

# Youth Action Group

## Upcycle Project 2021 - Overview

Project participants below



Name	School/ Organisation
Sarah Owen	Livingstone Shire Council (Chair)
James Callan	Upcycle CQ
Lily Emery	St Ursulas
Breanna Willett	St Ursula's
Brooke Killalea	St Ursula's
Mack Clanfield	Yeppoon State High School
Blake Mcelhenny	Yeppoon State High School
Chantelle Carney	St Ursulas

### 1. Project overview

The Livingstone Youth Action Group worked with Livingstone Shire Council, Upcycle CQ and Jack's Paddock, in their endeavour to upcycle old tech items/ items from broken down products into something purposeful to donate to Jack's Paddock community garden.

This process involved identifying waste issues at the community garden and looking for ways to reduce waste by building a solar dehydrator from recycled items to dehydrate over stock of fruit and vegetables.

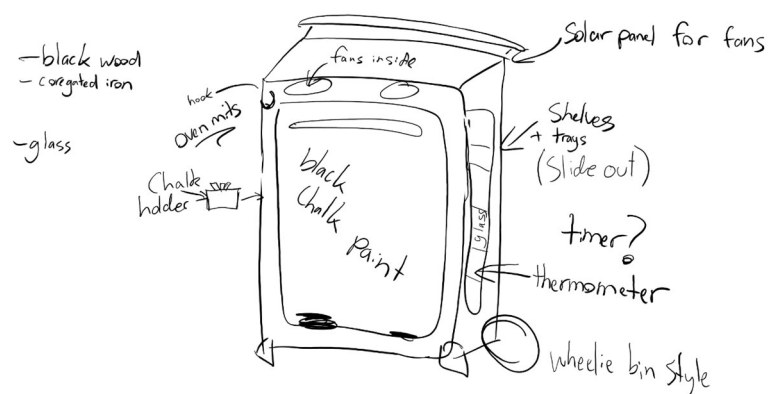
The group spent 2 terms building the dehydrator and then donated the item to Jack's Paddock.

### 2. Outcomes

- Problem solving strategies
- Reduce, reuse, and recycle principals applied
- Work as part of a team and with local stakeholders to address a concern
- An opportunity to part of the solution
- Minor DIY construction skills

### 3. Design

- The group drafted a design (right) for the dehydrator and built a prototype from cardboard
- The group, when happy with the design, met weekly to work on building the dehydrator



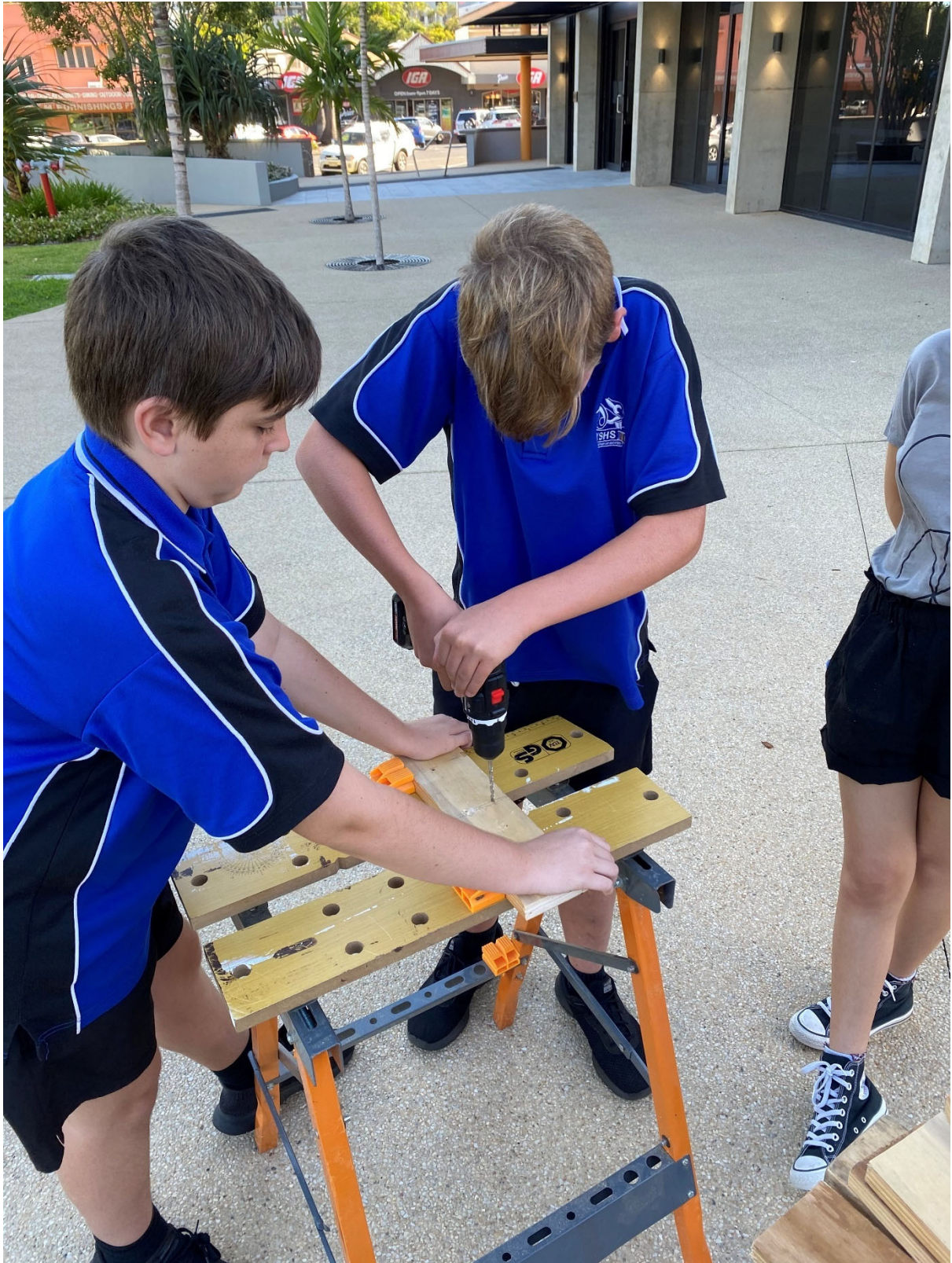
- 4. Watch the promo video [here](#)





