhanced vegetable and aquaponics production to support cooking and tuckshop activities.
- Improved waste diversion through recycling and composting.
- Reduced contamination of recycling collections.

This project received assistance from Rockhampton Regional Council's Community Assistance Program – Environment and Sustainability Scheme in April 2021.

Key project facts

Grant awarded: \$600

Delivery: April to November 2021

Project partners: Rockhampton Regional Council, Rockhampton Regional Waste and Recycling, Stanwell State School and the Stanwell community

Project status: Pending acquittal

Mount Morgan Central State School P&C Association: *The Full Circle Initiative*

Mount Morgan Central State School P&C Association established five different green waste methods to help turn the school's food waste into useful products. The project was supported by the School's Garden Club, Brekky Club, staff and students.

The project's key outcomes were as follows:

- Food scraps from student lunch boxes and the canteen are actively composted via bokashi bins, worm farms, a worm tower, compost tumblers and chickens.
- By reusing food waste, the project has helped to divert waste away from landfill.
- Students share their knowledge with friends and family, helping to strengthen our community's capacity to live more sustainably. Students have also undertaken associated studies, recording bin weights and investigating bin contents.
- By reusing food waste, the School has created a sustainable source of fertiliser for its gardens and nutrition for their chickens.
- By creating mulch for the School's gardens, the School is retaining moisture in their gardens (which is particularly important given the current water restrictions) whilst improving soil fertility and reducing long-term costs.
- By supporting the School's food-growing capacity, the project has helped to reduce costs for the School's Brekky Club and associated nutrition initiatives.

This project received assistance from Rockhampton Regional Council's Community Assistance Program – Environment and Sustainability Scheme in April 2021. This project is now complete.



Key project facts

Grant awarded: \$1200

Delivery: April to November 2021

Project partners: Rockhampton Regional Council, Mount Morgan State School and the Mount Morgan community

Project completed: December 2021

Capricornia Catchments:

Learning to utilise drones for property management

Capricornia Catchments is a local not-for-profit natural resource management group. Capricornia Catchments collaborated with the Wycarbah and District Landcare Group to deliver introductory drone training for local landholders. The training was designed to help local landholders gain the skills and knowledge necessary to safely, legally and confidently utilise drones to support their own property management requirements.

This project received assistance from Rockhampton Regional Council's Community Assistance Program – Environment and Sustainability Scheme in April 2021 and is now complete.

Capricornia Catchments hosted a community information night on 07 October 2021 and 16 people completed drone training on 08 October 2021. Key outcomes included:

- Specialist drone training for members of the Wycarbah and District Landcare Group and other interested community members;
- Improved community connection and resilience; and
- Improved skills, knowledge and networking around opportunities for sustainable property and landscape-scale management (such as vegetation, stocking, fencing, track condition and water levels).



Key project facts

Grant awarded: \$3000

Delivery: April to November 2021

Project partners: Rockhampton Regional Council, Capricornia Catchments, Wycarbah Landcare

Project completed: November 2021

Rockhampton Mountain Bike Club:

First Turkey Mountain Bike Reserve

The Rockhampton Mountain Bike Club are trustees for a number of land parcels along Moores Creek known as the First Turkey Mountain Bike Reserve. The Reserve includes nearly 30km of mountain bike trails. This project has helped to repair a number of historic trails (constructed prior to the commencement of the Club's tenure in 2013) which were subject to significant soil erosion, particularly during heavy rainfall. Works were completed by a suitably experienced contractor, supported by Club volunteers. As a trail maintenance and repair project, the works did not increase the existing trail footprint and no further environmental approvals were required.

Key outcomes of the project were as follows:

- A section of the trails along the banks of Moores Creek were repaired using natural stone, hardened rock armouring and specified drainage as required.
- Works were completed prior to significant rainfall in November 2021 and drainage works were reported to significantly decrease the amount of runoff and sediment from the trails, protecting the riparian corridor and waterway.
- The trail continues to ensure safe access for mountain bike riders, bush walkers and other visitors to First Turkey.
- Works have also improved the future sustainability of this section of trail whilst reducing the need for future trail maintenance exacerbated by soil erosion and bank instability.
- This project continues to build trail maintenance and repair capacity within the Club and local contractors.

This project received assistance from Rockhampton Regional Council's Community Assistance Program – Environment and Sustainability Scheme in April 2021. This project is now complete.



Key project facts

Grant awarded: \$3000

Delivery: April to November 2021

Project partners: Rockhampton Regional Council, Rockhampton Mountain Bike Club

Project completed: November 2021

Emmaus College P&F Association: *Sustainability Youth Summit 2021*

The Emmaus College Student Sustainability Committee is a small group of students who are passionate about sustainability and caring for the world around us. Working in partnership with CQUniversity and Emmaus College, the Students planned and delivered a Youth Summit at CQUniversity on 16 July 2021, with around 300 participants from secondary schools across Central Queensland.

Key outcomes:

- The Summit consisted of guest speakers, a guest panel, activities and a networking session to further increase awareness of sustainability and build better connections between schools, businesses and industry;
- Students showcased sustainability initiatives that they currently run within their schools;
- Local business and industry were invited to showcase innovative and sustainable practices within their operations;
- Students shared ideas and networked with peers who were also passionate about the environment;
- Students were introduced to a variety of higher education courses focussed on environment and sustainability;
- Media assisted to share youth interest in sustainability and key sustainability messages with the broader community.

This project received assistance from Rockhampton Regional Council's Community Assistance Program – Environment and Sustainability Scheme in April 2021. This project is now complete.



Key project facts

Grant awarded: \$2500

Delivery: April to November 2021

Project partners: Rockhampton Regional Council, Emmaus College, CQUniversity

Project completed: December 2021

Central Queensland Aboriginal Corporation for Cultural Activities:

Tooling up for the Plant Revival Tour

The Central Queensland Aboriginal Corporation for Cultural Activities (CQACCA) / Dreamtime Cultural Centre is delivering the Plant Tour Revival project as part of the Queensland Government's Skilling Queenslanders for Work program. This project seeks to support CQACCA to purchase additional tools and equipment to support their trainees and help establish a nursery for the propagation and sale of native plants to visitors and the general public.

Key expected outcomes are as follows:

- Establish the tools and equipment necessary to support plant propagation and nursery activities at the Dreamtime Cultural Centre.
- Maintain and enhance natural bushland areas of the Dreamtime Cultural Centre.
- Revive the Native Plant Tour to support further information on native plants of significance to Indigenous communities.
- Increase awareness of the usage - both past and present - of native plants in medicine and wellbeing and food (bush tucker) and the importance of plants in Indigenous heritage and culture.
- Improve opportunities for training and future employment of Indigenous community members.
- Increase work skills in horticulture and land management, as well as transferable soft skills needed by employers.

This project received assistance from Rockhampton Regional Council's Community Assistance Program – Environment and Sustainability Scheme in April 2021.

Key project facts

Grant awarded: \$2000

Delivery: April to November 2021

Project partners: Rockhampton Regional Council, Central Queensland Aboriginal Corporation for Cultural Activities

Project status: Pending acquittal