

What We Do At Cool Australia

Cool Australia's goal is for students to be empowered change agents able to identify and solve world issues.

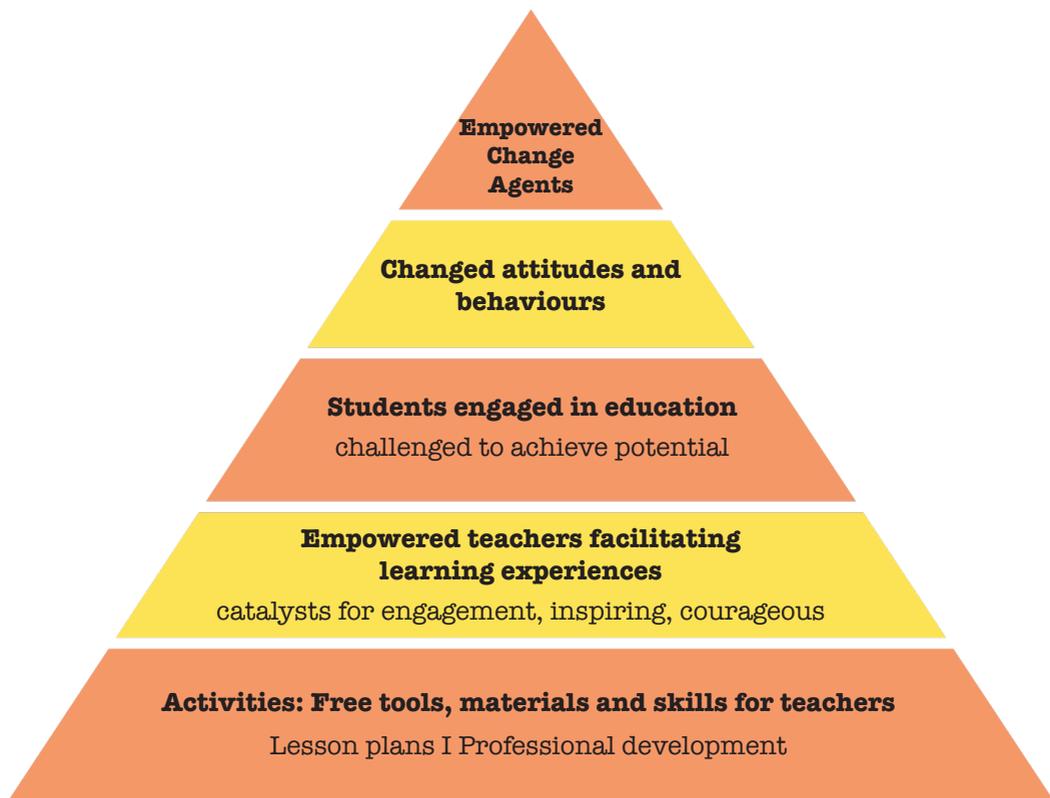
We do this by providing a comprehensive online portfolio of best practice learning activities and resources, free of charge, to educators who become designers of exceptional learning for all young Australians.

Teachers become powerful catalysts for change. Using our materials, teachers inspire students, deeply engaging them in education and challenging them to reach their potential.

In turn, students change their attitudes towards school and learning, leading to changes in their behaviour and enabling them to become agency takers able to identify and solve real-world problems. Students develop a clear purpose, a growth mindset, greater responsibility, resilience and entrepreneurship. They learn to be active participants in society.



Theory of Change



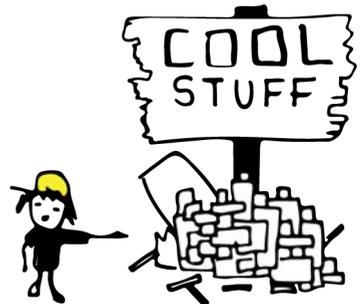
Why is this work important?

One in five Australian students are disengaged from their learning. This issue tends to worsen as students get older (Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership. 2015). Students who are not engaged with their learning are likely to learn at a slower pace, leading to lower achievement. Many disengaged students feel that school is not relevant to them.

