



2018 Coffs Harbour Plastic Free July Schools Kit

What is Plastic Free July

Plastic Free July (PFJ) is an Australian initiative to raise awareness of the problems with single-use disposable plastic and challenges people to do something about it.

This year Coffs Harbour City Council is delivering a community wide program for schools, child care centres, businesses and households in an effort to raise awareness and reduce single use plastics in Coffs Harbour LGA.

Getting involved

We have put together a **Schools Kit** which outlines three options for schools and early childhood centres to run an event to raise awareness about PFJ. In addition we developed a **Plastic Free July Youth Program** including a FREE screening of the recently released Australian film Blue, a beach clean-up with National Parks and a Community Art Exhibition.

1. The Schools Kit - what your school or centre can do

There are lots of ways schools and centres can get involved in Plastic Free July here are a few options. Get involved and spread the word!!

Option #1 Host a Plastic Free July Morning tea

Spread the word about PFJ by hosting a morning tea. This could be for staff and/or students. It is a fun and inclusive way to raise awareness about the problems of single-use plastic. Here are some simple steps:

- **Check it is ok first:** Talk to your canteen, environment committee, colleagues to enlist their support and to make sure it's fine, confirm a date, time, budget and get planning!!
- **Plan the event:** Make it as simple or fancy as you want. Plan numbers and how you are going to make it plastic free e.g. take your own bags and buy from the local bakery, talk to your canteen or food tech team about baking using delicious [recipes](#) curated by the PFJ team. You might also want to try out some of these fun [activities](#) to raise awareness about PFJ.
- **Promote the event:** Put up [posters](#) around the office; include your event on the school calendar and/or intranet and if appropriate, share on social media. Maybe you can organise a Beeswax wrap workshop or demonstration as part of your morning tea to generate interest!
- **Host the event:** Put up [PFJ posters](#) and download any [activities](#) you might need. Welcome and thank everyone for coming to the PFJ morning tea. If you feel comfortable, you may want to give your reasons for holding the PFJ morning tea - or show the [film clip](#) about what Plastic Free July is all about.

Option #2 Organise a Clean-up at your school

You can also organise a clean-up of your school playground, nearby beach or park. Once you have decided what type of clean up you will organise it's time to get planning!!

- **Check it is ok first:** Once you've made sure it's fine, confirm a date, time, budget and get planning!!
- **Plan the event:** Before the Clean-up - Choose a location; promote your event - to your school community, or through the wider media/social media. Prepare your equipment - gather

gloves, buckets, tongs, rubbish bag. Think safety - take a sharps container, consider participants.

- **Promote the event:** Put up posters around the office; include your event on the school calendar and/or intranet and if appropriate, share on social media.
- **Host the event:** On the day - explain the clean-up, collect the litter, take pictures, count and record items.
- **Afterwards** - share pictures and results widely, use the data collected to reduce litter at source e.g. if you find lots of plastic straws on the beach ask nearby stores to stop using them and replace with paper straws (or no straws!), you could offer to make them a sign to share their decision with other customers.

Option #3 Contribute to the Repurposing Plastics Community Art Exhibition

Repurposing Plastics is a Community Art Exhibition to start conversations about extending the life of single use plastics and to showcases creative works made from reused & recyclable plastics. It is open to all local schools, community groups and individuals and is an integral part of Coffs Harbour City Council's PFJ program.

We are seeking **entries** that showcase the myriad of ways that common everyday items including plastics can be repurposed. From bags, to artwork, to photos and poetry, we'll be looking for entries that can educate and inspire the broader community. Entries can be from a class, group or team, a family or an individual in the following categories:

- 2 Dimensional: Poster/painting/Collage/Drawing
- 3 Dimensional: Sculpture/Installation
- Functional: Furniture/craftwork & wearable objects.

For entry forms or more information and inspiration visit our [website](#), follow up on [Facebook](#) or contact [Jessica Steinborner](#) 66484643.

2. Events for schools

- **FREE Outdoor movie night (12-24 y.o) June 15th** 4.00-8.30pm. Together with Key Employment Youth Hub we are throwing a party to celebrate the beginning of the PFJ program with a **free** screening of [Blue](#) the movie plus live music, food trucks, basketball and more.
- **Solitary Islands beach clean-up (12-24 y.o) June 28th**. Together with National parks we are organising a massive beach walk & clean-up along the Solitary Islands Coastal walk. This is for schools in the Coffs LGA and a great opportunity to learn more about the Solitary Islands Marine Park as well as try out some citizen Science. Numbers are limited to 60. [Bookings Essential](#).
- Community Art exhibition **Repurposing Plastics (all ages) July 29th** – a showcase of the creative possibilities avoiding and minimising single use plastics offers the Coffs community. School and community contributions.

As well as these specific events for schools and centres we have an entire program of **free** activities for the entire community including workshops, film screenings at the Jetty, giveaways and more all throughout June, July & August. Just remember to reserve your spot!!

Visit the website for more info!

www.ourlivingcoast.com.au/plastic-free-july