

Ripples

ECOMARINES ANNUAL JOURNAL 2024







Acknowledgement of Country

At EcoMarines, we acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the Traditional Custodians of the land and waters across Australia and acknowledge that sovereignty was not ceded.

We recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture as the oldest continuous living cultures in human history. We pay our respect and honour to Elders past and present and extend that respect to all First Nations people.

At EcoMarines, we are committed to listening, learning and working together with respect and humility.

We will continue creating a positive future and meaningful change.

Message from the CEO

I am incredibly honoured to introduce myself as the new CEO of the EcoMarines Foundation, having joined this inspiring organisation in March of this year. With a background spanning both the commercial and non-profit sectors, I have had the privilege of leading teams to expand their reach and achieve transformational outcomes while improving operations to boost productivity and reduce costs. It is this experience that I bring to EcoMarines as we embark on an exciting new chapter.

After ten wonderful years, EcoMarines is poised for significant growth. In 2024, we proudly engaged more than 220 schools in our program, and we are on track to surpass 350 schools by 2025. This growth is a testament to the dedication and passion of the teachers, Ambassadors, and students who live and breathe the values of EcoMarines. It has been a true joy to witness the incredible projects and activities our schools are undertaking, from Tallebudgera in the south to Thursday Island in the north.

As we look ahead to 2025, there are exciting changes on the horizon. Our priority is to maintain the integrity and value of the EcoMarines program, even as we expand to serve more schools across Queensland. One of our greatest challenges is supporting such a diverse range of regions, but it's also one of our greatest strengths. The commitment from communities all over the state energises us and reinforces the impact EcoMarines has in nurturing the eco-leaders of tomorrow.

I look forward to working with all of you as we continue this important journey, and I am excited about what the future holds for the EcoMarines Foundation.

Angela Massy

CEO, EcoMarines Foundation

The Story of EcoMarines:

From a Small Island Idea to a B

Once upon a time, there was a beautiful island called Mulgumpin. This island, on Moreton Bay near Brisbane, was full of wonderful wildlife, with dolphins, whales, turtles, and dugongs swimming nearby. It's now a fun resort, but a long time ago, it was the largest whaling station in the southern hemisphere. Thankfully, in 1980, a family bought the island and decided to turn it into a place that celebrates and protects nature instead.

Tangalooma Resort quickly became known not only for its beautiful beaches and sunsets but also for its dedication to caring for marine life. It was here that the first seeds of EcoMarines were planted.

Back in the 1990s, a young PhD student named Mark Orams visited Tangalooma. Mark needed a quiet spot to work on his research, so he set up in an unused conference room. But instead of keeping it to himself, he had an idea: what if he used this space to teach others about the marine environment?

With the help of Trevor Hassard, one of Tangalooma's directors, and another scientist, Dr. David Neil, Mark transformed this small room into the Tangalooma Mobile Marine Education Centre, or what people now call the Eco Centre. Here, they started teaching Tangalooma's visitors all about the importance of protecting Moreton Bay. They explained how our actions affect the ocean and the creatures living there.

The guests loved these lessons, and soon enough, schools started asking Mark and Trevor to visit them and talk to their students about the environment. Mark and Trevor were so passionate about sharing their knowledge that they visited schools in their own time, helping young people understand why it's important to care for the world around us.

As more schools invited them to speak, Mark and Trevor realized they could reach even more young people by bringing environmental education directly to schools. So, with the full support of the Osborne family, who owned Tangalooma, they took the program on the road. They traveled around Brisbane, teaching students about marine life and the need to protect the ocean. The program became more and more popular as students and teachers eagerly joined in.

As interest grew, Tangalooma realized they had an opportunity to do even more. They started raising money for marine research and conservation, helping to protect the animals that lived in Moreton Bay.

By 2014, so many schools wanted to be part of the program that it was hard for Mark and Trevor to keep up with all the requests. They saw



ig Environmental Mission



Every year, EcoMarines holds exciting events where Ambassadors from different schools come together, share their ideas, and learn more ways to protect the planet. These events show students they're part of something huge – a team working together to make a difference.

