

Tradies iPromise Grants – Recipients Projects

Complete List of iPromise Grant Recipients from 2014 to 2018 including a brief description of their sustainability project

Round 1- April 2014

Kirrawee Public School - \$1,000

Kirrawee Public School planted 100 native trees as part of a bush regeneration program, which not only enriched the local landscape, but also restored a natural ecosystem for countless native animal species.

Sylvanvale - \$1,000

Sylvanvale Foundation was one of our first iPromise Grants recipients and received \$1,000 towards 14 herb and vegetable gardens in their Sutherland Shire locations. The gardens have now been planted and provide a sustainable food source as well as environmental education activities for Sylvanvale's 170 local residents with intellectual disabilities. The residents love watching the plants grow and learning how to look after them. The herbs have also been used by Sylvanvale Catering.

Round 2 – September 2014

Engadine High School - \$2,000

Engadine High School used their grant money to create a bigger, more functional greenhouse complete with seating and an outdoor bush tucker garden for students to learn in an outdoor environment. The greenhouse itself is used to teach students about local native plants which are grown in the greenhouse and then donated to local primary schools. Sweet Basil, Flax Lily and Lavender plants have already been donated to other schools and were chosen because they attract the native Blue Banded Bee which assists in plant pollination.

Round 3 – April 2015

Nature's Best Fruit Market - \$2,000

Nature's Best in Belfield was throwing 12 tonnes of unsold fruit, vegetables and deli produce away each month into their Landfill Waste Bins. They used their iPromise Grant to install a Pulpmaster 4000 machine which has been recycling their organic waste into green energy to power homes and organic fertiliser for Australian farms. In 6 months alone, Nature's Best recycled over 72 tonnes of their organic waste and reduced their waste to landfill by 85%.

Burraneer Bay Public School - \$2,000

Burraneer Bay Public School used their funding to expand their existing recycling and waste program into an 'Eco Hub'. The Eco Hub centralised the school's learning space for students' environmental education including worm farms, composting, recycling, water conservation, food gardens and energy saving.

Round 4 – September 2015

Wollongong West Public School - \$550

Wollongong West Public School created a Bush Tucker Garden. This area now provides a location within the school where sustainable environmental programs can be delivered to students and the school community. Over 40% of the student population comes from non-English speaking backgrounds and the Bush Tucker Garden has created a space where the wider school community, including parents and grandparents, can come together to not only learn with their children about the Australian environment, but also find a support network in their new country.

Illawarra Sports High School - \$1,750

The grant is helping the students in the Autism Unit learn about the importance of sustainability. The project is fostering Autistic students' love of nature and creating positive environmental change. They are growing their own edible vertical living wall garden outside their very own classroom, including herbs, vegetables, fruit, natives and succulents in their own planters.

Kensington Public School - \$3,700

Kensington Public School is raising awareness of consumerism and the problems associated with waste creation. The Going Greener (Rethink, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) project aims to develop students' understanding of the link between consumerism and the depletion of our natural resources and to make sustainable practices part of our everyday school life. The aim is to reduce the amount of general waste sent to landfill and involve the students, staff and the community in the process of developing a waste wise school.

Braddock Public School - \$2,000

Students at Braddock Public School used their grant to organize a school compost bin, established a worm farm and developed a native garden to attract birds to the playground. They also have a gardening group of 15 members, who work every lunch time to weed the gardens around the school and are researching and studying the importance of regenerating garden areas with native plants, and the benefit this has on the bird life of the area.

Round 5 – April 2016

Bellingen High School - \$3875

Years 9 & 10 in Human Society in the Environment (HSIE) and Marine Studies are working with their teachers and community experts to study the Bellinger River and find ways of assisting in the sustainability of the river's health. The students regularly test the rivers health, map animal access points and erosion sites, replant the riparian zone as well as research endemic and threatened species which are vital to the rivers ecosystem.

Maitland Grossman High School - \$3475

The school has rehabilitated approximately 160 m2 of a degraded part of school grounds using iPromise funds. The area is used by classes for environmental education, field studies, data collection / surveys, horticulture and local Indigenous bush craft.

