

MCSL Annual Update Report June 2022-July 2023



2022 – 2023 Highlights

- Visitor, school excursion and workshop numbers have all returned to pre-pandemic levels
- Awarded Multicultural NSW Govt grant to deliver accredited barista training in partnership with Macarthur Tourism, Travel & Events college, a local Registered Training Organisation – 42 local CALD residents trained during the report period
- Camden Youth Week grant – 20 Camden youth attended a pasta-making workshop
- NSW Office of Sport grant to install a defibrillator
- Community Builders Grant to replace hot water tank for underfloor heating in Education Centre
- The Return & Earn kiosk in MCSL car park has now processed over 5 million units since it was installed at MCSL with option for users to donate directly to MCSL
- Little Explorers playgroup subject of University of Wollongong post-graduate research with outcomes published in the Journal of Environmental Education

“... the findings indicated that the LEP (Little Explorers Program) empowered and positively transformed both the children and parents’ environmental attitudes and behaviours. This was evident through the children and parents’ adoption of more environmentally responsible attitudes and behaviours. The findings demonstrate that playgroups may be an untapped opportunity for facilitating community change towards sustainable living.”

<https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/australian-journal-of-environmental-education/article/effectiveness-of-a-communitybased-playgroup-in-inspiring-positive-changes-in-the-environmental-attitudes-and-behaviours-of-children-and-their-parents-a-qualitative-case-study/7978DC13A73FB9ADF28ED540C9538C8E>

- Providing support to local emergency food aid programs by composting inedible leftovers
- MCSL Electric Vehicle Charger Usage
Usage and CO2 abatement has increased by 839% 2022 to 2023 helping to reduce local vehicle emissions and improve air quality

Date Range	1 Jan - 31 Dec 2020	1 Jan - 31 Dec 2021	1 Jan - 31 Dec 2022	1 Jan - 28 Nov 2023
Charging Time	3 day, 13hrs, 11min	3 days, 17hrs, 52 mins	2 days, 20hrs, 28 mins	22days, 22hrs, 43 min
No. of Visits	78	91	94	320
Usage (kWh)	403.5 kWh	462.16 kWh	337.1 kWh	2830kWh
CO2 Abatement (kg)	116.77kg	147.27kg	107.49kg	901.96kg
Electricity Supply cost*	\$76.65	\$87.79	\$64.08	\$537.42

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, pre-school programs, sustainable barista training, tours, venue hire and runs projects that build social capacity and empower individuals to practice sustainable lifestyles.

MCSL has an electric vehicle charger, TOMRA Return & Earn kiosk, 15kWh solar system, 10kWh battery, vertical axis wind turbine, vegetable gardens, water tanks, Source hydropanels and rootzone system on site enabling us to demonstrate technology that supports sustainable living practices. MCSL supports the global Sustainable Development Goals and Campbelltown and Camden Councils' Sustainability Strategies.

Visiting MCSL raises awareness of a wide range of sustainable technology and practices in homes, urban precincts and businesses –from sophisticated to the simplest but effective solutions for the sustainable use of the planet’s resources.

MCSL Visitor numbers have returned to pre-pandemic levels.

Volunteer’s hours have returned to pre-pandemic levels

Status of MCSL

Campbelltown City Council remains the most significant financial contributor to the operations of the Centre. **Camden Council** is committed to providing further funding for the 2023-24 financial year.

MCSL has now fully returned to its pre-pandemic program of activities.

MCSL Activities



MCSL’s visitor rate for the year was 17,500 casual visitors MCSL’s volunteer program remains strong with a total of 10,170 Volunteer hours recorded.

MCSL workshops from July 2022 to June 2023 include:

- 22 Campbelltown CC Saturday workshops
- 4 Camden CC Saturday workshops
- 5 Campbelltown CC school holiday workshops
- 10 Campbelltown CC Library mid-week workshops
- 19 MCSL specialised workshops on reducing food waste, growing your own food, organic gardening, renewable energy
- 1 Camden CC Seniors Workshop
- 1 Camden Café Connect Gardening workshop
- 8 Campbelltown CC Childcare ELC workshops
- 4 Camden CC Childcare ELC workshops
- 4 Fairfield City Council workshops
- 1 OOSH excursion
- 3 Barista workshops
- 5 Stronger Together barista workshop through NSW Multicultural grant for members of the Macarthur Culturally &

Linguistically Diverse community with 42 attendees receiving nationally accredited qualifications. A further 5 workshops will take place between July – November 2023.

