



## PRACTITIONER PRESENTATION

### **Harnessing Student Passion to Lead Sustainable Change**

Kristy Ward, John Curtin College of the Arts

#### **Abstract**

Students are the future leaders of our world and are passionately invested in a sustainable future. We must develop their compassionate leadership skills so that they can promote positive changes effectively in their community. John Curtin College of the Arts runs a Roots and Shoots group, which operates as part of the global, youth-led program founded by Dr. Jane Goodall in 1991. Running primarily as a club for students, it has provided opportunities for student voice and leadership, community partnerships, networking and collaborative skills, and the development of empathy and compassion in our students. Students work as a team with their teachers and wider school community, planning projects and initiatives to solve global problems for people, animals and the environment on a local scale.

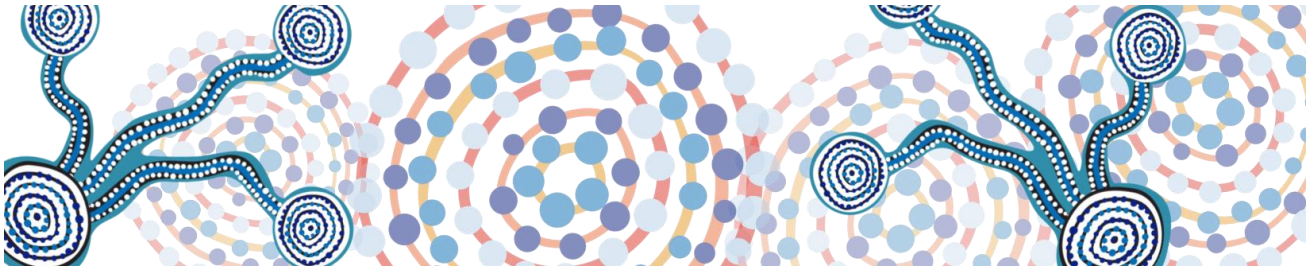
This presentation will discuss the achievements and challenges of the Roots and Shoots program at John Curtin College of the Arts and how it has evolved over time with increasing teacher and student engagement within the school community.

#### **Acknowledgement**

Kristy Ward acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we meet and pays respects to their Elders past and present.

#### **Speaker Profile**

Kristy Ward has been a science teacher at John Curtin College of the Arts for five years, four of which she has co-facilitated the Roots and Shoots Club at the school. Prior to this she worked as a volunteer hospital supervisor at Native ARC whilst completing her Honours degree in Environmental Science, producing a thesis on the Role of Submerged Macrophytes in the Biodiversity of Wetlands in 2015. Her teaching career has provided the opportunity to inspire youth with her passion for conservation, and her expertise in her field makes her a valuable Biology teacher at the school.



## Website links

→ [www.linkedin.com/in/kristy-ward-18a06191](http://www.linkedin.com/in/kristy-ward-18a06191)



**aaee 2021**  
Mandjoogoordap: Changing Tides  
Mandurah, Western Australia