Lane Cove West Public School - \$650

Lane Cove West Public School has an enthusiastic group of children who meet for Garden Club each week. To increase the productivity of the garden, they applied for an iPromise Grant to attract more beneficial insects to the vegetable garden to help with pollination. Bees, in particular, are vital to the pollination process. Unfortunately, in a metropolitan area, bees are often in short supply naturally. With the iPromise Grant funds, they bought a colony of native stingless bees to help pollinate the garden.

Round 6 – September 2016

Corrimal High School - \$2000

Corrimal High has allocated a section along the school's western boundary for bush regeneration. To compliment the corridor, Stage 4 students have researched, designed and built appropriate habitat boxes for native fauna species, including nectivorous birds and micro-bats. Additionally, they purchased and installed four insect habitat boxes to create a sustainable and ongoing food source for those species.

Matraville Sports High School - \$1000

Students used their funding to assist in the design and build of 'The Greenhouse Project', for the propagation of spinnifex to help stabilise the Congwong Beach area of La Perouse.

Engadine West Public School - \$2000

With the support of Sutherland Shire Council, BirdLife Australia and Birds In Backyards, Engadine West Primary School extended their existing native garden with plants specific for the purpose of encouraging small native birds. This is in direct response to the decline of bird numbers and bird diversity in the Sydney Region.

Scarborough Public School P & C - \$1000

Scarborough Public School's "Edible School Yard" project is an environmentally sustainable Bush Tucker garden, which is used as a 'living' classroom. They have established composting and worm farming systems for recycling all of organic waste.

Randwick Public School - \$2000

iPromise helped fund the installation of a hydroponics system attached to the school pond. This involved the installation of a mains powered pump, a gravel based raised grow bed and the re-lining of a dry river bed leading to the pond. The hydroponics system keeps the pond water clean, allowing a healthy environment for fish and frogs. The nutrients in the pond are transferred and taken up by plants in the grow bed allowing the school to grow more food which is used in their kitchen garden program.

Round 7 – June 2017

Warrawong High School Support Unit - \$3,413

The school is building an edible garden and outdoor learning space for students with special needs in the Support Unit. Organic food will be grown, cared for, harvested, cooked and consumed by students, staff and parents. The project will include: raised (wheel chair height) garden beds with seating for growing food and flowers; herb and citrus beds; a seating circle learning/meeting space; worm farm and native bee habitat and hive as well as water harvesting and organic composting. Students will be involved in every aspect of the project and the ongoing maintenance.

Dandelion Support Network - \$2,000

The Dandelion Support Network is a group of volunteers who accept, sort, clean and safety check nursery equipment and children's clothes to ensure the highest quality of pre-loved goods are available for distribution to families in crisis, free of charge. While most goods donated are in good condition, sometimes some items have broken or missing parts which means they cannot be recycled unless spare parts are bought. Their iPromise Grants will be used to purchase these parts. The project contributes to environmental awareness as it encourages the community to recycle their nursery items, with the purpose of helping those less fortunate. Without Dandelion, many of these items would end up in landfill.

Coniston Public School - \$1,416

Coniston Public School has a behavioural unit which caters for 20 children with emotional disturbances. The students will be engaged in a hand-on unit called 'Plants in Action'. They have researched the costs of purchasing plants, soils and raised garden beds and used technology to research appropriate types of seedlings so that the garden will grow vegetables all year round. They will install the raised garden beds and plant the plants. This project will provide a sustainable and engaging learning experience for students who are often disinterested in normal classroom learning.

Heathcote East Public School P&C - \$1,171

Heathcote East Public School is using their grant to acquire recycling bins and compost caddies for each classroom, a worm farm, and a compost tumbler as well as resources to aid in teaching sustainable, healthy living. They hope to significantly reduce food waste from the canteen and every classroom and use that organic waste for fertilizer and liquid fertiliser for future crops.

Round 8 – November 2017

Beverly Hills North Public School - \$359

The iPromise Grant will be used to purchase a greenhouse for the students to grow native trees, shrubs and vegetables. The trees and shrubs will be used for bush regeneration and the vegetables will be used in cooking classes and to sell to the local community.

Bonnet Bay Public School - \$1,232

Bonnet Bay will be using their grant to implement a waste-reduction program. Staff and students will sort waste into landfill, recyclables and organic waste via Eco-bins.

Wollongong High School of the Performing Arts - \$850

Using the iPromise funding, students will implement an aquaponics 'future farms' project. To lower the input costs of the aquaponics system, food produced in the farm will be used and sold in the school canteen.

