



PRACTITIONER PRESENTATION

The impact of a youth-led Conservation Action Project and the benefits of implementing environmental and sustainability focused programs for young people.

Nikki Chatham, City of Kwinana

Abstract

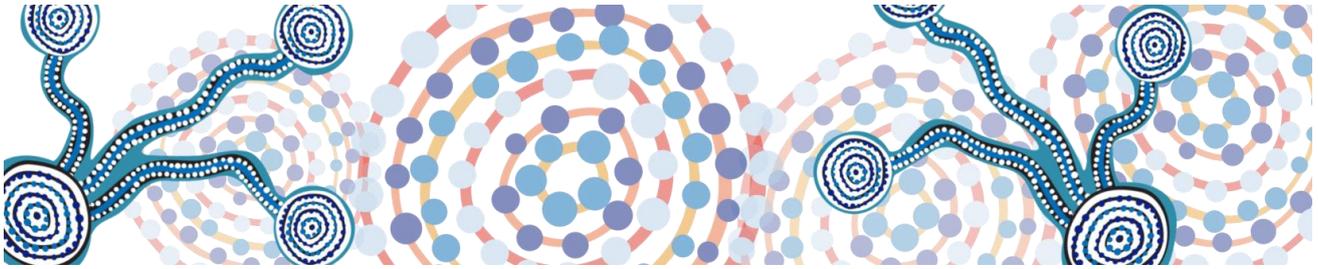
In February 2021, six young people formed the Outdoor Adventures group, and signed up for the CSBP Coastal Connections Challenge. The CSBP Coastal Connections Challenge is a program that engages young people in a two day event where they have the opportunity to take part in workshops and discussions, whilst identifying coastal conservation issues and developing a plan for their Conservation Action Project. The program empowers young people and creates the space to showcase their work and/or planned future projects at an event in late June.

We need to continue to think about how we as educators and practitioners think outside of the box and engage young people in inclusive, developmental, interactive and action-focused programs that contribute to environmental change. The CSBP Coastal Connections Challenge has provided the Outdoor Adventures group with the support to implement their project, create change and develop essential life-long skills. The group's project to date has involved organising multiple community beach clean-up days across the next two years, alongside this, they designed a youth friendly calendar to encourage young people to take part and continued advocating and fundraising for the installation of the CoastSnap coastal monitoring program in Kwinana.

The implementation of these programs are important to the continued awareness raising, youth participation, youth voice and future of our environment. Engaging young people in these discussions and programs can have a huge impact on their individual development and contribution to change. It can create a ripple effect, from changes and actions of their friends, family and community. This has been one of the results so far with the Outdoor Adventure group, as the main focus of their project will be undertaken after June, we expect more results and outcomes in relation to youth-led projects and their impact later in the year.

Acknowledgement

I acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we meet and pays respects to their Elders past and present.



I would also like to acknowledge the six young change makers I am working with, who continue to inspire and create change. They are committed to raising awareness and supporting fellow peers to make small changes that will have huge impacts on our coastal conservation. I would like to thank Perth NRM, CSBP, Adopt a Beach and the City of Kwinana for supporting and creating the space for young people to come together, voice their opinions and ideas, learn from likeminded people, plan and take action on our coastal issues. To the CSBP Coastal Connections Challenge program and youth reference group for ensuring youth participation and voice is at the core, inspiring ongoing youth focused programs and initiatives

Speaker Profile

Nikki is a Community Development Officer working with young people in the City of Kwinana. She attended Maynooth University, Ireland, where she completed a Bachelors Honours in Community and Youth Work and a Masters of Social Science, Rights and Social Policy. Nikki received two Explore Awards from EIL Ireland, travelling to Mexico and Thailand working on various projects focused on achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. She received two Gold Global Citizen Awards in 2016 and 2017. Nikki was the former Chairperson of the Global Education Committee and a Development Perspectives SDG Advocate, delivering awareness raising workshops for young people.

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