



Small Actions, Big Waves

Welcome back, EcoMarines community! Beginning the second half of 2026 has been a blast, and we've got a bunch of exciting news and highlights to share with you all! EcoMarines Ambassadors all across Queensland are getting ready for an array of events or even celebrating their position as finalists in our annual "Go Green" competition.

From getting ready for our final adventure day, to anticipating the launch of new (and returning!) Making Waves events. EcoMarines also welcomed back a triumphant return of the Mini Marines program, showcasing some important days of recognition for our community to acknowledge and celebrate!

Pictured: **Pallara State School**
EcoMarines Ambassadors



In July's newsletter, we have articles packed with a celebration of our community! Get ready to read about the efforts and initiatives from our ever-amazing EcoMarines Ambassadors, dedicated teachers, and supportive partners.

Every small action that our community performs, can result in big waves of positive change for our native environments. Let's dive right in and take a look at EcoMarines' highlights from June!

"Go Green" Winners!

There was lots of competition, but our "Go Green" Winners and Finalists have been rolling out on socials throughout July! Reviewing submissions is always a highlight of our year at EcoMarines. Seeing just how EcoMarines Ambassadors took the prompt "What does it mean to be an EcoMarine?" and created a showcase of their school initiatives, community efforts, and sustainability highlights!

Take a look at the Winners, Runners-Up, and our array of amazing finalists!



Winner: Sandgate District State High School

Highlights:

- ☐ Wheelie-Bin Worm Farms
- ☐ Insect Hotels / Bee Boxes
- ☐ Native Habitat Hollows

Sandgate District State High School blew us away with their video submission!

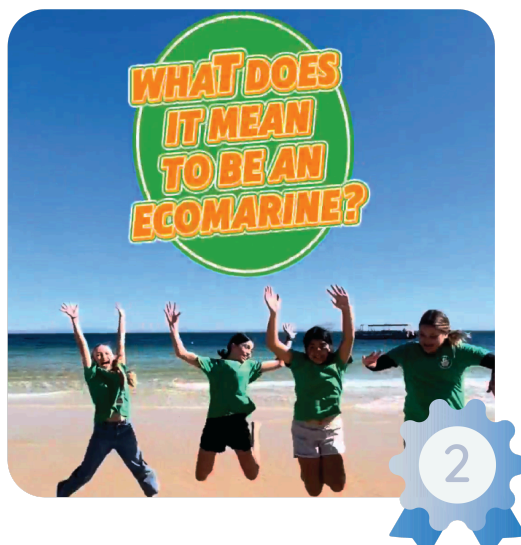
Covering an astounding amount of sustainability initiatives, using skits and raps, and even an iconic bee costume, it was hard to get past these EcoMarines Ambassadors for the top spot!

The EcoMarines team was also a massive fan of their battery recycling program, tree planting routine, containers for change program (over 1000 cans every week!), and their in-school recycled herb garden. All fantastic highlights from our well-deserved winners!

Runners-Up: Ashgrove State School

Highlights

- ☐ The Great Ashgrove Clean-Up
- ☐ Guardians of the Garbage
- ☐ Weekly "Green Team" Meetings



Ashgrove State School finished as well-deserved runners-up, showcasing an exciting array of projects and initiatives alongside their impressive video submission!

Encouraging full-school participation for clean-ups, offering clothing and textile "repair cafe's", and running "Trash-Free-Tuesday", there was no shortage of highlights from our runners-up!

"Go Green" Competition Finalists:

- Our Lady of Dolours
- Hilliard State School
- Northgate State School
- Riverside Adventist School
- Scenic Shores State School
- St Mary's Primary School (Ipswich)

Congratulations to ALL of our "Go Green" competition entries. We're keeping the energy flowing until we've showcased every finalist, so stay tuned to our socials! Thank you to our dedicated EcoMarines schools for making this the most successful "Go Green" competition ever!

Return of Mini Marines



Early this month, EcoMarines was proud to officially announce the return of our popular Mini Marines program! We kicked off this exciting relaunch with two incredible, hands-on composting workshops hosted at Perfect Start Birkdale and Perfect Start Mary Street.

Both early learning centres were generously gifted with their very own Compsosta units, thanks to our dedicated partners at Compsosta Australia. Our newly inducted Mini Marines were so enthusiastic to get started that they eagerly volunteered to help assemble the units before getting their gloves dirty in the garden!