The EcoMarines Foundation is a big success because of students just like you! By teaching young people how to protect the environment, EcoMarines helps create a brighter future for everyone. And it all started with a quiet conference room on Tangalooma Island that grew into something amazing.

how much kids loved learning about the environment and knew they needed to create something even bigger. That's when Tangalooma launched Tangalooma EcoMarines! This program started with just four schools, but its goal was to get more students involved in protecting the environment.

EcoMarines Ambassadors, who were students chosen to lead the program in their schools, came up with creative ideas for projects. For example, students from Bulimba State School created "Wrapper Free Wednesday" to encourage everyone to use less plastic. With these fun ideas, students helped spread the message of caring for the environment to their friends, families, and communities.

EcoMarines became so successful that in 2022, it officially became an independent foundation. Now called the EcoMarines Foundation, the program continues to grow and reach schools all over Queensland. Today, more than 220 schools have EcoMarines programs, where students learn to be leaders and create projects like recycling, reducing waste, and protecting local wildlife.

So, if you care about dolphins, turtles, or the ocean, you could become an EcoMarines Ambassador too. Together with other kids, you can help keep our planet healthy and safe for all living things. Remember, even small actions make a big difference – and with EcoMarines, you'll be part of a team of eco-heroes working to protect our world every single day!



St Anthony's Townsville

Innovative approach

This year marked St Anthony's Catholic School, Padua Campus, debut in the EcoMarines program, and they have made an impressive start.

Their commitment to environmental sustainability was recognized when they won the 2024 STAR106.3 Radio "School of the Year" competition, triumphing over 40 other schools in the region. The win was based on their innovative plastic shredder project and other environmental initiatives, announced live on-air by STAR106.3 radio presenters.

The highlight of their journey has been the **Plastic Shredder Project**, where the school borrowed a plastic shredder machine from the Lids for Kids organization. With it, students have been collecting, cleaning, and sorting bottle top lids, which they feed through the shredder.

Thanks to a sustainability grant, Angela Betteridge and her EcoMarines team were able to take their project further by purchasing an extruder machine. This machine melts the shredded plastic, which is then moulded into new items, such as pens. It takes only three bottle caps to create a single pen. The school's innovative approach doesn't stop there. St Anthony's plans to sell the pens to fund further sustainability projects, creating a self-sustaining model of environmental



impact. Other schools in the region, like St Francis in Ayr, are already discussing ways to collaborate by sending their bottle caps to St Anthony's to support the initiative. Angela's vision is to expand this idea by hosting school incursion days, inviting other students and teachers to learn about the shredding and recycling process.

Angela's message to the school community is simple but powerful: stop thinking of leftover lids and waste as "rubbish." Instead, see them as resources that can be transformed into something good for the environment.

In addition to the plastic shredder project, the team plans to use the prize money from the School of the Year competition to install state-of-the-art drain covers on their stormwater drains. This will help reduce the amount of waste entering local waterways and protect vulnerable wildlife, such as sea turtles.

St Anthony's also introduced a "Go Green Day," encouraging students to make one small change for the environment. The success of this event has ensured it will become an annual occurrence, demonstrating that sustainability is more than a project; it's part of their school mission as a Franciscan college.

Redcliffe Special School

Passion and dedication



In 2017 Redcliffe Special School began offering the Certificate 1 Agrifoods Operations – agriculture and minor landscaping. They started small, greening limited areas of the school before receiving a substantial grant in 2020 to establish a sensory garden in a disused area of the school. The school began building a lush green space which is well used for both teaching and leisure.

As a school they engaged in a few areas of recycling, but it was very much on an ad-hoc basis- everyone was doing their own thing. Michael Turnbull, a teacher at Redcliffe Special school had been introduced to EcoMarines when his daughter was appointed Ambassador at her school. Upon seeing what the program was delivering and the passion for ecological sustainability it encouraged in students, Michael knew the program was a good fit for Redcliffe Special school. Each year there is huge interest in joining our EcoMarines ambassador program. In 2024 almost half of the school



wanted to be an EcoMarine ambassador! Large numbers of students regularly participate in meetings where they learn about new and exciting ways they can contribute to their local environment. Our EcoMarines ambassadors are regularly seen walking around the school carrying their bins to their assigned streaming location.

