2027 Kids in Action Program

Re-Generation for Generations: Old Ways, New Futures

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 – Tuesday 7 September 2027 (all day)
Multiple locations to be confirmed

Students will enjoy exploring the 2027 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 8 September 2027 (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 2027
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

UniSC Kawana Shoppingworld NOOSA Council Sunshine Coast Biosphere Sunshine Coast Council

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) – Learning on Country Professional Development Day OR Facilitating Inquiry Learning Professional Development Session.

Theme

Nature us constantly renewing. After fire, floods, storms and drought, seeds germinate, waterways recover, habitats and biodiversity return, and new life emerges. The 2027 Kids in Action theme, **Re-Generation for Generations: Old Ways, New Futures** invites students to discover these remarkable processes along with the generations of knowledge and practice that support these processes in helping Country to thrive.

What can we learn from the past to nurture hope and life for the future? How can young people help regenerate important and significant places – places they love and connect with?

Students will investigate regeneration in many forms – from restoring bushland, waterways, soils and wildlife habitat, to strengthening communities, wellbeing and our relationship with the natural world. Learning alongside First Nations People and Country, students will explore custodianship, reciprocity, seasonal knowledge, cultural practices, language and story, and passing knowledge between generations.

How do relationships with Country differ? What kind of knowledge endures? How can intergenerational learning inspire new possibilities for Caring for Country, community and people?

Above all, this theme is about *hope* and *action*. Through habitat restoration, ecosystems investigations, citizen science, exploring cultural knowledge, creative storytelling and nurturing wellbeing and belonging, students can develop their own ideas to help Country and community thrive.

Re-generation is hope made visible – and young people can help write what happens next. In 2027, what can we heal, renew or strengthen together … and how will we be part of the change?

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 thee 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 amin gathering space of the conference venue. Tables can be provided. They key concept is for the 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 ($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 have not attended the Kids in Action Program before to support their participation and provide a firsthand insight into the program.

Important dates

Teacher Information Session (online)	Thursday 11 February, 3.30pm (T1, W3) OR Wednesday 17 February, 3.30pm (T1, W4)
Registration closes	Monday 22 March (T1, W9)
Participation Invoice issued ($200 for 12 delegates)	As registrations are received OR before end of Term 1 (T1, W9)
Learning on Country Professional Development Day for Teachers	Wednesday 9 June (T2, W9)
Funding Schemes released	End of Term 2 (t2, W8-10)
Delegate numbers and details for Field Day and Conference event due	Monday 3 August (T3, W4)
Kids in Action Field Day (TBC)	Tuesday 7 September (T3, W9)
Kids in Action Conference (MRBBG)	Wednesday 8 September (T3, W9)
Facilitating Inquiry Learning Professional Development Session for Teachers	TBC
Supplementary Invoice issued for additional students ($10 per extra attending student)	Early October
Last date for Funding Scheme invoices from schools	Friday 29 October (T4, W4)
Kids in Action Roadshow events	October / November + opportunities throughout the year