

Gympie East State School 2006 Sustainability Report

Take the Amphitheatre. This is an excellent output from a massive effort from many people and agencies i.e. funding sources, working bees etc. The educational outcomes that have resulted from this facility is the increase in outdoor lessons for classes with experts such as the poet etc. The Social benefit is the Learnscape provides a special place for students to play, relax and learn. The Economic benefit could be the reduced cost for such a facility through the combined working bees and grant funding. (This could be calculated as in-kind and cash compared to a professional contractor, however this is possibly a bit too much to ask, unless they have already done this analysis) The environmental outcomes could be the increase in native plants established, reduction in soil erosion etc. This is where I am heading with this triple bottom line plus one reporting concept. We are still in the early stages, so I can understand the challenges in getting the concept in the first stage.

Environmental: Provide examples of any environmental benefits that have resulted from ongoing Reef Guardian projects, activities or events.
(250 words maximum)

The environmental outcomes of the Amphitheatre could be the increase in native plants established, reduction in soil erosion etc.

* landscaping of an area that was otherwise under utilized.

- Parents' enthusiasm and support in the waste minimisation project; new enrolments recently in 2006 due to parents viewing our website & its environmental focus.
- Cleanaway: new recycling bins were introduced by council to our school community. Yet parents were unfamiliar of what and what wasn't able to be recycled. Elli Webb, from Cleanaway implemented a Waste Matters Unit to our whole school. At youth forums we promoted this and other schools in the community also invited Elli to their schools, (Eg. see testimonial from Gympie South).
- A parent at the school, entered a local media's competition and won for the school a 2 ½ m Wollemi Pine that was presented to the school and also received for the school local publicity in the local paper, The Gympie Times.
- By doing a unit focussing on "Water" the Preschoolers – Year 3s won a 1000gallon water tank from Action Tanks, and radio 96.1 Zinc and more publicity as this radio station is based in Maroochydore, so Gympie East was recognised down at the Sunshine Coast also, promoting our school's environmental endeavours.
- Shredding paper reduces the amount of paper going to landfill. Using both sides of a sheet of paper, and sorting this has raised awareness of not wasting paper throughout the school.

Economical: Provide examples of any economical benefits that have resulted from ongoing Reef Guardian projects, activities or events.
(250 words maximum)

The Economic benefit of the Amphitheatre is the reduced cost for such a facility through the combined working bees and grant funding. (This could be calculated as in-kind and cash compared to a professional contractor, however this is possibly a bit too much to ask, unless they have already done this analysis)

From Term 3, 2006, Gympie East Worm "Wee" has been sold. This "future" business has seen "keen" sales increase as the word spreads about its fertilizer properties.

As a proud Reef Guardian school, P&C parents at the Gympie Muster, wanted us to promote the school by placing banners of our different environmental projects: zero-waste lunchboxes, the Preschooler Paper Shredders and the SKRAP busters who ensure the food scraps are feed to the chooks and worms. The parents even printed new menus and signs with the Green Tree Frog showing that we care for the environment. It's not just one teacher...but a whole school staff and parent body...sustainable programme. Economically this muster event raised over \$20 000 for the school P&C.

Before paying someone to remove 7 wheelie bins full of waste was an expense the school paid for. By now reducing this to 1 bin a week; and 1 recycling bin a fortnight, paper shredding, worm farms and recycling has saved the school this expense which amounted to a four figure amount over the year.

Paper brick making seen as a future enterprise Needed warmer weather to dry out the bricks.

Social/Cultural: Provide examples of any social/cultural benefits that have resulted from ongoing Reef Guardian projects, activities or events.
(250 words maximum)

- The Grand Opening of the Bronson Hose Amphitheatre and the Nestle Nature Health Track on September 6th, 2006 was made extra special as each child took home to his or her family a Reef Guardian Calico bag full of “party goodies: environmental information, stickers, Reef Ed posters, DPI posters, DEH worksheets etc. just to name a few.”

This function was well attended by parents, community folk and past & present staff (some even travelling back from special leave for the event.) It received local media attention with radio and print coverage to the wider community.

[The Social benefit of the Amphitheatre is the Learnscape provides a special place for students to play, relax and learn.](#)

Special guests included the Clown Doctors (From Royal Children's Hospital in Brisbane) and Jamie Dunn and Agro, and Megan Sperring (with Stingray, barb in her back pocket...topical with the sad passing of Steve Irwin, the Friday prior this function.)

