



# Kids in Action

## 2026 Kids in Action Program

### From Dusk to Dawn: Stories of the Night

**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 awards-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 Field Day – Wednesday 6 May 2026 (all day)**

##### **UniSC**

Students will enjoy exploring the 2026 theme and nurturing their environmental 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 Conference – Wednesday 9 September 2026 (all day)**

##### **Maroochy 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 Roadshow – October/November 2026**

##### **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.

**ENVIRONMENT LEVY FUNDED**

## Cost

\$200 covers 12 delegates from your school (\$10 per additional student), plus the teacher and additional staff/adults, to participate in one or all program events, along with access from the Kids in Action education team throughout the year. It also covers a ticket for the coordinating teacher to attend one of the Kids in Action Professional Learning events (valued at \$180) – Reconciliation in Action Professional Learning Day OR Facilitating Inquiry Learning Professional Development Session.

## Theme

The 2026 Kids in Action theme, **From Dusk to Dawn: Stories of the Night** invites students to step into the mystery and magic of the nocturnal world. From the fading glow of sunset to the first light of dawn, this year's theme explores the deep connections between sky and Country, the life that stirs in the darkness, and the wisdom that shines brightest under the stars.

As we journey from dusk to dawn, we'll uncover the stories written in the sky and whispered through the land — from **First Nations sky lore and celestial storytelling** to the **scientific wonders** of the night. Working in partnership with local custodians and Elders, student's will deepen their understanding of Country and foster meaningful connections with Indigenous knowledges and practices.

Students will discover how plants breathe differently after dark, how frogs and moths signal the changing seasons, and how ultraviolet light reveals hidden worlds unseen by the human eye. Together, we'll ask:

- Who moves, sings, or blooms in the dark?
- Why are the unseen processes that unfold while we sleep important to understand?
- How do the stars and moon guide life on Earth? How do they teach us about balance, rhythm, and connection?

This theme also highlights the importance of preserving the **Dark Sky** — protecting our night from the growing glow of light pollution that disrupts wildlife, plants, and our own wellbeing. Students will explore how darkness is vital to life and how communities can take action to keep our skies clear for the next generation of storytellers and stargazers.

Through story, science, and culture, *From Dusk to Dawn: Stories of the Night* will illuminate how everything, from starlight to soil life, is connected. Together, we'll learn that by protecting the night, we nurture life itself.

A mind map brainstorming project ideas for the theme will be provided soon.

## Conference presentation options

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

1. **Workshop (40mins x 2 rotations):** Your audience will be around 25-30 people (students and teachers). The key focus of the workshop sessions is for students to prepare and present their 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 the conference participants to interact with the display during

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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 (\$450)** 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 development, and/or
- acquire resources and materials needed for your presentation, workshop or display.

A **New School Attendance Scheme (\$200)** is available to schools within the Sunshine Coast Council and Noosa Shire Council regions that haven't attended the Kids in Action Program before to support their participation and provide a firsthand insight into the program.

### Important dates

<b>Teacher Information Session (online)</b>	Thursday 12 February, 3.30pm (T1, W3) OR Wednesday 18 February, 3.30pm (T1, W4)
<b>Registration closes</b>	Monday 23 March (T1, W9)
<b>Participation Invoice issued (\$200 for 12 delegates)</b>	End of Term 1
<b>Delegate numbers and details for Field Day required</b>	Monday 20 April (T2, W1)
<b>Kids in Action Field Day (UniSC)</b>	Wednesday 6 May (T2, W3)
<b>Reconciliation in Action Professional Learning Day for Teachers</b>	Wednesday 10 June (T2, W8)
<b>Funding Schemes released</b>	End of Term 2
<b>Delegate numbers and details for Conference required</b>	Monday 14 August (T3, W4)
<b>Kids in Action Conference (MRBBG)</b>	Wednesday 9 September (T3, W9)
<b>Facilitating Inquiry Learning Professional Development Session for Teachers</b>	TBC
<b>Supplementary Invoice issued for additional students (\$10 per extra attending student)</b>	Early October
<b>Last date for Funding Scheme invoices from schools</b>	Thursday 29 October (T4, W4)
<b>Kids in Action Roadshow events</b>	October / November