

MCSL Annual Report July 2018 - June 2019

Macarthur Centre for Sustainable Living (MCSL) is a regional place of excellence that inspires the community to embrace an environmental conscience. MCSL encourages the community to adopt sustainable lifestyle choices to make a positive difference to the environmental sustainability of the Macarthur Region and beyond.



Visiting MCSL assists you with an experience that raises awareness of a wide range of sustainable technology and practices in homes, urban precincts and businesses – from the latest and the most sophisticated to the simplest but effective techniques for conserving earth's resources.

MCSL Visitor numbers have been climbing since 2010.

Volunteers hours have increased in 2017/2018/2019

Status of MCSL

While Campbelltown City Council remains the most significant financial contributor to the operations of the Centre, Camden and Wollindilly Shire Councils have provided or are committed to providing further funding. With this financial involvement of the three LGAs and the growth of the Centre's own income streams the future for MCSL is in a much stronger position to fulfil its mission.

How does the Macarthur Centre for Sustainable Living contribute to the Campbelltown City, Camden and Wollondilly Shire Council LGAs?

In summary the Macarthur Centre for Sustainable Living contributes to the three local Council LGA's by running waste education workshops, School Excursions, Child Care incursions focussing on sustainability and waste, Professional Development for School Teachers, drop in advice, volunteer, student work placements as well as providing venue hires for the residents and other community organisations.

Over the last 12 months MCSL has provided the Community with an EPA NSW Food Smart program (LFHW). Participants received free Food Smart kits as well as Cooking with Leftovers workshops. Participants participated through the Macarthur Food Smart closed Face Book site which was maintained by MCSL staff. EPA reported, the Macarthur program was the most successful in this round of funding based on the number of Surveys completed and the feedback recorded;

- a. Majority of participants reported saving between \$20-\$50 pw as a result of changed shopping & cooking behaviors.
- b. Several participants went on to attend other workshops at MCSL

MCSL's visitor rate is growing with 19,625 people dropping into the Centre this year, over 25% of workshops attendees reported visiting MCSL for the first time. MCSL also has a very strong volunteer program, this year the Centre racked up 23,090 of Volunteer hours.

MCSL workshops sponsored by Campbelltown City Council filled up very quickly, over the 12 months, we ran 79 workshops either at the Centre or out in the community with approx. 1,337 participants. The Free School Holiday Workshops were fully booked out each holiday.

Participants by Postcode attending Saturday workshops				
Year	Campbelltown City Council	Camden Council	Wollondilly Shire Council	Other
June-Dec 2018	44%	37%	4%	15%
Jan- June 2019	35%	30.0%	11.0%	24%

MCSL ran its first youth development program in 2018. Camden Council Youth Development Program enabled 18 local youth to obtain nationally accredited barista certification through running the program at MCSL. The Centre runs monthly accredited Barista courses partnering with MTTEC.

During 2018-2019, significant maintenance was carried out on site, paid out of recurrent funding (approx. \$40K). The maintenance included; relining of potable water tank, maintenance on the reed bed wastewater system, installation of new solar inverter, solar panels & roofing, replacement of emergency lighting, plumbing & maintenance for toilets, upgrade of audio-visual equipment & two replacement PCs.

MCSL also underwent a complete governance review paid for with recurrent funding, to ensure all WH&S & other regulations were being followed, this led to MCSL becoming a registered charity with ACNC.

Staff upgraded their TAE certification to enable MCSL to continue running our accredited barista courses on site. The espresso machine was obtained through a Club Grant. Staff attended the Australian Association of Environmental Educators Conference and the NSW Litter Conference, both to promote the Centre & to enable staff to stay up to date with sustainable developments. The Centre obtained NESAC Certification, enabling MCSL to offer Professional Development courses to local teachers to assist them in covering sustainability in the NSW curriculum (cross-curricular subject).

The Centre promotes our own workshops and events plus many other local events via MCSL Face Book. Our face book site has increased to over 3,200 followers with MCSL web site getting over 600, 000 hits pa. MCSL has grown substantially over 2018-2019.

Campbelltown City Council workshops have increased in number since 2010 which in turn has contributed to an increase in visitors and more local people interested in waste reduction. 2018/2019 has seen an increase in workshop participants since MCSL has used online bookings.

Education & Excursions have increased in 2018/2019

Winner of ABA – Australian Business Award in Sustainability

MCSL STATISTICS -JULY 2018- JUNE 2019



19,625 Visitors

(Venue Hire, Excursions, Tours, Drop in visits, workshops, other organisations)



23,090 Volunteers hrs

52% of Volunteers are from Camden Council Area

40% of Volunteers are from Campbelltown City Council Area

8% of Volunteers are from Wollondilly Shire Council Area

- ❖ 1000hrs of Work placement hours were completed by Year 9-12 High School Students



Sustainability

"Sustainability is something everyone can work towards... whether it is picking up garbage you see on the street or boycotting a company that practices environmentally harmful business methods, we all can make a difference."



