

MCSL Annual Update Report July 2019 – June 2020

2019 – 2020 Highlights

- ✚ Succeeded in obtaining NSW Govt My Community Project funding in partnership with Men's Shed Narellan for installation of an Electric Vehicle Charging Station, solar storage battery & 10 kW solar array, workshops & solar tracking software
- ✚ Installation of Return & Earn kiosk in MCSL car park with option for users to donate directly to MCSL
- ✚ Establishment of MCSL & Little Explorers YouTube channel to continue to provide sustainability education whilst Coronavirus pandemic curtailed on-site activities
- ✚ Delivery of Little Explorers weekly craft sessions via Zoom due to pandemic restrictions
- ✚ COVID Safe certification obtained
- ✚ AGL Sustainable Youth Baristas grant won to provide sustainability & barista training to local disadvantaged youth
- ✚ Providing support to local emergency food aid programs by providing MCSL produce and composting inedible leftovers
- ✚ MCSL Education staff commenced Diploma in Sustainability through the University of Tasmania
- ✚ Keep Australia Beautiful NSW Award 2019 - Not for Profit Category



About MCSL

MCSL is a registered charity and community-focused organization, education Centre and model for the promotion of sustainable technology and living practices in homes and businesses. The Centre provides practical education on renewable energy production, energy and water efficiency, waste management and recycling, biodiversity through green space management and chemical-free vegetable production.

MCSL offers community education workshops, school excursions, professional development training for educators, pre-school programs, sustainable barista training, tours, venue hire and runs projects that build social capacity and empower individuals to practice sustainable lifestyles. MCSL supports the global Sustainable Development Goals.



Status of MCSL

While Campbelltown City Council remains the most significant financial contributor to the operations of the Centre, Camden and Wollondilly Shire Councils have provided or are committed to providing further funding for the 2020-21 financial year.

The pandemic has had a major effect on all aspects of the charity's activities resulting in the cessation of onsite activities from late March 2020. MCSL's ongoing operations have been made possible through pandemic related government programs and financial support.

MCSL continued to show year-on-year revenue growth up to March 2020, especially in its school excursions and community workshops programs.

The MCSL Board would like to express their admiration for the way staff pivoted to alternative methods to continue the charity's mission by providing online education resources to maintain connection to the Centre's many followers (e.g. YouTube videos, Zoom presentations). Staff also utilized this time to rewrite workshop factsheets and review existing programming. It is very pleasing to work with such dedicated and capable staff.

The pandemic will continue to affect MCSL's activities in 2020-2021 and the Centre will need to remain flexible as it works through the challenges created by the pandemic.

MCSL Activities

MCSL's visitor rate for the year was 13,340 casual visitors with very few visitors in the last quarter due to pandemic restrictions. However, there has been a steady stream of visitors using the recently installed Return & Earn kiosk, and a small, but consistent, use of the newly installed EV charger. MCSL's volunteer program remains strong with a total of 19,530 Volunteer hours recorded.

MCSL workshops continued to book up quickly with the Centre running 28 Campbelltown CC Saturday workshops, 8 Campbelltown CC Library Community workshops, 15 Campbelltown CC School Holiday workshops, 3 Camden Council Saturday workshops, 2 Camden Council Staff workshop, and 5 MCSL Specialised workshops, at the Centre. The School holiday program alone reached approx. 320 children plus parents.

The Centre continues to reach more residents with just over 30% of workshop participants attending MCSL for the first time.

MCSL continues to run a nationally accredited barista certification course in partnership with a local RTO, the Macarthur Travel, Tourism & Event College (MTTEC).

Significant maintenance was carried out on site in 2019-20. Maintenance of the site is continuous with the Centre's aging infrastructure. Maintaining the buildings and the 5 hectares site is a big task for the staff and volunteers.

Staff upgraded their TAE certification to enable MCSL to continue running our accredited barista courses on site. Staff upgraded First Aid and CPR qualifications, Bee Keeping Bio Courses, Mushroom Growing Courses, undertook Governance training and are currently studying a Diploma in Sustainable Living through the University of Tasmania. Staff attended the Australian Association of Environmental Educators Conference, KNSWB Sustainable City 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 NESA 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 its Facebook & Instagram pages. Our Facebook site has increased to over 3,600 followers with MCSL web site achieving over 460, 000 hits over the 12 months.

MCSL made 12 Little Explorers YouTube videos for Art and Craft activities and 11 MCSL YouTube videos. The most popular were How to Set up a Commercial Worm Farm, and the Chef and the Gardener – Cooking with Seasonal Produce. More videos are planned, and Campbelltown City Council have approached MCSL to more short videos focused on waste management.

Staff also became skilled in using Zoom for MCSL Board meetings, catch up with Council staff, MCSL staff meetings and Little Explorers children and parents' activities.

The Centre became more involved in Emergency Food relief by collecting food from Dignity and Big Yellow Umbrella to feed our volunteers or to process to assist with food waste avoidance. Approximately 20-30 litres of food waste is recycled in the

Campbelltown City Council workshops have increased in number since 2010 which in turn has contributed to an increase in visitors with more local people interested in waste reduction. 2019-20 has seen an increase in workshop participants since MCSL has used an online booking system

Education & Excursions have increased in 2019-20

Winner of ABA – Australian Business Award in Sustainability

COVID 19 all activities have ceased from Mid-March until July. MCSL is slowly restarting

Centre's worm farms and compost bins each week. MCSL also provided Centre grown produce to support We Are Community Inc's local food relief program.

