

In this edition...

We look ahead to World Environment Day 2023, recap Clean Up Australia Day, put a spotlight on our resident platypus and rakali, and discuss sustainable energy in our RFS Solar Power Project, the Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Plan, our Take Home Sustainability Kits, and the Cities Power Partnership.

We invite you to explore our revamped newsletter and share to your contacts. If you have any enquiries, please reach out to the Natural Landscapes and Health Team at 1300 735 025 or contact sustainability@qprc.nsw.gov.au

World Environment Day

World Environment Day is a global event celebrated every year on June 5th. World Environment Day promotes environmental and sustainability awareness, and advocates for action to protect environment. This year's theme is Solutions to Plastic Pollution, and QPRC is running a bunch of events to celebrate!

Minecraft Sustainable Design Competition

To celebrate World Environment Day, QPRC is holding the second Minecraft Sustainable Design Competition. Open to all primary school students across QPRC, we are looking for ways to reduce, reuse and recycle the plastic we use every day. We want you to use your Minecraft skills to help plan for the future of QPRC and designing a playground, park, river, garden, building or other structure that reflects how we can reduce plastic pollution. Prizes will be awarded to the most innovative designs. Find out more at bit.ly/MinecraftComp

Citizen Science: Report Your Platypus and Rakali Sightings

Did you know there are several platypus in QPRC's rivers? You might see the distinctive ring-shaped ripples in the water first, that means they're diving for food. Keep your eyes peeled and get a camera ready! If you're lucky, you might also see one of our resident rakali in the river too – look for the distinctive, white-tipped tail.

Do a bit of citizen science and help us look after our unique wildlife! Record your sightings at our website at bit.ly/QPRC-Platypus-Rakali or contact our team at platypus@qprc.nsw.gov.au.



Other Events

QPRC is working with community groups and experts to organise interpretive environmental walks in Queanbeyan, Braidwood and Bungendore. We are also organising a practical environmental workshop, and showing of films about sustainability. These events are still in development, so stay tuned for more details towards the middle of the year. June is going to be a very eventful month, so follow along with QPRC at bit.ly/QPRC-Environment for updates.

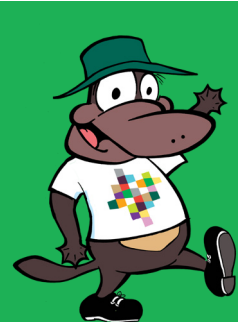


Take-Home Sustainability Kits

Do you want to know how much energy your appliances are using? Our libraries have take-home sustainability kits that can do just that. The kits include:

- an infrared thermometer to measure the temperature of your fridge, freezer, and hot water system,
- a plug-in power meter to measure the energy consumption and running costs of your appliances,
- a compass to determine the orientation of your home to fine passive solar heating and cooling opportunities, and
- and instruction booklet to help you use the kit.

Borrow a kit from our libraries in Queanbeyan, Bungendore, or Braidwood today.



Clean Up Australia Day 2023

Clean Up Australia Day was held on Sunday 5 March, with over 11,000 events held across Australia. The QPRC community came together clean up our natural areas. QPRC would like to thank all the volunteers who participated in our cleanups, and the individuals and community groups who organised their own cleanups.

Council joined the Bungendore Girl Guides to clean up Turallo Creek, and joined the Islamic Forum For Australian Muslims to clean up the Queanbeyan River. Queanbeyan Landcare, Queanbeyan Girl Guides, and the NSW Queanbeyan EPA also cleaned up the Queanbeyan river. Other cleanups were held by St Raphael's Church (Queanbeyan), Waratah Preschool, Captains Flat Public School, Braidwood Central School, and Jerrabomberra Public School.

Over 40 bags of rubbish and recycling were removed from the environment across QPRC, plus other larger and more interesting items. Construction materials, a large BBQ, bicycles, prohibited "Opera House" style yabby traps, six shopping trolleys, traffic cones, and tyres were some of the items collected.

RFS Solar Power Project

Solar Photovoltaic (PV) with Battery Backup systems have now been installed at eight RFS stations across QPRC. These Solar PV systems will provide reliable off-grid power to stations, which will help our rural fire services and their communities to react and adjust to bushfire emergencies. The expected annual energy generated by these systems in total is 79MWh per year. These hybrid systems will enable a dependable and robust electricity supply during bushfire emergencies while also delivering sustainable renewable energy.



Above: 6.48kW PV solar Hybrid System with 14.2kWh Battery Storage installed at Mongarlowe NSW

Left: 6.48kW PV solar Hybrid System with 14.2kWh Battery Storage installed at Nerriga, NSW



Cities Power Partnership

QPRC has joined the Cities Power Partnership (CPP) network, comprising more than 175 councils from various regions of the country. The CPP program focuses on supporting and celebrating the emission reduction successes by local councils. QPRC has pledged to achieve 5 key sustainability actions which will aid in Council in reducing greenhouse gas emissions, enhancing our reputation, delivering cost savings, establishing resilience, and creating regional pride within the community.

Visit bit.ly/QPRCCPP for details.



Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Plan

QPRC is currently developing an Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Plan and Policy to support the growth of electric vehicle use in the region. This plan aims to provide a consistent set of criteria for the approval, installation, and management of the public electric vehicle charging stations on QPRC land. The plan also sets a goal of installing 100 public chargers on public land by 2030 to meet the expected increase in electric vehicle use within the QPRC region.

Please send us some feedback by completing the survey: bit.ly/QPRCevcip