[Compsosta Website](#)

Together, the Mini Marines layered their new composting units with mulch and potting mix, planted a colourful variety of seeds in hand-poked holes, and carefully scooped dozens of Red Wiggler worms into the centre of the unit. To help keep the momentum going, each early learning centre was also provided with a detailed, easy-to-follow poster outlining exactly what can and cannot be fed into their composting units.

With our new Mini Marines officially becoming composting champions, learning how to harvest nutritious "worm tea" and compost their daily food scraps, it's safe to say that this relaunch was a massive success!



Special thanks go to our partners at Redland City Council! Both of these fantastic early learning centres are located within the Redlands region, and it is through their continued support that we can bring these vital sustainability programs to life for our youngest environmental leaders.

Making Waves in 2026

The countdown has begun! EcoMarines is eagerly looking ahead to our highly anticipated Making Waves events for 2026. We simply can't wait to celebrate all of our brilliant sustainability champions, groundbreaking school projects, and inspiring local community efforts making a real difference across Queensland this year.



Our participating EcoMarines schools are in for a fantastic treat, featuring an incredible lineup of both new and returning locations, engaging partner workshops, and interactive local activities! Whether your school is located in Cairns, Townsville, Brisbane, Ipswich, or the Gold Coast, there is an exciting Making Waves event happening in your region.

These flagship Making Waves gatherings provide a wonderful opportunity for EcoMarines Ambassadors to connect and collaborate with like-minded peers from other schools. Students can take part in hands-on workshops hosted by our valued partners and proudly celebrate their school's positive environmental impact by showcasing their hard work through a submitted presentation!

While our Making Waves events were a massive hit in 2025, EcoMarines is taking everything to the next level this year. We hope to see the entire EcoMarines community attending local events all across Queensland to make our biggest and best celebrations yet!



Days of Recognition

July was packed with incredible events and non-stop opportunities for our community to get involved and make a positive environmental impact!



NAIDOC Week

We kicked off the month by celebrating NAIDOC Week. EcoMarines proudly highlighted the invaluable opportunity to learn from First Nations knowledge, rich histories, and cultural perspectives. We were thrilled to share these vital learnings alongside the inspiring young people, local schools, and broader communities that we work with every single day.

Plastic Free July

EcoMarines also officially took the "Plastic-Free Pledge" at the start of July, warmly encouraging everyone across our vast network to join us! To support our EcoMarines Ambassadors in going plastic-free throughout the month, we are showcasing several practical in-school initiatives. These include conducting thorough bin audits, packing lunches in reusable containers, and swapping out cling wrap for eco-friendly beeswax wraps.

Schools Tree Day

To cap off a fantastic month, EcoMarines championed Schools Tree Day! We actively encourage our schools to register for this nationwide initiative so our collective impact could be recorded. From planting native trees and restoring essential wildlife habitats to creating new garden ecosystems and running tree planting competitions, we're supporting every EcoMarines school to be involved!



2026 Townsville Dry Tropics Waterways Report Card Launch!

The Townsville Dry Tropics Waterways Report Card provides decision-makers and the community with a snapshot of how their local rivers, creeks, coasts and reefs are doing. The Report Card brings together data from multiple sources, across various environmental indicators, such as water quality, habitat, and litter.



The 2026 Townsville Dry Tropics Waterways Report Card is now available!

2026 Report Card

Similar to a school report card; it shows what is and isn't working out for our waterways. The Report Card can also be used to track changes over time and identify areas where stewardship activities have the greatest value.

Together, with the Healthy Waters Partnership for the Dry Tropics, we're keeping watch on our waters!

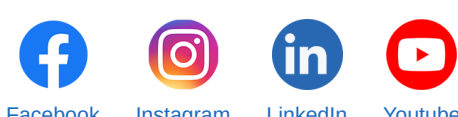
As we wrap up another remarkably busy, engaging, and rewarding month, EcoMarines would like to extend thanks to our entire community! From our passionate school leaders, dedicated EcoMarines Ambassadors and teachers, and our generous partners and sponsors. Your commitment to protecting our local native environment inspires us all to make waves of change with our actions.



Riverside Adventist School - Schools Tree Day Ceremony

Looking ahead, August brings even more exciting opportunities to drive positive change across Queensland! With fresh environmental projects launching, school workshops to be held, and plenty of inspiring events to look forward to, we have so much to look forward to as a community! We can't wait to see everyone in August for another exciting month of environmental action!

Follow us on our EcoMarines Socials!





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