Youth Action Group – Upcycle Project Wrap Up





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Youth Action Group – Upcycle Project Wrap Up

# UPCYCLE

GET INVOLVED!

TERM 4,  
2020

# YOUTH

REDUCE E-WASTE & GET  
CREATIVE

# PROJECT

The Livingstone Shire Youth Action Group will be working alongside 'Upcycle CQ' to reuse and re purpose digital items into something usable during Term4, 2020!

If you are high school aged and interested in getting involved, or for further information email [CDSR@livingstone.qld.gov.au](mailto:CDSR@livingstone.qld.gov.au) or phone 49135000





THE LIVINGSTONE YOUTH ACTION  
GROUP INVITE YOU TO

# DEHYDRATOR HANDOVER

WEDNESDAY 2 JUNE 2021  
3:30PM - 4PM  
COMMUNITY CENTRE - ROOM C

*” Our upcycle project will amaze you! ”*

## INTRODUCTION

Sarah to introduce Youth Action Group members and provide an overview of the Livingstone Youth Action Group

## PRESENTATION

Beanna and Chantelle will provide a presentation on the upcycle food dehydrator project

## DEHYDRATOR DEMO

Mason and Mac will provide a brief demo

## HANDOVER

Blake will provide a short speech and handover of dehydrator to Pam from Jack's Paddock

## PHOTO OPPORTUNITY

Everyone is invited for a photo opportunity

## FUTURE GOALS

The Youth Action Group will provide a brief overview of their future goals



## Media Release

2 June, 2021

### Upcycle CQ Youth Action Group upcycle project amazes community

Livingstone Shire Council, Upcycle CQ and the Livingstone Youth Action Group are pleased to announce the completion of a unique upcycle project, a do-it-yourself solar dehydrator.

The solar dehydrator was built specifically for Jack's Paddock to help extend the life of excess fruit and vegetables.

Jack's Paddock President, Pam Purton, said they have a water problem, but not the sort of water problem you would typically think.

"We have excess produce right at the moment, lots and lots of it. We have so many fruit and vegetables going to waste," she said.

Upcycle CQ Founding Director, Jim Callan, said participants Chantelle (surname), Breanna (surname), Blake (surname), Mason (surname) and Mack (surname) banded together and brainstormed possible solutions.

"The youth action group did their research and came back with a proposition," he said.

"They said they'd like to extend the life of the produce by drying out the fruit and vegetables.

"They came up with the idea of a solar dehydrator themselves.

"They looked around, found a design, and built a prototype out of cardboard. Then they put pressure on me to go and find the materials.

"They used recycled wood that was formerly a bookshelf, the wheels off an old lawnmower, and the acrylic piece in a computer monitor.

"They had to work out all of the problems about fabricating the unit and getting it to actually work."

Mr Callan said one of the ideas of Upcycle CQ as a business and social enterprise is about running impactful learning programmes.

"The programme taught the youth action group about the circular economy and the idea of operating cradle-to-cradle, rather than cradle-to-grave," he said.

"The linear economy is about producing stuff, consuming stuff, and then throwing it into landfill.

"A circular economy, on-the-other-hand, is about producing stuff, consuming stuff, and instead of throwing it into landfill, repurposing, reclaiming and recycling.



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communications@livingstone.qld.gov.au | www.livingstone.qld.gov.au



## Media Release

Mr Callan said Upcycle CQ strips stuff down and reclaims it for projects just like this.

"The plastic problems we have, with plastic pollution, is plastic is in the wrong place," he said.

"If we're all upcycling and recycling we'd have plastic in the right place in the supply chain, and not in our environment and certainly not in our food system."

The final component of the four corner challenge was for participants to make a presentation to tell their story about the process.

"This affirmed the fact they are a problem solvers and producers of a project that will have a positive impact to the community," Mr Callan said.

The upcycle champions built the project over the duration of a school term, after school one day a week, for an hour at a time.

"Provided the product doesn't get any hard knocks, it has the potential to last quite a number of years," he said.

"The design can also be re-made, modified or extended."

Upcycle CQ is endeavouring to hold additional public-facing programmes next year.

"The programmes are about enabling and upskilling young people, raising youth awareness about the circular economy, and shifting their values and mindset.

Portfolio Holder of Waste, Water Management and the Environment, Councillor Andrea Friend, said as an environmental advocate she is thrilled to see programmes like this in our very own community.

"At Livingstone Shire Council is encouraging all members of our community to appropriate as much as they can from our material culture," she said.

"This project is a wonderful example of completing the loop of our local circular economy."

(Ends)

***For interviews, please contact Councillor Andrea FRIEND on 0459 392 411 or Upcycle CQ Founding Director, Jim Callan, on 0408 227 578.***



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