



Youth Leadership Program 2024

1. Program in 2024

Proposal:

1. The program will accept 4-6 students (Stage 3) from up to 6 schools to participate in the program for one term of the school year (eg. Term 2).
2. Rumbalara staff will mentor participating schools (4-6 students from each school)
3. The program will include an initial leadership day to work with students. We will then allocate a number of school visits to work with and support students on their project.
4. EOI will be distributed to schools. Principals and teachers are asked to identify 4-6 students within their school that may be suitable to participate in this program. Students may then submit an **Expression of Interest** – this must include approval from their parent / guardian and also the school.
5. Skills taught will be how to implement a leadership initiative, run meetings, goal setting, action plans and milestones and the knowledge needed to tackle the issue.
6. Each school must complete the **EcoSchools assessment** to be eligible to join the program.
7. **Cost:** there will be a charge for students to participate in the Leadership Days – one in Term 1 and one in Term 3 (\$15 per student for each day ie. \$30 total per student).

2. A Project / Issue

Students are expected to identify a project / issue or action that interests them and where they would like to make a difference – either within their school, in their local community or more broadly. This would be part of the discussions that take place with students throughout the program.

Projects will be undertaken by the students as a group.

It would be expected that students will have identified a particular area of interest at the beginning of Term 2 (either as individuals or collectively) – and some related action is completed by the end of Term 2.

Examples of topics that students might choose as a basis for their projects:

- Water – a local creek or waterway, water usage
- Waste – litter in the school or local community, plastics, composting
- Energy – energy use, climate change, renewables
- Biodiversity – wildlife, endangered species
- Sustainability – local produce, reducing ecological footprint
- Planning – local parks, local bushland, greening of local school or neighbourhood, cycleways

3. Expectations of Students

To qualify for the Leadership Program, students must have an interest in the environment – and a good record of behaviour at school. The program is intended to be an opportunity for enrichment for interested students – not an opportunity to remove difficult and / or disengaged students from the school setting.

Students are expected to

1. Contribute to the program
2. Be respectful in their dealings with staff and each other
3. Follow instructions from Rumbalara staff
4. Be enthusiastic in their involvement in the project
5. Be willing to allocate time to progressing their chosen project
6. Keep a journal to track their project and reflect on their experiences
7. Be willing to learn from both successes and failures during the course of the program

4. Outline

Term 1: Leadership Day	This day will introduce students to the program, include guest speakers and workshops to identify areas of interest and outline a process. We will also include team building activities and possibly an evening activity (eg. astronomy, spotlighting etc).
Term 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rumbalara staff will work with students to identify a goal and put in place an action plan
Term 3: Leadership Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final presentations and reflections on projects. • Acknowledgement of contribution of students and supporters. • Discussion about any outstanding actions or future proposals.

5. What is required from Schools and Parents

The school needs to provide a contact teacher to support students within the school environment. The level of support will vary and can accommodate the teacher's level of interest and capacity to support the program.

As a minimum, a teacher needs to be a contact person for both Rumbalara staff and participating students.

We are also interested in discussing with teachers an option to communicate with students and teachers directly about their projects – eg. a TEAMS option of Google classroom.

We encourage school contact teachers to attend the first Leadership Day. Contact teachers from schools are welcome to attend any of the scheduled activities however attendance is then not essential. Rumbalara staff are teachers within the Department of Education.

Parents or the school will need to arrange transport for students to and from activities external to the school.

Rumbalara staff will supervise students during the day. Students will need to bring a packed lunch, water, covered footwear, hat and sun safe clothing.

6. Sample Workshop Program

Students and teachers complete EcoSchool assessment prior to coming to the workshop. They bring this completed form to the workshop for discussion.

Term 1:	Leadership Day
9am	Welcome and purpose of the day / Youth Leadership program Ice-breaker activities
9:45am	Morning tea
10:15	Stories – making a difference - examples/ speakers Team building activities
11:30	“What’s important to me” – thinking about the environment / sustainability <ul style="list-style-type: none">• If I could change the world....• If I could change my school....• If I could change my suburb....• If I could change the Central Coast.... Think global, Act Local?
12:30	Lunch
1:00	In school groups: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discussion of EcoSchool assessment for their schools• A plan of action – What I want to change – and how to get there.
2:00	Something fun and outdoors (eg. Kayaking, bushwalk...)
3:00pm	Close

Term 1: School Visit (soon after Leadership Day)

Work with students to finalise their project
Discuss and Action Plan

What is the Goal?
How will you know when you achieve it?
Identify stakeholders / supporters
Who might be resistant to change?
What do you need to know? – what skills do you need?
What tools do you want to use?
How can you be a change agent?
What are the decision points that you want to influence?

Consider using the SMART guidelines to create your work plan goals and objectives. SMART stands for:

- **Specific:** Your goals, objectives and action steps should be clear and specific.
- **Measurable:** It should be easily apparent that your goal or objectives have been accomplished.
- **Achievable:** Your goals and objectives should be something your team can realistically accomplish within the designated time frame.
- **Relevant:** The goal, objectives and tasks should be aligned with your values and long-term goals.
- **Time-bound:** Your plan should have a realistic end date that can help you prioritize your time

Discuss Video Diary / documentation of project

Term 3: Leadership Day (Mid Term 3)

9am Welcome and purpose of the day / Youth Leadership program
Team Building activity

9:45am Morning tea

10:15 Final Presentations and reflections on projects

1:00 Lunch

- 1:30
- Acknowledgement of contribution of students and supporters.
 - Discussion about any outstanding actions or future proposals.
 - Video stories / updates

2:30 Something fun and outdoors (eg. Kayaking, bushwalk...)

3:30pm Close