

## 2020 The Year in Review

Following on from an exciting 2019, the team at Creative Recycling Centre was ready to hit the ground running in 2020. The year was looking promising with many events on the calendar and the employment of a new part time Community Engagement Officer. COVID-19 had other ideas and delivered some new challenges for our organisation. Events were cancelled, volunteer activities put on hold and home learning introduced, however, CRC was able to keep the doors open and looked for new ways to keep working in the community to fulfil our mission and vision. Whilst it has been a challenging year, COVID-19 has also been a blessing in disguise and provided the opportunity to reflect on our successes and plan for the future. We are thankful to all those who have supported us through this year.

### COVID Recovery

#### Rise Up Funding



CRC received funding through Gladstone Regional Council's Rise Up Fund. This initiative supported Gladstone Region's not for profit sport, recreation and community organisations who experienced adverse impact during the Coronavirus COVID-19 health emergency. This funding contributed to our success in getting through this challenging period.

#### Gladstone NFP COVID-19 Recovery Program



CRC was also successful with its application to receive services and assistance through the Gladstone NFP COVID-19 Recovery Program delivered by NFP House in partnership with Rio Tinto.

CRC was supported by professionals from NFP House to access resources, knowledge and capacity building and be guided through an overall organisational health check to enable a strong, long-term recovery from COVID-19. Together we have been reviewing, and updating our strategic plan and developing solutions for improved efficiency.

CRC would like to thank Rio Tinto and NFPHouse for this invaluable support.

## JOIN US

**MEMBERSHIP** - Membership entitles you to vote at our AGM and even though it is only \$20/year it is an important fundraiser for us. Application forms are on our website.

**VOLUNTEER** - Volunteers don't have to be members and we are always looking for volunteers to help us with our projects. Join our volunteer email list and if we're doing a project that interests you, let us know!

### New Staff Member

Early in 2020 CRC welcomed Gaetane Chiffolleau to the team, as our Community Engagement Officer. Gaetane is based at the CRC premises underneath InvestBlue and works Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 9am to 2:30pm.



### New Look for Events

Our wonderful committee member and volunteer Merrian Ross donated fabric and sewed 12 beautiful bright aprons for use by our volunteers at future community events. Loren Willis also kindly donated his time to screen print our logo on the front. A big thank you to Merrian and Loren!!



### COVID Mask Project

CRC decided to undertake a face mask making project to address the ongoing need for washable face masks in the community. CRC put a call out for clean fabric offcuts to produce these masks, saving this resource from being sent to landfill.

Fabric was cut during a volunteer activity morning and masks are ready for sewing together as the next phase of the project. If you are interested in sewing some masks from home, please contact Gaetane.

# Virtual Events

## Ecofest World Environment Day 2020

With COVID-19 social gathering restrictions in place, CRC looked for new ways to engage with our community in 2020. Creative Recycling Centre was excited to partner with Gladstone Regional Council to assist with the delivery of the first virtual Ecofest.

Whilst the ambience of Tondoon Botanic Gardens could not be transferred to everyone at home, this virtual Ecofest was still successful in delivering fun, interactive, and educational activities and information in line with this year's theme of Biodiversity and the objectives of Ecofest.

Creative Recycling Centre is thankful to Gladstone Regional Council for being part of Ecofest 2020.

### Sounds of Nature

As part of Ecofest 2020, CRC launched *Sounds of Nature* — a virtual initiative to encourage the community to explore their local areas and appreciate the diversity of our local wildlife. Residents were invited to record short videos of the unique sounds of nature in their backyard or local environment and post these to the Sounds of Nature Facebook page.

Children and families enjoyed the opportunity to take part and three prizes were awarded to the most liked videos.

This project was supported by Fitzroy Basin Association Inc., through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program.



Boyne Island resident, Joanne Orr, was rapt with her prize!



### Direct Collect at Events

Thank you to the Midday Rotary Club for allowing Creative Recycling Centre to collect recyclable bottles and cans from the Rotary Markets at Tondoon Botanic Gardens. Look out for our collection tubs next time you visit the markets!

### Container Refund Scheme

A.K Auto Electrics have been a wonderful local business donating cans and drink containers to CRC. For each container donated CRC receives 10 cents. Proceeds go towards our ongoing projects and the building of our centre. To donate your refund to CRC, please give the collection centres our Scheme ID: C10005832 and they will transfer the funds directly to our account.

As a result of all our supporters efforts, over 5500 containers have been recycled through this program this year!

### TerraCycle Recycling Programs

Creative Recycling Centre has signed up to be a community collection centre for the electric toothbrush, dish and air care and Gillette razor TerraCycle recycling programs.



Recycle contact lenses at Gladstone Vision.

In addition, Gladstone Vision has signed up to TerraCycle's Bausch+Lomb Recycling Program for the recycling of used contact lenses, contact lens cases and blister packs. CRC volunteer, Shannon Ferrier, decorated the 'eye-catching' recycling box provided to Gladstone Vision.

For more information about what can be recycled through these collection programs, check out the TerraCycle website [www.terracycle.com/en-AU/](http://www.terracycle.com/en-AU/) or contact us at CRC.



For some time, CRC has considered creating an app or website to improve the information available about how and where to recycle, repair or donate an item in the Gladstone Region, but also have capabilities to list, search for and exchange resources within our community. The opportunity to progress this idea has been made possible through the Innov8ors Programme.

The Innov8ors Programme is possible due to a partnership between Rio Tinto Here for Gladstone, Queensland Government and StartUp Gladstone Inc.