The level of disengagement is also reflected in the fact that 25% of Australian students are not finishing Year 12. This number climbs to 40% if students are from a low socioeconomic background and 57% for very remote students (The Mitchell Institute. 2015). Emotionally engaged students are more likely to complete Year 12.

I Don't know if the Cool Australia team fully understand what they are achieving. You have at least one registered teacher in more than 84% of Australian schools, which is an incredible achievement. Only UNICEF has a greater school penetration and they had a 50-year head start! Cool Australia helps teachers become better teachers and for that we are eternally grateful. You are, quite seriously, the good guys in education.

Angelo Gavrietos,
President of Education International



Partner Case Studies

1. Shark Island Productions:

The Oasis

2. Nature Conservancy:

Cool Burning

3. World Wildlife Fund - Australia:

Earth Hour

4. The Australian Human Rights Commission:

Magna Carta



SHARK ISLAND

The Oasis

The Challenge: Every night across Australia 22,000 teenagers are homeless.

Our Response: The Oasis documentary records the stories of homeless youth. The Curriculum resources we created together reach kids at school with this challenging topic.

Students celebrate the resilience of young people experiencing homelessness. They critically, curiously and incisively debate their story. We transfer the students' response to the film into purposeful learning - allowing students to not only process the issues, but to transform their learning into positive action.

Partnerships with film-makers allow us to expand the range of resources that we offer. Embedding clips into each lesson gives the film a new life and extends its reach and impact well beyond its release.

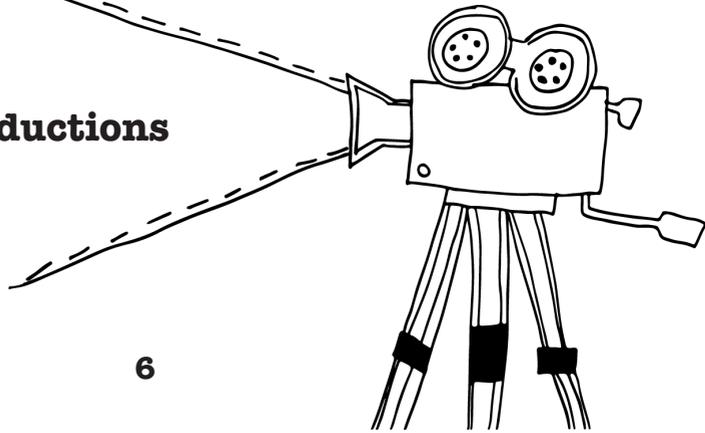
PRODUCTIONS & Cool

The Impact: Engaging in film with a social action outcome helps students understand that they can have a positive impact in their world. The Oasis resources have been downloaded more than 15,056 times, resulting in 376,400 students learning about youth homelessness

Our Partner Says:

“Partnering with Cool Australia has been an important element in extending the reach of The Oasis documentary to schools. The teaching materials created by Cool Australia are both engaging and accessible on the digital platform and allow clips from the film to be used directly as learning stimuli.”

**Ian Darling AO
- Shark Island Productions**



THE NATURE CONSERV

Cool Burning

The Challenge: Soil erosion, bushfires, depletion of natural resources and caring for Country.

Our Response: Cool Australia partners with scientists (The Nature Conservancy), Indigenous communities (Fish River) and Indigenous educators (North Australian Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance) to take the management of Country - using fire - into classrooms.

Indigenous rangers use the ‘firestick farming’ strategy to manage and protect the huge tracts of fire dependent ecosystems in Australia. The Cool Burning resources allow kids to explore the diversity in histories and cultures among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders. Watch how elders pass traditional knowledge on to their children and observe the interconnectedness between people, places and our environment.

Students also learn to find their place within this important Australian History.

ANCY & Cool

The Impact: The Cool Burning series allows students to understand the value of Indigenous knowledge, that different peoples have different ideas about what **the future** should look like and understand that these differences can be used to give strength to the vision and meaning of our future.

The Cool Burning resources have been downloaded more than 43,720 times, resulting in 1,125,020 students learning about indigenous land management.