MCSL STATISTICS -JULY 2019- JUNE 2020



13,340 Visitors (Venue Hire, Excursions, Tours, casual visits, workshops, EV Charger, Return & Earn deposits)



19,530 Volunteers hours

50% of Volunteers are from Camden Council Area

44% of Volunteers are from Campbelltown City Council Area

6% of Volunteers are from Wollondilly Shire Council Area

- ❖ 920hrs of Work placement hours were completed by Year 9-12 High School Students





Special Achievements

- Media Photo shoots & Articles with a distribution to 45,000 residents
- Federal, Local MP & Camden Councillors Visits
- Advanced Eco Tourism Accreditation 2020
- NESAC Accreditation for Teachers Professional Development
- Member of AAEE- Australian Association of Environmental Education
- Finalist SWS Macarthur Volunteers Awards
- Finalist KNSWB Sustainable City Award
- Wollongong University Research and Honours- Research Conducted on MCSL's Little Explorers Program

Grants



- My Community Grant – Macarthur Solar Community (with Men's Shed Narellan)
- AGL Sustainable Youth Barista's Grant
- SUEZ grant to update and reprint MCSL Self-Tour Guide
- Service NSW Grants

MCSL Statistics

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"

Statistics Detail



School Excursions

- 21 School Excursions for 1010 School Children & 400 Parents/ Teachers

Workshops

Campbelltown City Council

- 28 Waste Education workshops
- 8 Waste Education Community Workshops
- 1 Childcare Centre Workshop

Camden Council

- 5 Waste Education workshops
- 10 Childcare Centre workshops

MCSL Workshops & Activities

- 5 Educational Workshops
- 6 Barista Courses
- 2 AAEE Educators Workshops

OOSH (Out of School Hours)

- 7 events 195 Children & 65 Teachers

Community and Off-Site Workshops

- 4 events (Camden Council TASTE Festival, Fairfield City Council and Penshurst-3 Bridges Food Festival)

MCSL Tours



- 4 site Tours, Devonshire Teas or Lunches
- 120 self-guided Tours



0-5yr Playgroup Education- Little Explorers Program

2,196 Family members attended Little Explorers Playgroup

Term 2, 2020 Little Explorers zoomed their playgroups and completed 12 You Tube Videos for Art and Craft. 10 x Families attended the Climatic Change Sit in at MCSL

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

Venue Hire

24 x Venue Hires celebrating parties, meetings & training



Upgrade of Facilities & Sustainable Technology

- Upkeep of MCSL grounds, machinery, and buildings
- Creation of biodiversity garden, Water Wise Garden & Revamped ECO farm
- Installation of another 16 Zero Mass Source Solar Hydro Panels
- Information Centre sewerage system maintenance
- Replacement of Information Centre air conditioning unit
- EV Charger for Electric Cars
- Upgrade Solar Inverter and New Solar Panels
- Installation of Mesh system to improve Wi-Fi availability
- Car park Solar Security Camera
- Upgrade of Centre's Electricity Board
- Installation of a Tomra Return and Earn Recycling Machine



On Site Events

- Narellan Men's Shed located on site- Open every Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday
- Narellan Men's Shed Meetings & Events
- Narellan Men's Shed & MCSL working Committee Meetings
- Narellan Men's Shed & MCSL Board Sub Committee Meeting
- MCSL Board Meetings
- MCSL staff Meetings
- Macarthur Beekeepers Meetings
- Macarthur Beekeepers Field Days
- Macarthur & NSW Rose Society Meetings
- Macarthur Vintage Car Club Meetings

Off Site Events

- Fairfield City Council Workshops
- Campbelltown City Council Community workshops
- Camden TASTE Festival
- Penhurst 3 Bridges Food Festival

Pop-up Stalls

37 x weekly POP Up Fresh Produce Stall every Wednesday
(Residents from Camden and Campbelltown City Council)



Partnerships

Campbelltown City Council, Wollondilly Shire Council, Camden Council, The Australian Botanic Garden, Mount Annan; 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

**Workshop Participant
Quotes 2019**

*Wonderful information.
Great food. Thank you.
Could we please have a
workshop on using
recycled/repurposed/upcycle
d materials for "budget" &
frugal living. Very easy to
understand - very useful
information will try the
recipes at home and I will be
implementing a worm farm
and compost at home.
Should be more workshops.
Very informative, have more
interesting subjects. Enjoyed
the "down to earth"
approach from presenters.*

*Friendly presenters - very
informative. I learnt a lot
about recycling. Great tips - I
didn't know about
maintaining a compost bin
and where to place it. Radka
was very knowledgeable and
presented all the information
in a visual and practical way
which was easy to listen and
understand. Very helpful
information. Gerry is
entertaining, he gave some
helpful information and his
cooking was delicious.*



Staff Development

- Informal/Formal Meetings
- 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 (Uni Tas)



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