

Making Waves



Making Waves has consolidated its program this year and has made positive progress despite the impact of COVID-19.

School Engagement.

Term 1 saw the biggest growth in the in-school program with 11 classes involved from three schools. Unfortunately, the term was curtailed due to COVID-19 with schools moving to remote learning which also resulted in the complete suspension of the program in Term 2. With schools re-engaging in extra-curricular activities, the in-school program restarted for Term 3 with seven classes participating from four schools. Term 4 saw the in-school program operating at capacity with 10 classes from four schools participating. Across the year, 502 young people were involved in the program.

In the second semester, Making Waves engaged with two Curriculum and Reengagement in Education (CARE) schools for the first time. Both schools undertook successful programs with Sowilo Community High School establishing an ongoing program in 2021. Making Waves' engagement with CARE schools allows the program to widen its impact and particularly reach disadvantaged and disengaged youth in the local area.

Strategic Plan

The Making Waves Leadership Group endorsed the Strategic Plan for 2020-2023. This included a new mission statement – “We empower young people to take opportunities to develop the skills to succeed in life” – and the development of a set of program values. These being Respect, Inclusion, Courage, and Ambition.

The Strategic Plan operates across the four key pillars of:

- Youth Health & Wellbeing;
- Program Sustainability;

- Vocational Training & Further Education; and
- Community Engagement.

Developing Life Skills

In Term 4, Making Waves launched a new component of the in-school program, called “How We Row”, which is a class mission statement that is co-created by the participants. The statement provides participants a framework in which to develop their leadership and teamwork skills. The How We Row statement has been highly effective in providing direction for the respective class programs and has been successful in integrating life skills development into the in-school program.

Also introduced for the first time was the presentation of Certificates of Achievement for all participants. The certificates recognise their achievement in demonstrating excellence in the skills of discipline, perseverance, leadership, communication, and teamwork.

After School Program Pilot

John Wollaston Anglican Community School engaged in a pilot after-school program over semester two, with 11 students in Years 7 and 8 participating. The school and students gave a glowing endorsement of the program and have signalled their interest in continuing a school based after-school program in 2021.



Supporters, Partners and Sponsors

COVID-19 impacted progress in developing new partnerships with potential partners and sponsors, with funding opportunities particularly more challenging in the financial climate. Nevertheless, progress in achieving our funding target of \$1.8 million was made with 51% of the target reached.

As the program develops further, focus will be renewed around extending partnerships with tertiary education and vocational training providers as well as local community organisations.

Staffing

Making Waves underwent a change in management over this year with Daniel Gibbons joining as Making Waves Manager after Vanessa Paun moved on to other opportunities.

The staffing structure of Making Waves is well supported by a team of 15 coaches responsible for delivering the in-school program across the year.

New Programs Planned for 2021

Extensive work has been undertaken in developing new program offerings for 2021 with plans to launch an after-school program (called the Junior Rowing Squad) and school holiday camps well underway.

The Junior Rowing Squad, in particular, is a key part of the long-term strategy to transition Making Waves rowers to a club environment.