Our Partner Says:

“This wonderful teaching tool builds students’ understanding of the cultural, spiritual, economical and environmental benefits that this knowledge brings to both the people and the landscape in which we all live.”

Michael Looker
- **The Nature Conservancy**



WWF - AUSTRALIA

Earth Hour

The Challenge: Climate Change

Our Response: In 2016, the Earth Hour theme was Places We Love. Our response was to connect students to the wonders of the natural world through exploration and mindfulness of their local environment.

All activities connected students to nature and gave them an understanding of how places they love might be affected by climate change.

We take Earth Hour beyond the hour and shine the spotlight on climate change within the school curriculum for the entire year.

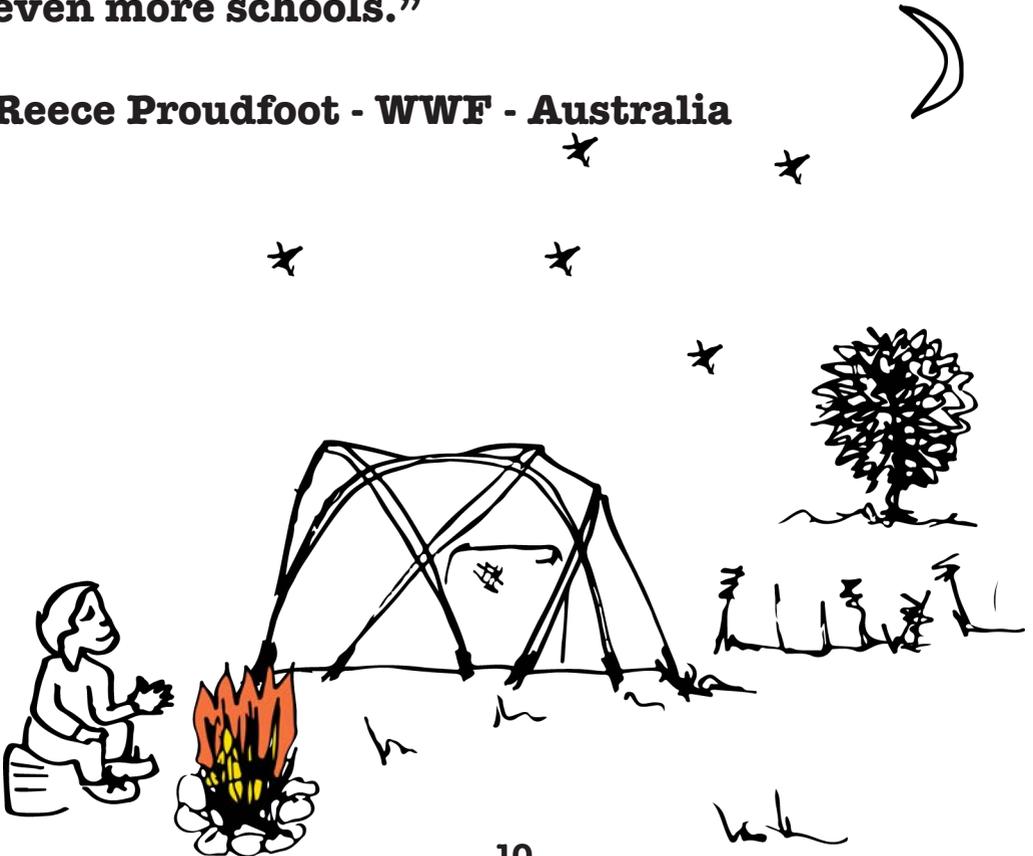
The Impact: These resources are considered a resounding success, increasing participating schools from 700 to more than 4,500 and counting.

& Cool

Our Partner Says:

“In partnership with Cool Australia we have increased our schools program from 700 schools to over 4,500 and we hope to continue to support even more schools.”

Reece Proudfoot - WWF - Australia



AUSTRALIAN COM

Magna Carta

The Challenge: To make human rights a reality for everyone, everywhere, every day.