Special Achievements for MCSL

Media Photo shoots & Articles with a distribution to 45,000 residents
Finalist and Winner NSW Volunteers Awards
Federal, Local MP & Camden Councillors Visits
NSW Volunteer Awards- Winners of Volunteer Team of the Year
MP Volunteer Awards
Advanced Eco Tourism Accreditation 2018
NESAs Accreditation for Teachers Professional Development
Member of AAEE- Australian Association of Environmental Education
Increased traffic via FB presence – now over 3200 followers
Attended NSW Litter Conference 2019
Advanced Eco Tourism Accreditation
Black Lock Filming Day
RU Ok day Coffee Shop
MCSL Annual Web Site Hits 626,864

Winning Grants

Community Clubs Grant
Sydney Water Community Grant
Suez Community Grant
NSW Volunteer Community Grant
EPA Food Smart Grant
Finalist Macquarie Bank Kick Starter grant

Sustainable
Education

Sustainability Education is often referred to as Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), which has been defined as UNESCO, 2014.

"Education for Sustainable Development allows every human being to acquire the knowledge, skills, attitudes and values necessary to shape a sustainable future"

Break Down of Statistics

Education at MCSL



School Excursions

793 School Children & 200 Parents & Teachers attended School Excursions

Workshops

Campbelltown City Council

47 x Waste Education workshops
32 x Waste Education Community Workshops
1x Childcare Centre workshop

Camden Council

6 x Waste Education workshops
9x Childcare Centre workshops

Wollondilly Shire Council

3x Waste Education Workshops

MCSL Workshops & Activities

21 x Educational Workshops with 288 participants
3 x Childcare Workshops
1x NESAP Professional Teacher Training workshops

OOSH (Out of School Hours)

265 Children & 75 Teachers

Community and Off-Site Workshops

10 x Workshops with Fairfield City Council, Hornsby City Council, Christmas In Narellan, Narellan Town Centre

Eco Hub

When visitors leave the Centre, we would like them to remember MCSL as a place that:

Connects people with nature

Provides information for today's world

Turns thinking into easy sustainable actions

Their holistic experience will be 'a call to action' that inspires the community to embrace an environmental conscience.

MCSL Tours



405 people attended site Tours, Devonshire Teas or Lunches plus, self-guided Tours

0-5yr Playgroup Education



3600 Family members attended Little Explorers Playgroup
This program is Sponsored by Camden Council

60% Families are from Camden Council
30% Families are from Campbelltown City Council
5% Families are from Wollondilly Shire Council
5% Families are from other parts of Sydney

200 Family Members attended Little Hands Spring Farm Playgroup
sponsored by Big Yellow Umbrella and MCSL for Camden Council Area Residents

Venue Hire

13 Venue Hires celebrating parties, meetings & training

Up Grade of Facilities & Sustainable Technology



Governance Health Check/Audit

Modification of Reed Bed Irrigation System

Repair of Office water Tank

Installation new Solar Inverter/Solar System/New roof

Upkeep of MCSL grounds, machinery and buildings

Installation of Smarter Macarthur Outdoor Education Area utilising furniture made by Replas from recycled soft plastics

Installation of audio/visual system in Education Centre

Installation of Water Efficient House model demonstrating ways of reducing water use

Creation of biodiversity garden & Revamped Garden Beds

Installation of demonstration aquaponics and hydroponics systems

Off Site Events



- **Camden Show- Kids Interactive Tent -4,000 Local Primary & High School Children from around the Macarthur Region + 20,000 Adults**
This program is Sponsored by Camden Council
- **TASTE Festival sponsored by Camden Council**
- **Narellan Town Shopping Centre Workshops**
- **Christmas In Narellan Workshops**
- **Fairfield City Council & Hornsby Shire Council Workshops**

Workshop Participant
Quotes 2019

Thank you. Great teachers. I really look forward to joining other workshops.

Fantastic - visual, friendly, great food, very informative - 5 star, thank you very much, I feel motivated. Please keep it up. I've learnt a lot and loved the food, I'm keen to do more.

Leant some interesting gardening points. You have given me so many good ideas to try at home. Will recommend this gardening & cooking workshop to my friends.

Please hold more! Very good presentation and information - staff were very friendly.

Loved this workshop! I'll be frequenting the Centre more often!

Great program for the community. Lots of information. Very informative & learnt new ideas, can't wait for the next workshop.

Markets

**2400 People attended MCSL's POP Up Fresh Produce Stall every Wednesday
(Residents from Camden and Campbelltown City Council)**



Partnerships

1. Campbelltown City Council, Wollondilly Shire Council, Camden Council, Big Yellow Umbrella, Lendlease, Boomerang Bags, ENJO, Zero Mass, MTTEC, Camden Show Society, Camden Community Garden, Sydney University Cobbitty Campus, Macarthur Beekeepers, SEUZ, EPA, AAEE, CERES Melbourne, Dignity, Campbelltown Arts Centre Café and Men's Shed Narellan



Staff Growth and Training

Informal/Formal staff Meetings

Staff update CPR and First Aid Training

NESA Training

NSW AAEE Board Member

Big Yellow Umbrella Director/Board Member

TASTE Cultural Food Tour Director/Board Member

President Thirlmere Netball Club

Completion and Update TAE Certificate 4 qualifications

Diploma Sustainable Living

Sustainable Mushroom Growing Course

AAEE workshops



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