As part of the EcoMarines program, the school is working with the Moreton Bay Regional Council educators, helping the school understand their waste footprint and providing both education and physical resources. These include organic bins and multisort waste bins which have been placed in every classroom as well as the office and staff rooms.



Benowa State School

Dedication to sustainability



Benowa's EcoMarines adopted innovative and sustainable practices to maintain their garden. Instead of traditional weed matting, they used cardboard for the base layer, which is both effective and environmentally friendly. They also produce their own compost using multiple composting bins, a process that is integrated into the students' daily routine. A special morning break song signals the students to deposit leftover food into the compost bins, fostering a culture of sustainability and responsibility.

Benowa State School's future plans include expanding the garden to incorporate chickens, using the eggs along with the fruits and vegetables to create products for sale at the school canteen. This expansion aims to further integrate sustainability into

In an outstanding display of dedication to sustainability and education, Benowa State School's EcoMarines have created a thriving organic food stall and garden. Visitors to the school can experience firsthand the impressive scope and success of this initiative, which not only provides fresh produce but also serves as an educational tool for students.

Upon arrival, visitors are greeted by the enthusiastic EcoMarines Ambassadors alongside the vibrant and inviting organic food market stall. The produce on display, all grown by the students, is of exceptional quality. The fruits and vegetables showcased the care and love put into their cultivation, resulting in large and healthy plants. The stall is a testament to the hard work and dedication of the students and staff.

The tour includes a walk through the amazing school garden, a vast and meticulously maintained area. Through the effort of Benowa's EcoMarines the garden's size and the variety of plants have become awe-inspiring. To manage such an extensive garden, the school had to employ a professional gardener who works alongside students and teachers ensuring the garden remains vibrant even during school holidays.

the school's culture and provide more learning opportunities for the students.

Benowa State School's EcoMarines organic garden initiative stands as a model for integrating sustainability and education. The dedication of the staff and students has created a vibrant, productive space that not only benefits the school community but also serves as an inspiration to other schools.



Carinity Education Shalom

Our first year of environmental action

Carinity Education Shalom has made an impactful entrance into the EcoMarines program in 2024. As a school that provides an inclusive environment for students from Prep to Year 12, with a special emphasis on honouring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, it is no surprise that their first year has already yielded remarkable outcomes for both the students and the environment.

One of the standout aspects of their involvement has been the active engagement of the EcoMarines Ambassadors, who have been working closely with the school's leadership team, gardeners, and cleaners to develop and implement their environmental initiatives. Their influence has been felt across the school, with teachers noting the positive effect the program has had on the students, particularly the Year 9 girls. These students are showing increased engagement in class, a sense of pride, and a growing sense of purpose through their environmental contributions.

The EcoMarines program has allowed these students to explore environmental action through their own cultural lens, making it meaningful and relevant to them. One of the key highlights has been the achievements of two EcoMarines Ambassadors, Leanne and Mescha, who entered their environmental-themed artwork in a local swim and waterways art competition. Leanne's painting, which represented the waterholes of her people's Country in western Queensland, sold for an impressive \$650. Mescha received a Highly Commended award for her lino cut art, inspired by her Elders' tradition of protecting the sea and symbolizing the "dancing sea" of Mornington Island.



The students' enthusiasm for environmental action goes beyond art. The EcoMarines Ambassadors have taken charge of organizing the collection of recycling bins for their upcoming NAIDOC festival. They also initiated a whole-school paper pickup to make up for missing Clean Up Australia Day, ensuring their school environment remains clean before and after the festival. Their efforts are also driving an awareness campaign about microplastics and littering.