Taren Point Public School - \$700

To foster growth in the local bee population, Taren Point Public School will be installing a bee hive on school grounds. Bees are vital to the pollination process of many plants and this will greatly assist the school's native plants and vegetable garden.

The Hills School - \$3,635

The Hills School will be using their grant to fund a sustainable overhaul of their existing fruit, vegetable and herb gardens. This includes installing rainwater tanks, a solar powered water pump, a water-wise irrigation system and organic waste bins for each classroom. The fruit, vegetables and herbs produced by the school will be given to local business 'Dinner on the Table' and be used to supply free meals to women made vulnerable by disability, and their families.

Jannali Public School - \$1,550

The Jannali Rangers are an environmental group of 40 students and parents from Jannali P & C. The group will use their funding to increase their composting capabilities and garden beds which they will use to run practical education programs for other students and parents to learn about organic waste management and growing food.

Round 9 – Jul 2018

Marton Public School - \$1,148

Marton Public School will use their grant to part-fund a child-friendly chicken coop. The manure produced by the chickens will be used to fertilise the soil in the school's vegetable garden, which is tended to by a volunteer group of students, parents and carers. The chickens also form part of a sustainability program that teaches the students about sustainable farming and food production.

Hornsby Girls High School - \$3,050

After an external energy audit by Macquarie University, Hornsby Girls High School will use their grant money to replace old fluorescent lights in their library with energy efficient LED tubes. It is estimated that changing the school lights to energy efficient tubes could reduce their electricity consumption by 75% and improve the school's overall CO2 emissions.

Austinmer Public School - \$480

Austinmer Public School will use their grant to implement a classroom composting system to reduce the school's over waste and teach students about organic and non-organic waste. Students will sort the waste and collect/empty the compost bins on a daily basis ensuring they are engaged in and take responsibility for the sustainability of their school.

Minerva School - \$1,200

Minerva School plans to improve on an existing Kitchen Garden program with an accessible garden for their Kindergarten classes. The school caters to students with mild to moderate intellectual disabilities and emotional disturbances and has found that the process of caring for plants and growing produce has a positive impact on the students through the lifelong skills they attain and the benefits to their physical and emotional health. The school plans for the Kitchen Garden to become self-funded via the sale of produce at the Sutherland Shire Farmers Market.

Coledale Public School - \$1,148

Coledale Public School will increase the sustainability of their school vegetable garden through an irrigation system connected to their water tank. The produce from their garden is distributed to a local café and teaches students and the community about the journey from garden to plate. The rest of their grant will be used to purchase Wheel Bin Worm Farms and to build an insect hotel which will house native stingless bees as well as other insects.

Cronulla Preschool - \$1,700

Cronulla Preschool will establish 2 community herb gardens, a worm farm and compost. These will not only provide environmental and sustainability education for the children and improve the sustainability practices of the preschool but will also be open to the community to use the herbs and 'juice' from the worm farm in their own gardens. The preschool educators, families and local community garden group will work together to bring the project to life and the success will be measured by monitoring the preschool's weekly waste pick up.

Round 10 – December 2018

Oatlands Public School - \$2,400

Oatlands Public School will be constructing an Aboriginal Seasonal Food Walk, designed around the 6 D'harawal seasons. The Food Walk will focus on environmental education, native plants and encouraging native fauna including birds, microbats and insects.

Botany Bay Environmental Education Centre - \$3,000

The Botany Bay ECC will use their grant money to engage local High School students in citizen science projects involving testing local water supplies for microplastics and educating them on the effects of microplastics on the environment.

Oatley Public School - \$1,070

Oatley Public School are extending their existing 'green sparks' program by introducing a comprehensive composting system to complement their existing recycling program. The composting system will involve students, teachers and parents and collect both food waste and garden clippings. The compost will be used on the students' vegetable garden.

Campsie Public School - \$1,500

Campsie Public School will be using their grant to increase biodiversity in their school environment and provide 'stepping stones' for local fauna. They plan to purchase native bees and install a bee hive, purchase native plants and invest in an irrigation system for their both their new native garden and existing vegetable garden.

Primbee Public School - \$765

Primbee Public School will use their grant to purchase native bees, a hive and educational resources for their students to learn about the important role bees play in the ecosystem.