The Centre continues to attract new residents with just over 35% 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).

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.

The Centre promotes its own workshops and events plus many other local events via its Facebook & Instagram pages. Our Facebook site has increased to over 5,300 followers with MCSL web site achieving over 600, 000 hits over the 12 months.

The Centre continues to collect food from Big Yellow Umbrella to process to assist with food waste avoidance. Approximately 5-10 litres of food waste were recycled in the Centre’s worm farms and compost bins each week.



Sally Quinnell MP, Camden with MCSL staff

MCSL STATISTICS - JULY 2022- JUNE 2023



17,500 Visitors (Venue Hire, Excursions, Tours, casual visits, workshops, EV Charger, Return & Earn deposits)



10,170 Volunteers hours

43% of Volunteers are from Camden Council Area

57% of Volunteers are from Campbelltown City Council Area

- ❖ 550hrs of Work placement hours were completed by Year 9-12 High School Students through the EXCEL program



Greg Warren MP, Campbelltown with Centre Manager

Education for Sustainability

Education for Sustainability is often referred to as Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)

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

Sustainability is a cross-curricular subject in NSW



Grants

- Multicultural NSW Govt Grant to provide accredited barista training to members of the Macarthur CALD community
- NSW Department of Sport & Recreation grant to instal defibrillator
- Camden Youth Week grant to run pasta-making workshop
- Community Builders Grant to replace hot water tank and repair underfloor heating in Education Centre



Statistics Detail

School Excursions

- 23 School Excursions (1364 students)

Workshops

 **Campbelltown City Council**

- 22 Waste Education workshops
- 8 Waste Education Community Workshops
- 12 Childcare Centre Workshops

 **Camden Council**

- 4 Waste Education workshops
- 2 Childcare Centre workshops

 **MCSL Workshops & Activities**

- 19 Specialised Sustainability Educational Workshops
- 8 Barista Courses

**MCSL
Experience**

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.

 **OOSH (Out of School Hours)**
1 event

MCSL Tours



5 guided tours

0-5yr Playgroup Education- Little Explorers Program



3310 Family members attended Little Explorers Playgroup (82 sessions)

This program is Sponsored by Camden Council

64% Families are from Camden Council

30% Families are from Campbelltown City Council

6% Families are from other parts of Sydney

Venue Hire

19 x Venue Hires including Eat Shop Love markets, training sessions, weddings, kitchen hire

Upgrade of Facilities & Sustainable Technology



- Replace drinking water tank lining and installation of new UV filter
- Repairs and maintenance for EV Charger
- Upkeep of MCSL grounds, machinery, and buildings
- Repairs to underfloor heating system in Education Centre
- Refurbishment of Little Explorer Garden and Play Area

On Site Events



Workshop Participant Quotes 2022/23

The workshop was very educational and entertaining for kids.

Workshops are so inspiring, informative, wonderful welcoming staff.

The students learned new and interesting things about the environment living sustainably.

A fun rotation of workshops. Children had a great day!

Great information and website for plastic free living.

Lots of hints and tips that encourage us to think about the environment, reduce wastage and alternatives to plastic, this reminded me to use leftover and to use only seasonal produce.

Practical reminder to consciously plan and think about minimising waste of perishable food and leftovers.

- 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

Off Site Events

- Fairfield City Council Workshops
- Campbelltown City Council Community workshops

Partnerships

Campbelltown City Council, Camden Council, The Australian Botanic Garden, Mount Annan; TOMRA, Big Yellow Umbrella, Zero Mass, MTTEC, Macarthur Beekeepers, CERES Melbourne, Recycle Smart and Men's Shed Narellan



Staff Development

- First Aid and CPR training
- Informal/Formal staff Meetings
- Big Yellow Umbrella Director/Board Member





Macarthur Centre for Sustainable Living
Email: info@mcsll.org.au www.mcsll.org.au