Looking ahead, the students plan to embark on a composting project, where they will collect morning fruit scraps and educate their peers about greenhouse gas production from organic waste in landfills. They are collaborating with their art teacher, who is guiding them in creating worm farms, adding a hands-on, cross-curricular element to their environmental efforts.

Carinity Education Shalom is truly embracing the EcoMarines mission, empowering students to act as environmental stewards while honouring their rich cultural heritage.

Clean Up Australia Day

An EcoMarines success!

This year's Clean Up Australia Day was an epic success!

On March 3rd, more than 160 EcoMarines gathered at George Clayton Park, ready to make a difference – even though it was a scorching 38 degrees! Our amazing sponsor, Urban Utilities, kept everyone energized with delicious Subway sandwiches and cookies (yum!).

Armed with gloves and big smiles, we worked together to collect over 60 kilograms of rubbish! From plastic wrappers to an old swag (yep, that's right, someone found a whole swag!), we helped clear the park of litter and give nature a much-needed helping hand. The most common thing we picked up? Soft plastics, like chip bags and candy wrappers. After the clean-up, we turned recycling into a game with our recycling relay races! Teams raced to sort items correctly – who knew recycling could be so much fun?

Thanks to everyone who joined us and helped make Clean Up Australia Day a huge success.

Let's keep up the awesome work, EcoMarines!



Some of our schools

And amazing Ambassadors



The Wave and CHECK

The annual celebration of EcoMarines



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More from our 2024



events



The Class of 2024

Ten Years

MacGregor State School
Wilston State School
Wynnum West State School
Bulimba State School

Five Years Plus

Albany Hills State School
Banksia Beach State School
Bounty Boulevard State School
Brisbane Boys' College Primary
Brisbane Boys' College Secondary
Brisbane Grammar School (Boys)
Clayfield College Primary
Dutton Park State School
Eagle Junction State School
Everton Park State School
Grace Lutheran Primary School
Humptybong State School
Indooroopilly State High School
Indooroopilly State School
Ipswich North State School
Islamic College of Brisbane Primary
Islamic College of Brisbane Secondary
Kuraby State School
Lota State School
Macleay Island State School
Mango Hill State School
Manly West State School
Morningside State School
Mount Crosby State School
Oakleigh State School
Payne Road State School
Raceview State School
Saint Stephen's College Primary

Sandgate State School
Shorncliffe State School
Southern Cross Catholic College - Scarborough Primary
St Columban's College
St Joseph's College - Gregory Terrace
St Peter's Catholic Primary School Rochdale
Tallebudgera State School
Victoria Point State School
Wamuran State School
Whites Hill State College (SSP)
Wishart State School
Wondall Heights State School
Wynnum State High School
Nerang State School

Less Five Years

A.B Paterson College Primary
A.B Paterson College Secondary
Alexandra Hills State School
Amberley District State School
Arcadia College
Aspley East State School
Balmoral State High School
Belgian Gardens State School
Benowa State School
Blair State School
Bray Park State High School
Brisbane Bayside State College
Brisbane Central State School
Brisbane State High School
Bundamba State Secondary College
Caboolture State High School
Cairns Hinterland Steiner School - Junior
Cairns Hinterland Steiner School -

Senior
Cairns State High School
Cairns West State School
Cannon Hill Anglican College
Capalaba State College
Caravonica State School
Carinity Education Shalom
Carmichael College
Cedar Creek State School
Cleveland State School
Clontarf Beach State High School
Clontarf Beach State School
Coolnwynpin State School
Coomera Rivers State School
Coomera State School
Crestmead State School
Currajong State School
Deception Bay State School
Delaney's Creek State School
Dunwich State School
Edge Hill State School
Elanora State High School
Elanora State School
Emmanuel College Junior School
Fortitude Valley State Secondary College
Freshwater Christian College - Primary
Freshwater Christian College - Secondary
Goondi State School
Grand Avenue State School
Hendra State School
Hilliard State School
Holland Park State School
Ipswich West State School
Ironsides State School