Our Response: To mark the 800th anniversary of Magna Carta, the Australian Human Rights Commission partnered with us to extend the reach of their interactive video Magna Carta: The Story of Our Freedom. The resources develop students' understanding about the evolution of human rights since 1215 and how these ideas have shaped key features of Australian democracy, such as the values of freedom, equality, fairness and justice.

Students learn that even today our hard fought rights are not always protected equally for every person.

The Impact: The Cool Australia - AHRC partnership is helping a generation of children adopt a deeper understanding of empathy and justice - igniting an action attitude for fairness and tolerance.

HUMAN RIGHTS MISSION & Cool

Our Partner Says:

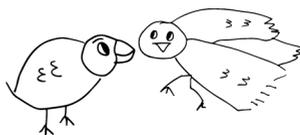
“With values such as empathy, collaboration and real world learning there was a close synergy with the work of the Australian Human Rights Commission. Early in 2016 we had the opportunity to partner with Cool Australia to refine and share our Magna Carta resources with more teachers and students across Australia. With a reach nearing 50,000 teachers it was an obvious partnership for the commission. In just a few months, our animated video, interactive timeline and lesson plans have reached more than 1,200 teachers. Collaborating with Cool Australia has been a very positive experience and we hope to have another opportunity to team up with them in the future.”

Professor Gillian Triggs

- President of the Australian Human Rights Commission



Research



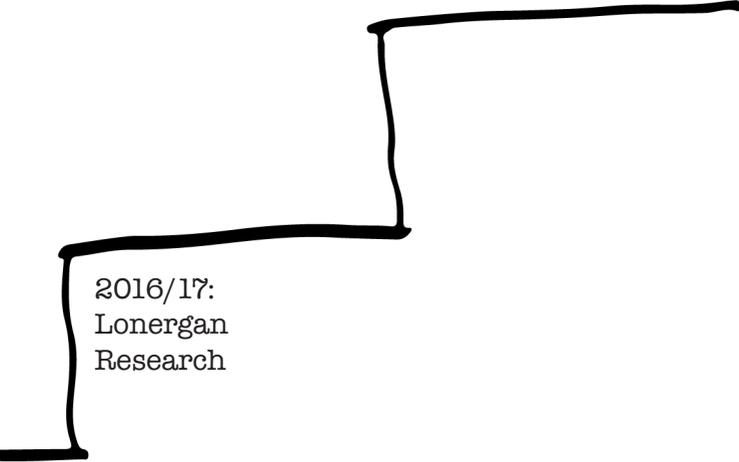
How do we know we're relevant?



2011:
Australian Centre for
Educational Research

2014:
Sweeney
Research

2015:
Lonergan
Research



2016/17:
Lonergan
Research

Because we ask.

We check in with our educators by commissioning in-depth qualitative, quantitative and focus group research to confirm that we've got the right stuff, that we're meeting the need.

Key Research Findings

Teachers tell us that our resources are working. They build teacher confidence and capacity, save time and engage young people in real world learning.

ACER 2011: Evaluation of Cool Australia Pilot School Programs

After embedding Cool Australia lessons into their teaching:

- ★ Teachers reported feeling more confident to teach sustainability and as a result thought themselves to be better teachers.
- ★ Teachers reported demonstrable behaviour change (both at home and at school) in students around water, waste, energy and biodiversity.

Sweeney 2014: Cool Australia Resources Evaluation

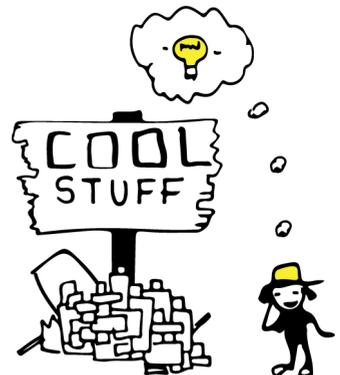
- ★ 85% of teachers save time using our resources.
- ★ Students understanding of sustainability topics improved 10 fold.

Lonergan 2015: Online Resource Evaluation Report

- ★ Our resources helped 99% of students achieve their learning outcomes.
- ★ Our resources helped 95% of students get prepared to take action.

