



Annual Implementation Plan 2020

Our Centre Vision: *Inspiring science beyond the classroom*

Mission Statement:

Toohey Forest EEC is committed to the development of students as responsible and informed citizens through scientific literacy. Improved scientific literacy enables informed decision-making about local, national and global issues. Scientifically literate citizens:

- Are interested in the world around them
- Are able to identify questions, investigate and draw evidence-based conclusions
- Reflect critically on information, data or the claims made by others
- Make informed personal decisions and choices

Our Purpose:

Toohey Forest EEC provides students with engaging learning opportunities and experiences deeply immersed within the natural and built environments. Students experience connections within the various fields of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths), including ecology, sustainability, environmental science, robotics, coding and forensic science.

To ensure authenticity to real world science, Toohey Forest EEC partners with a variety of external agencies to provide learning opportunities relevant to school-aged students, undergraduate University students and teachers.

Principal's Forward

The main challenges for 2020 are:

- Catering for an increase in student visitations resulting from: **(i)** an increasing student population in SE Queensland, including the establishment of new schools **(ii)** the implementation of select new senior syllabi (e.g. Biology, Geography)
- Ensuring that teaching and learning practices: **(i)** continue to meet the high expectations of client schools as evidenced in visiting teacher feedback **(ii)** meet the requirements of relevant curricula **(iii)** are reflective of 'best practice' as determined by research
- Continuing to develop collaborative, mutually beneficial relations with external agencies
- Exploring opportunities for improvements in efficiency in program support and delivery resulting from: **(i)** the allocation of a Unit Support Officer (USO) position to the centre's staffing model **(ii)** increasing casual employment opportunities that are being made available to Griffith University undergraduate and postgraduate students.

Key Priorities for 2020

1. Centre pedagogy

- Allow for all teaching staff to (i) access knowledge and skill focused PD relevant to individual Performance Plans [T1-4] (ii) actively engage in the ASoT collegial mentoring program (CMP) [T2-4]
- Review newly developed senior student programs to ensure: (i) alignment with the requirements of the relevant senior syllabi (ii) changes are responsive to the feedback provided by visiting teachers [T2-3]

2. Relations with external partners

- Continuing to engage with Griffith University management and select academics to explore opportunities to (i) value add to existing programs (ii) develop new STEM programs relevant to years 9-12 students [T1-4]

3. Incorporating ICT's to improve service delivery and efficiency

- Oversee the duplication of the centre website to the DoE SharePoint platform [T1-2]
- To examine options to install nest box cameras and real time digital displays within the EcoCentre surrounds [T2-4]
- To explore a financially viable digital version of the EcoCentre for display on the centre's website [T1-4]

4. Human Resources

- Continue to facilitate the development of improved leadership density whereby staff have greater ownership of select centre operations and activities [T1-4]
- Expand the casual employment of Griffith University undergraduate and post graduate students to support select program delivery as a means of **(i)** value adding to the learning experience **(ii)** improving efficiencies required for increased student visitations [T1&4]
- Continue to explore improved efficiencies in the area of USO program support (e.g. equipment preparation, pack up, maintenance etc.) [T1-4]

5. Facilities

- Construct a new secure outdoor turtle enclosure [T1-2]
- Increase the profile of indigenous culture via appropriate displays, art, signage etc. [T1-4]
- In partnership with GU staff: (i) develop a new site in the EcoCentre surrounds to incorporate elements of archaeology and forensic science [T2-4] (ii) redevelop the main EcoCentre entry to include signage and displays reflective of the natural environment [T2-3]