Ithaca Creek State School	Pullenvale State School	St Joseph's Catholic School - The Strand
Jamboree Heights State School	Pumicestone State School	St Joseph's Mundingburra Catholic School
Jindalee State School	Queensland Academies: Health Science Campus	St Joseph's Tobruk Memorial School
Josiah College	Queensland Childrens Hospital School	St Margaret Mary's College
Julatten State School	Radiant Life College - Primary	St Mary's Primary School
Kenmore South State School	Radiant Life College - Secondary	St Michael's College
Kenmore State High School	Rainworth State School	St Monicas College
Kippa-Ring State School	Redcliffe Special School	St Patrick's College Townsville
Kurwongbah State School	Ripley Valley State Secondary College	St Paul's School
Lourdes Hill College	Russell Island State School	St Rita's Catholic Primary School
Lower Tully State School	Ryan Catholic College - Primary	St Stephen's School Algester
MacKillop Catholic College, Mount Peter - Secondary	Ryan Catholic College - Secondary	Star of the Sea Catholic Primary School
Mancel College	San Sisto College	Strathpine West State School
Marshall Road State School	Sandgate District State High School	Sunshine Coast Home School Group
Mary Mackillop College	School Plus Bellmere OSHC	The Busy School - Cleveland
Maryborough Home School Group	Schools Plus Humpybong OSHC	The Cathedral School
Marymount Primary School	Seven Hills State School	Thuringowa State High School
McAuley College	Somerset College	Toogoolawa School
Meridan State College	South-East Queensland Home School Group	Townsville Grammar School - Annandale Primary
Miami State School	Southern Cross Catholic College - Kippa Ring Primary	Townsville Grammar School - North Shore Primary
Mother of Good Counsel School	Southern Cross Catholic School - Woody Point Primary	Townsville State High School
Mudgeeraba Creek State School	St Anthony's Catholic College - Deeragun	Trinity Anglican School - White Rock Secondary
Nashville State School	St Augustine's Parish Primary School	Upper Mount Gravatt State School
New Farm State School	St Benedicts Catholic Primary School (Mango Hill)	Vienna Woods State School
North Lakes State College	St Benedicts Catholic School	Wellington Point State School
Northgate State School	St Brendan's Catholic Primary School	West End State School
Nundah State School	St Brigid's Catholic Primary School (Nerang)	Whites Hill State College (PSP)
Oonoonba State School	St Colman's Catholic School (Home Hill)	Whitfield State School
Ormeau State School	St Finbarr's Catholic School (Ashgrove)	Widgee State School
Ormiston College	St Francis Catholic School - Ayr	William Ross State High School
Our Lady of the Rosary	St Joachim's School (Holland Park)	Woody Point Special School
Pallara State School	St John Fisher College	Woree State High School
Palmview State Special School	St Kevin's School	Yeronga State High School
Patricks Road State School	St John Vianney Primary School	Yeronga State School
Peace Lutheran College		Yugumbir State School
Petrie State School		
Petrie Terrace State School		
Pimlico State High School		
Pimpama State Primary College		

Thank you!

Without our sponsors and partners,



Part of Energy Queensland

EcoMarines wouldn't be where we are today and sponsors. By partnering with EcoMarines, we are creating tangible change and inspiring the next generation.

We develop skills for sustainability, preparing young people for the future of environmental stewardship.

We promote deliberate community engagement, both in their schools and in the community.

We reduce environmental impact through tangible actions. EcoMarines school currently recycles the plastic bottles used in the program.

We raise environmental advocates who are engaged in the planet. They develop and offer environmental projects in their schools and communities.

And finally, **we support sustainable development** through environmental education.



Thank you!

EcoMarines would still be a dream

without the generous support of our partners
nes, they are supporting a movement that's
t generation to protect and respect our planet.

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consciousness.

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and their communities.

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...you!



Dedicated to a better Brisbane



**BRISBANE
CONVENTION
& EXHIBITION
CENTRE**



PORT of BRISBANE
Here for the future



CITY OF
GOLDCOAST.





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