



2025 Kids in Action Program

Walking Country – Where will our footprints lead?

Kids in Action is a Sunshine Coast Council environmental education initiative that aims to increase children's environmental knowledge and understanding, while inspiring and providing opportunities for positive environmental and sustainability action.

Designed primarily for students from Years 5-8, council's award-winning Kids in Action program encourages students to take responsibility for their learning through the planning and delivery of environmental projects.

Using a 'peer teaching and learning' pedagogy, and local environmental issues as a theme, teachers become the facilitators, and students, through agency and empowerment, take responsibility for their own learning. Together they select a project of agreed interest, relevance and importance, and collaboratively research, design and deliver a presentation at the Kids in Action Conference Day. Students learn with their head, heart and hands, and are encouraged to think, feel and develop practical ways to respond to the challenges facing our environment.

Program

Kids in Action Conference – Wednesday 17 September 2025 (all day)
Maroochy Regional Bushland Botanic Garden

The Conference is an exciting and special day where students bring their creative project ideas to share, teach and learn from each other through workshops, interactive displays and main stage presentations. Students take responsibility for their learning through the planning and delivery of environmental projects, advocacy and action.

Kids in Action Field Day – Thursday 18 September 2025 (all day)
Location to be confirmed

Students will enjoy nurturing their ecological identity and stewardship at the Field Day, a day of immersion and connection with nature. Community mentors guide students through a range of practical, hands-on environmental, cultural, scientific, art and citizenship activities and experiences. Students enquire, explore and are curious as they engage with different knowledge systems, to further develop their confidence and capacity to be able to combat challenges and actively care for and protect Country.

Kids in Action Roadshow – October/November 2025
Location and events to be confirmed

Schools are invited to take their presentations on the road to share their projects with the broader community at local shopping centres, exhibition spaces and community events.

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Cost

\$150 covers 12 delegates from your school (\$10 per additional student) to participate in one or all program events, along with access and support from the Kids in Action education team throughout the year.

Theme

The 2025 theme **Walking Country – Where Will Our Footprints Lead?** invites students to consider how they walk with Country. Do they walk with intention and care? It challenges schools and their student delegates to reflect on the footprints we leave behind – both physically and environmentally. Footprints can be physical, like the trails we leave on Country, and metaphorical, like our environmental and social impact.

As we explore this theme, we ask: How can we tread lightly to protect fragile ecosystems and all within the biosphere? How do our everyday choices influence the environment, the community, and future generations? Schools will be invited to embark on creative project journeys that reflect promises of "walking gently" with Country.

When we walk gently on Country, we acknowledge the interconnectedness of all living things and recognize our role within this system. Through the lens of responsibility and stewardship, students will dive deeper into how our actions today shape the world of tomorrow. We are not only leaving footprints but creating a legacy that future generations will inherit.

Students can examine the delicate balance between human activity and nature, considering both small, personal changes and larger community movements. We will be partnering with local custodians and Elders to deepen student's understanding of Country and foster meaningful connections with Indigenous knowledges and practices.

Project ideas

Here are some suggested project ideas for schools to explore with the **2025 theme: "Walking Country – Where Will Our Footprints Lead?"**

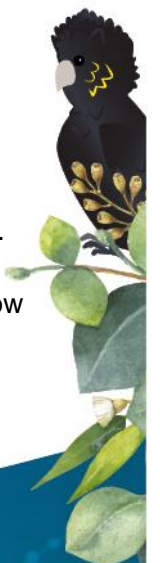
You might like to explore this theme by:

1. **Mapping Our Footprints:** Develop a physical or digital map that tracks your personal or school's footprint on the environment. This could include energy usage, waste production, or environmental impact in your community. Create a project showing how we can "walk more gently" and reduce these footprints over time.
2. **Sustainable Travel and Movement:** Investigate sustainable modes of transportation, both traditional and modern. Explore how walking, cycling, and using public transport can reduce our environmental footprint. Create campaigns or projects that promote sustainable travel habits within your school or community.
3. **First Nations Walking Stories:** Collaborate with Kabi Kabi/Gubbi Gubbi and Jinibara traditional custodians to learn about ancient walking paths and stories connected to Country. Investigate how their practices and knowledge of the land have informed the way they move through and care for Country. Present these stories through storytelling, art, or guided walks.
4. **Creating Walkable, Green Spaces:** Design and implement a school or community garden, nature walk, or other green space that promotes walking gently with the land. Think about how this space can be used to encourage people to connect with nature and reflect on their footprint.

