



Batemans Bay High School Student Environment Council

Coastwatchers Environment Fund

Year 12 Wellbeing Garden - Final Project Report

11 December 2019

Project Overview

In May 2019 the Batemans Bay High School Student Environment Council (SEC) received funding from The Coastwatchers Environment Fund to help establish a Year 12 Wellbeing Garden. The purpose of the Year 12 Wellbeing Garden is to provide Year 12 students with a pleasant green space to use as an outdoor study area, as well as a place to relax and ease the pressures of HSC study.

The Year 12 Wellbeing Garden is a collaborative project between the Hands On Learning (HOL) group and the SEC. The HOL group have been involved in the construction of the Year 12 Wellbeing Garden courtyard site including concreting and landscaping, as well as constructing seating and tables. The SEC are responsible for preparing the garden beds and planter tubs, and planting appropriate local native plant species. The SEC is also responsible for the ongoing care and maintenance of the Year 12 Wellbeing Garden.

Project Timeline

June - July – plan garden, prepare beds

August - September – purchase native plants and tubs; plant and mulch gardens

October - December – establish gardens through careful, ongoing maintenance including mulching, watering and weeding

Project Expenditure

Item/Quantity	Cost
Soil (low phosphorous native mix) - 3m ³ @ \$80/m ³	\$240
Eucalyptus Mulch - 1m ³ @ \$70/m ³	\$70
Native plants	\$430
Slow-release fertiliser	\$100 (<i>ongoing purchase</i>)
Stakes, twine & plant guards	\$50
Terracotta pot	\$40
Equipment (watering can, gloves, hand tools)	\$50
Total cost	\$980

Project Outcomes

- **Gardens established in Year 12 Wellbeing Garden** – Native plant species were specifically selected for multiple microclimates in a courtyard location: Lilly Pilly (*Syzygium paniculata*) for growing into hedges/screens in partly shaded areas; Emu Bush (*Eremophila nivea*) for planter tubs in full sun; Soft Tree Fern (*Dicksonia Antarctica*) and Birds Nest Fern (*Asplenium australasicum*) for planter tubs in shady areas. SEC students will provide ongoing care and maintenance for this garden.
- **Replenishment of additional native garden in school grounds** - An existing native plant garden near the Industrial Arts block has been replenished with plants which tolerate dry, sandy soils with a westerly aspect. Grevillea Superb (*Grevillea banksii* × *Grevillea bipinnatifida*), Grevillea Robyn Gordon (*Grevillea banksii* × *Grevillea bipinnatifida*) and Coastal Rosemary (*Westringia fruticosa*) have been planted, mulched and staked in this garden. SEC students will provide ongoing care and maintenance for this garden.
- **Horticultural and environmental education** – SEC students have learnt horticultural knowledge and skills through planning, preparing, planting, mulching and maintaining the gardens. A broader understanding of the environmental values of native plants has also been acquired during the process, and this knowledge is being transferred throughout the wider school community via conversations with peers and student use of the garden areas. A stewardship ethic toward the gardens is also apparent amongst SEC students who freely volunteer their efforts to maintain and care for the gardens.
- **Increase in native animal habitat** – Increased numbers of native bird species including Rainbow Lorikeets and New Holland Honeyeaters have been observed in the new gardens. Given the recent bushfire crisis, it is hoped that these gardens may contribute to restoring the vast amounts of habitat destroyed in the fires.



Above: Tree Fern and Birds Nest tubs established by SEC alongside picnic table and gabion wall constructed by Hands On Learning group.

Below: Lilly Pilly garden bed established by SEC and hexagonal timber seat constructed by Hands On Learning Group.



The Student Environment Council, on behalf of the broader Batemans Bay High School community, would like to thank Coastwatchers for their funding support to enable these gardens to be established. The gardens will make an ongoing contribution to improving the environmental amenity of the school.

Yours Sincerely,

Kerryn Hopkins

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SEC Coordinator (on behalf of the SEC)
Batemans Bay High School