- Asian Greens grown by the kids in the vegetable patch using the worm wee fertilizer saw many children eat “greens” they had never seen before.

Educational: Provide examples of any educational benefits that have resulted from ongoing Reef Guardian projects, activities or events.
(250 words maximum)

[The educational outcomes that have resulted from the Amphitheatre is the increase in outdoor lessons for classes with experts such as the poet etc.](#)

- Lower school children were learning about “insects” in term 2 when the worm farm was being constructed. All the children were keen to “hold a worm.” We’ve made frequent visits to check out the baths, especially when we found out that the worms were “pregnant.”
- Lower school have learnt about the “water cycle”, how we use water, how not to waste water, and learnt about catchments.
- The Preschoolers – Year 3s proudly sang on numerous occasions our “Water Cycle Rap” which concludes with: “Water cycle, water cycle; never ever stops,
Water cycle, water cycle; don’t waste a drop!”

Preschoolers can use a paper shredder safely. Children know to use both sides of a sheet of paper.

Know how to make a paper brick.

Shredded paper is used for arts & crafts activities, seen as a resource too.

Years 3/4/5 are making A5 sheets of recycled paper.

The Future: Please provide an outline of any Reef Guardian projects/plans you have for next year. (500 words maximum)

With Reef Guardian Letter of Support, we submitted a Water Fund Submission in Round 2. If successful in 2007 we look forward to reducing our water usage by replacing toilets and bubblers and putting in water saving devices and increase our collection capacity by installing 4 new storage tanks. This has been made possible by the asbestos roofing replacement carried out in 2006 on Block A.

We’ve begun discussions with Nestle and Ergon energy to enter into a Solar Schools partnership to install solar panels on Block A to focus on our school’s energy consumption, raise awareness of Green Energy, and provide an income from energy generated in school holidays, if funding is forthcoming.

We’re continuing to support Gympie District & Landcare by attending meetings to plan for 2007 Environmental Kidszone. Again, another youth forum for 2007. [Eg One a year, may be sufficient for sanity. One a term, although all participants were keen to participate as frequently, the organisation required to do as much is too onerous for one small school to do each term.]

A new herb / scented & vegetable garden is being planted between Block A and the GLA buildings to bring the gardens “closer to the children.” Not just over at the gardening area beyond the car park (which is out of bounds for children unless supervised by an adult.) Children will be encouraged to sniff and taste.

Revegetation of the garden courtyard area outside the year 1/ 2 room...which leads up to the oval. The retaining wall has become unsightly.

Continue to apply for funding to support ongoing projects such as reducing the environmental degradation of the top bank area pathway to the Peace Plot at the back of the school oval and for viewing benches for the children to sit and enjoy the school surrounding flora and fauna.

Continue to follow best environmental practises in all that we do.

Economic Costing of Amphitheatre

Labour: Tree lopping and clearing	2 people for 2 hours (in kind donation) parents + Barry
Excavation for foundations	3 people for 2.5 hours (in kind donation) parents + Barry
Laying the foundations	5 people for 6 hours (in kind donation) parents + Barry
Laying block work	5 people for 11 hours (in kind donation) parents + Barry
Laying the seating	7 people for 10 hours (in kind donation) Gympie South Lions + Barry
Stage area	7 people 13.5 hours (in kind donation) Gympie South Lions + Barry
Clean up of site	4 people for 4 hours + Barry
Landscaping	2 people for 4 hours + Barry
Plaques + engraving	donated by staff.
Mosaics	2 people for 4 hours parent, staff + Barry 10 people for 2 hours, parents, staff & students Barry by himself ... 3.5 for final finishing touches.

Materials: Steel to the value of \$800 donated Budget Steel Gympie
Besser Blocks 186 blocks \$2 = \$372 donated Gympie Blockworks
\$50 delivery, paid by cash donations from community.
Concrete :\$2000 paid for; but received over \$3000 worth
[Nestle grant & cash donations]
Rocks for landscaping over \$1000 donated ;
Soil donated by Kym & Michael Ireland (staff) 7 cubic metres \$330.
Plants : Nestle Grant \$180.
Tiles: for mosaics donated by parents and staff.

Four cartons beer and a bottle of rum!

Morning tea & lunch for opening;
School P&C catered.

Machine hire to dig the trenches: Kubota excavator 2.5 hours (in kind donation)
Bobcat for landscaping (rocks on site) (in kind donation)