

TACKLING ECO-ANXIETY IN YOUNG PEOPLE THROUGH TREE PLANTING AND EDUCATION

PROJECT STATUS REPORT

30 JUNE 2022

Version History

Version No	Issue Date	Nature of Amendment	By
1.0	30/6/2022	Create	A.Nolan

Approval

Approvals are subject to University Governance requirements. Refer to the ITD Project Management Office for guidance.

Name	Signature	Role	Date
Dr Susan Rockloff		Principal Supervisor	30/6/2022

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1 Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide confirmation of Project Milestone 2 Data Collection and to provide an update of the progress to date on the overall project status as at 30th June 2022.

2 Achievement of Project Objectives

	Project Objective	Level of Achievement and Evidence
1	Recruitment of 120 participants into the Noosa Tree Planting Study	80 participants were recruited for the Noosa tree planting days: 26 th March - 19 Participants 3 rd April - 32 Participants 10 April – 29 participants

3 Performance Against Schedule & Budget

3.1 Performance Against Time

3.1.1 Recruitment into the Noosa Tree Planting Study

Initially, the project targeted Noosa Residents aged 18 – 35 years to be recruited into the tree planting study. Recruitment collateral included posters, social media posts email invitations Recruitment of participants commenced on 25 February 2022. Recruitment avenues included :

- the placement of physical posters across noticeboards and places throughout Noosa/Sunshine Coast where the target demographic was likely to see them such as cafes, pubs, university campuses, fitness centres etc.
- Social media including Facebook groups across Noosa and Sunshine Coast region including sporting clubs, social clubs, community noticeboards, event notification sires, environmental and climate change groups, church groups
- Use of personal and professional contacts
- Advertisement in local newspapers
- Word of mouth

The study design initially called for potential participants to register their interest in participating in the study via the online form which then randomly allocated the registrant one of the following tree planting dates

- Friday 25 March 2022
- Saturday 26th March
- Sunday 10rd April

However, by not advertising the tree planting dates, nor allowing registrants to select their preferred planting dates, initial registrations were low.

The study was subsequently revised to allow participants over the age of 16 to participate and registrants were able to choose their preferred planting days. Due to low registrations for Friday 25th March, the tree planting day was changed to Sunday 3rd April.

Following these changes, the recruitment avenues described above were repeated with the revised dates and participant age group.

Potential participants completed an initial screen that requested their consent to participate in the study and to select their preferred tree planting date. One hundred and sixty-four (164) people consented to participate in the study and stated their preferred tree planting date. These participants were then requested to provide their contact details. Ninety-one (91) people provided their contact details.

All participants were then sent an email confirming their preferred tree planting dates and asking if they required transport to the tree planting sites.

All participants completed a survey before and after the tree planting which considered their level of eco-anxiety, pro-environmental behaviour, values and nature relatedness.

3.1.2 Tree Planting Preparation and Logistics

Saturday 26th March and Sunday 3rd April Tree Planting Days at Yurol Ringtail Forest

The Tree Planting Day preparations and event management were undertaken by Noosa & District Landcare (Saturday 26th March and Sunday 3rd April) and Noosa Council (Sunday 10th April) . This included:

- Site selection (prior)
- Site preparation (prior)
- Selection, provision and preparation of trees
- Set up of marquees
- Provision of first aid
- Risk Assessment
- Participant registration and safety induction

Greenfleet provided carbon offsets for participants, and the education component.

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The CQU research team served the before and after tree planting refreshments and provided on-site assistance during the tree planting days.

3.1.3 Tree planting day outcomes

Table 1 shows the number of participants at each of the tree planting days, trees planted and estimated tonnes of carbon captured over the lifetime of the trees.

Date	Location	Number of participants	Trees Planted¹	Tonnes of CO2 captured²
Saturday 26 th March	Yurol Ringtail Forest	19	400	1000
Sunday 3 rd April	Yurol Ringtail Forest	32	400	1000
Sunday 10 th April	Girraween Sports Complex	29	400	1000
Total		80	1200	3000

Table 1: Number of participants on each tree planting day

Figures 1 to 3 show the participants on each of the tree planting days.



¹ Approximate

² Estimated over the lifetime of the trees

Figure 1: Noosa Tree Planting Day 26th March 2022



Figure 2: Noosa Tree Planting Day 3rd April 2022



Figure 3: Noosa Tree Planting Day 10th April 2022

Participants in the Noosa Tree Planting Study will be surveyed again 3 months after the tree planting days.

3.1.4 Semi-Structured interviews

To date, seven interviews have been conducted with tree planting participants as part of the qualitative data collection. Qualitative data analysis will explore participants' level of eco-anxiety and their experience of the tree planting program in more detail. The qualitative analysis is not yet available.

3.2 Performance Against Cost

Table 2 outlines the costs to date for the three tree planting days

Item	Cost
Recruitment costs	\$500

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Refreshments	\$500
PPE	\$100
Total	\$1100

Table 2: Costs to date

Table 3 outlines cost yet to be spent on the project

Item	Estimated cost
Participant gift cards	\$3000
Contingency for future tree planting days	\$2000

4 Significant Changes to Original Project Proposal

The following changes have been made to the original scope of the project:

- The age bracket for participants to be recruited into this study was changed from 18 -35 years of age to persons over 16 years of age.
- Participants were not randomly allocated to the tree planting dates, but self-selected their preferred tree planting dates
- Inclusion of the Australia-wide survey on eco-anxiety

5 Current activities following the tree planting days

Quantitative data analysis of the participants' pre- and post-tree planting surveys is currently occurring.

Quantitative data collection through semi-structured interviews has commenced.

The Australia- wide eco-anxiety survey has been prepared and is ready for distribution by September 2022.

6 Operational Risks

The quantitative data analysis currently underway will determine the statistical power of the sample. This analysis may identify that further quantitative data is required. In this instance, further tree planting days will need to be arranged which will include another recruitment drive.