Information Sheet 7: Project Example

Biodiversity focused on-ground projects

Explore the possibilities for on-ground projects by looking around the grounds of your school, kindergarten, childcare centre, or youth group, and/or a nearby park or public reserve for areas:

- Of existing indigenous vegetation and signs that native animals (e.g. local birds, insects, mammals, lizards, butterflies) are using the vegetation as habitat;
- Where indigenous plants could be planted to improve biodiversity and create or enhance habitat for native birds and animals;
- Where weed control is required before any planting can occur.

TIP – For planting projects consider using mulch or weed mat to suppress weeds, help retain soil moisture, and foster worm activity. Local councils or arborists may provide mulch for free.

Biodiversity focused environmental education activities

Consider biodiversity focused environmental education activities that your group or school could undertake to educate and raise the awareness of the benefits and importance of biodiversity, and how young people can be involved. Think about organisations that have great environmental education programs that your group of school could participate in, or inspiring speakers who you could invite for an incursion to present on an interesting biodiversity-related topic.

Go to Information Sheet 6: Incursions and Excursions for links to some of the environmental education providers across Victoria.

Case Study

Review the project example case study and budget on the following page

Case Study- Project Example

Alex is a school teacher at Spring Ridge Primary School, and he is applying for a 2022 Victorian Junior Landcare and Biodiversity Grant for the school. The school's grant application seeks funding for 300 indigenous plants for a planting project (direct action) to improve the school's biodiversity and to create habitat for native birds. The planting project will involve the school's Year 3-4 classes, and through the project will also seek to educate them about the native plants and native animals found in the local area and how the planting at the school will improve its biodiversity.

Alex would also like to incorporate an environmental education excursion (in-direct action) in the application for the grant. The application will seek funding for an education program at Healesville Sanctuary on Aboriginal Culture and Life Cycles, to bring the wisdom of the Dreamtime to life and allow the Year 3-4 students to explore animal features and life cycles, the seasons, the night sky and Aboriginal culture.

Alex has reviewed the Junior Landcare Project Planning Considerations document to help him plan the project, and also the biodiversity-related and Indigenous activities at the Junior Landcare Learning Centre to get ideas and inspiration for the project.

He has also contacted Spring Ridge Landcare Group (i.e. local Landcare group) to discuss the project, and they have offered to assist the school with:

- planning the on-ground component of the project, including helping with grant application;
- selection of plant species (and numbers for each species) for the 300 indigenous plants;
- use of group's tools for the planting and helping spread the mulch;
- digging holes for the planting at the school with students/teachers in May 2023.

After discussing the project with members of Spring Ridge Landcare Group, Alex:

- contacted the local indigenous plant nursery for a quote for 300 indigenous plants for the school's grant application;
- is aware the plant nursery will require at least six months to propagate all the plants. If the school is successful with its grant application Alex will need to order the plants from the nursery in October 2022 to ensure the plants are available in the species/numbers required, for planting in May 2023;
- understands that as there are no rabbits at the school tree guards are not required;
- contacted the local council to ask if they could provide mulch for the project to use around the newly planted plants. The mulch will help control weeds, retain moisture, and foster worm activity to improve the soil. Alex was informed by council that they cannot supply mulch for the project, and as a result he got a quote for 10 cubic metres of mulch to include in the grant application's budget.

For the environmental education component of the grant application, Alex has researched the cost of taking the school's Year 3-4 classes to Healesville Sanctuary to participate in an education program - Aboriginal Culture and Life Cycles focusing on Aboriginal connections to wildlife, environment, seasons and the sky.

In the case that the excursion cannot go ahead due to COVID-19, Alex has Plan B in place, which includes using the excursion funding for several virtual excursions and/or Traditional Owner incursions to the school.

Indicative Budget for Alex's Project:

Item Description and unit number/ cost	Category	Funding Requested (Column A)	In-Kind Contributions (Column B)	Total Cost (Column A+B)	Comment / Justification
Bus hire - for one day (buses with 66 seats). Cost of 2 buses x $500	Bus Hire	$1,000	**$0**	$1,000	Two buses are required to transport 100 children to Healesville Sanctuary
Entry to Aboriginal Culture and Life Cycles education program @ Healesville Sanctuary for 100 students and 10 adults @ $20 per ticket	In/Excursion	$2,200	**$0**	$2,200	10 adults includes teachers and parent supervisors
Entry to Healesville Sanctuary (note children under 15 years have free admission) @ $40 per person	In/Excursion	$400	**$0**	$400	
300 Indigenous plants (local to area) in forestry tubes @ $1.50 per plant	Plants, tree guards and stakes	$450	$0	$450	Plant selection attached to application
Delivery of 300 indigenous plants by nursery	Delivery	$50	$0	$50	
10 cubic metres of mulch (wooden pallet) for areas to be planted @ $35 per cubic metre	Landscaping	$300	$50	$350	$50 in-kind for the delivery fee
25 Trowels for planting @ $6.00	Tools and equipment	$150	$0	$150	
100 pairs of gloves @ $3	Tools and equipment	$300	$0	$300	One pair of gloves for planting per student in line with COVID-19 requirements.
1 A-Frame project sign @$125	Signage	$125	$0	$125	A-frame sign for students to add details of planting working bees & project progress
TOTAL (ex-GST)		**$4,975**	**$50**	$5,025	

Note: the above budget is indicative only and should not be used for costing your project.