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5. **Footprint Reduction Challenge:** Organize a school-wide challenge that encourages students and staff to reduce their environmental impact through everyday actions. This could include reducing energy consumption, waste, or water use. Track progress and celebrate the most impactful changes.
6. **Waterways and Footsteps:** Explore the connection between local waterways and how we walk with Country. Investigate how the health of creeks, rivers and lakes, and beaches, mudflats and oceans are affected by human activity. Create a project that promotes conservation of water resources and teaches others about how to protect these vital ecosystems.
7. **Footprints Through Art:** Create visual or performance art pieces that explore the idea of walking gently. Use recycled or natural materials to create sculptures or exhibits that reflect the footprints we leave behind. Alternatively, express these ideas through movement, dance, or music.
8. **Regenerative Footprints:** Research regenerative agriculture or land care practices that help heal the land. Develop a project that showcases how schools, communities, or individuals can engage in practices that actively restore and regenerate Country, leaving positive footprints.
9. **Listening to Country While Walking:** Record soundscapes of Country while walking through different environments (forests, creeks, grasslands). Reflect on how different landscapes influence the way we walk and interact with the environment. Use this to create podcasts or audio pieces to share the experience of listening and walking on Country.
10. **Connecting Footsteps to Climate Change:** Explore the connection between human activities and climate change. Research how carbon footprints are measured and investigate ways your school or community can reduce their emissions. Develop a project that advocates for climate action through small, sustainable steps.
11. **Walking with Elders:** Work with First Nations Elders to organize a walking tour of your local area. Through this walk, learn about the cultural significance of local landmarks, flora, and fauna. Present your learnings through a photo essay, digital story, or guidebook that others can follow.
12. **Environmental Storytelling through Shoes:** Create a project that tells the story of different "shoes" walking with Country—whether these are gumboots, sandals, or bare feet. Use the symbolism of footwear to explore how different people connect with the land and how they move with it. Present this through artwork, poetry, or physical displays.
13. **Walking the Future:** Investigate how innovations in sustainable materials, like biodegradable footwear or eco-friendly building materials, can help reduce our footprint. Create a futuristic design project that looks at how future generations might walk with Country with care.
14. **Mapping Future Footprints:** Use maps and projections to explore what your local environment, the biosphere, might look like 50 or 100 years into the future if we continue to walk lightly—or if we don't. Create a "choose your own adventure" map or game that shows the impact of different choices we make today.
15. **Eco-Leadership Journey:** Walk the path of eco-leadership by creating a campaign that encourages students to become custodians of the environment. Explore how small leadership actions by individuals or peer groups (from reducing waste to advocating for greener policies) can have a large impact and inspire others to follow in our footsteps.
16. **Walking forward in considering our Future:** Partner with local councils or community groups to plant native trees or shrubs. This project could symbolize "walking forward" by leaving positive, life-giving footprints on Country and contributing to local biodiversity.

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17. **Land Acknowledgement Art Project- Art installations:** Students create art installations that acknowledge Country and First Nations' history in the area. Art could feature local materials (e.g., clay, stones) and be displayed in a way that invites reflection on the connection between land and community.
19. **A Week in the Life of a River - "follow" a local river or waterway:** Students could "follow" a local river or waterway for a week, observing the life that depends on it. Reflecting on its importance, they might develop ideas for conservation, exploring what "walking gently" means in terms of water preservation.
20. **Footprint Story Mapping- personal stories with the places: Create** a narrative map that connects students' personal stories with the places they feel connected to on Country. This could include reflections on family traditions, nature excursions, or meaningful experiences outdoors, weaving their footsteps into a shared history of the land.
20. **"Walk of the Seasons" Journals:** Develop seasonal journals in collaboration with First Nations knowledge-keepers. Students document seasonal changes they observe on Country, comparing their observations with local Indigenous knowledge of seasonal shifts and cycles.
21. **Virtual Walking Path:** Use technology to create a virtual walking tour that educates peers or the broader community about local environmental and cultural landmarks. This project could be accompanied by digital signage or QR codes around the school.
22. **Soil Health Exploration:** Explore the concept of "walking on Country" by investigating soil health. Students can test soil samples, learn about sustainable gardening practices, and create a "healthy soil" guide that teaches others to care for the ground beneath their feet.
23. **Dance as Storytelling: Traditional and Contemporary Movement:** Encourage students to explore dance as a powerful means of storytelling. Students can research traditional Indigenous dance forms, understanding how movement has been used for thousands of years to share stories, pass on knowledge, and communicate with the land. They can then create their own dance pieces, blending traditional movements with contemporary styles to tell their unique stories of "Walking Gently on Country." Consider having students perform these dances for younger students or record them as a digital storytelling project, discussing the stories and messages behind their choreography.
24. **Exploring the Dreamtime Stories of the Seven Sisters:** The story of the Seven Sisters is one of the most well-known Dreamtime stories, shared across different Aboriginal nations. Students can research the various versions of this story, exploring its significance and how it relates to the stars and the land. They can create visual art projects, perform dramatizations, or write reflections that capture the themes of resilience, respect for nature, and interconnectedness embedded in the story. Teachers can invite local Elders to share their knowledge of the Seven Sisters and discuss how Dreamtime stories guide our actions and relationship with the world around us.
25. **Awareness of Disease Spread Through Footprints: Walking Responsibly in Nature:** Encourage students to think critically about the impact we have on fragile ecosystems and how diseases, such as fungal infections or other pathogens, can spread through human footprints. This project could involve researching local ecosystems, particularly fragile areas like rainforests or wetlands, and understanding how diseases are unintentionally spread through human activity. Students can design educational posters, campaigns, or informational videos to raise awareness about responsible practices, such as cleaning shoes and gear when moving between different natural environments. They could also create "eco-steps" or environmental pledges to remind themselves and their community about the importance of treading lightly and protecting the health of Country.

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These ideas can help schools creatively engage with the theme of **Walking Country**, while promoting environmental stewardship, cultural connection, and personal responsibility for the impact we leave behind.

References and Resources:

The following References and Resources can support these ideas:

- Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) resources on how TEK contributes to sustainable land and water practices, such as the books of Bruce Pascoe (“Dark Emu” and “Young Dark Emu”) and “Sand Talk” by Tyson Yunkaporta.
- Indigenous Land Management Practices: Websites such as Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies ([AIATSIS](#)) offer valuable information on First Nations’ sustainable practices and curriculum resources.
- Environmental Impact Calculators: for activities like “Mapping Your Footprints”, online tools such as WWF’s [ecological footprint calculator](#) can be useful.
- Local Biodiversity Programs: Sunshine Coast has various biodiversity programs and initiatives focusing on local ecosystems. Partner with local council, environmental groups or Indigenous organisations as guest speakers or field trips.

Conference presentation options

Three presentation options are available for the Kids in Action Conference day:

1. **Workshop (40mins x 2 rotations):** Your audience will be about 25-30 people (students and teachers). The key focus of workshop sessions is for students to prepare and present the information in a hands-on format. Workshop spaces are set up at the venue to suit the requirements of your workshop. The conference is held at an outdoor venue – several fixed, sheltered spaces are available with limited access to electricity and technology.
2. **Interactive display:** Displays are set up around the main gathering space of the conference venue. Tables can be provided. The key concept is for conference participants to interact with the display during morning tea and lunch breaks. Students are encouraged to discuss their display with the audience in an informal peer teaching role.
3. **Main stage presentation (3-5mins):** Performed in front of all delegates. Consider music, drama, dance, a short video, mock game show and visuals to make your presentation as interactive and engaging as possible.

Funding schemes

A **Teacher Support Funding Scheme (\$350)** is available to presenting schools delivering a workshop, display or main stage performance or short film, and can be used to:

- allow a teacher time out of the classroom to accompany a group of presenting students attending the program,
- cover the costs associated with a skilled mentor coming to your school to help your students with the presentation, and/or
- acquire resources and materials needed for your presentation, workshop or display.

A **New School Attendance Scheme (\$350)** is available to schools within the Sunshine Coast Council region that haven’t attended Kids in Action before to support their participation and provide a firsthand insight into the program.

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Important dates

Teacher Information Session (online)	Thursday 13 or Wednesday 19 February, 3.30pm
Registration closes	Monday 24 March 2025
Participation Invoice issued (\$150 for 12 delegates or less)	Early April 2025
Reconciliation in Action Professional Learning Day for Teachers	Wednesday 11 June 2025
Funding Schemes released	Early July
Delegate numbers and details for Conference and Filed Day required	Monday 4 August 2025
Kids in Action Conference	Wednesday 17 September 2025
Kids in Action Field Day	Thursday 18 September 2025
Supplementary Invoice issued for additional students (\$10 per extra attending student)	Early October 2025
Last date for teacher support funding invoices	Thursday 30 October 2025
Kids in Action Roadshow events	October/November 2025

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