Professional Development Post Course Evaluation 2015

- ★ 85% of teachers said they felt confident to very confident about teaching content after completing our PD courses.
- ★ 100% of teachers who took our PD courses would recommend them to others.



Cool Australia's Social Impact 2016/17: Loneragan Research

The survey measured social impact in terms of whether there was any marked difference in teachers and student's knowledge of, attitudes towards and tendency to change behaviour as a result of teaching with CA resources.

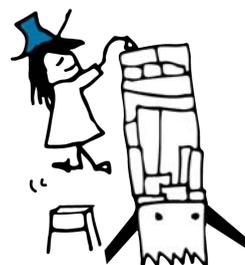
The results: After using Cool Australia's resources on environmental and social topics:

Teachers

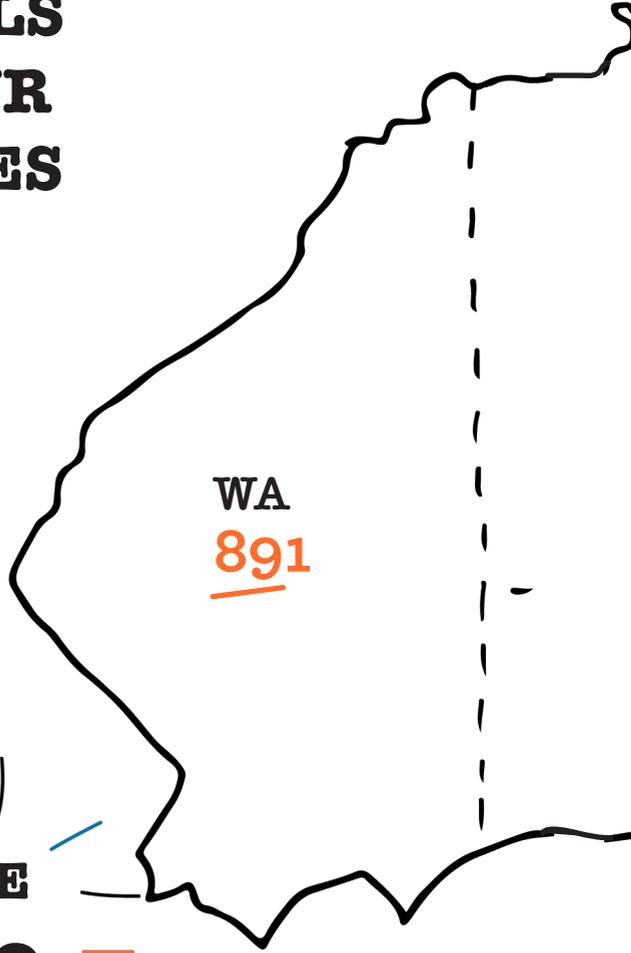
- ★ 91% of teachers report increasing their knowledge
- ★ 87% feel more confident teaching these topics
- ★ 84% consider themselves better teachers of social and environmental sustainability
- ★ 98% report that the resources have had, to some extent, a positive social impact on them personally
- ★ 42% of frequent users rate at least 8/10 the extent of positive social impact on them personally
- ★ 86% of teachers expand their perspective
- ★ 81% change their behaviour as a result

Students

- ★ 88% of teachers say that their students' awareness and knowledge improved
- ★ 82% saw an improvement in critical thinking skills and a change in attitude
- ★ 99% report that the resources have had to some extent, a positive social impact on their students
- ★ 39% of frequent users rate at least 8/10 the extent of the positive social impact on their students
- ★ 77% observed behaviour change
- ★ 72% report increase preparedness to take action
- ★ 83% of teachers share, print or store their downloaded resources
- ★ After downloading a resource it is used an average 4 times in a school year
- ★ 98% of members (who have used film-based lessons) agree that film based resources help to engage students on social and environmental media.



89%
OF SCHOOLS
USING OUR
RESOURCES



WE HAVE

102,000

TEACHERS IMPACTING
2,522,000 KIDS

8,178 schools Australia-wide
using our resources



**2000 new
signups
per month**

NT
94

QLD
1260

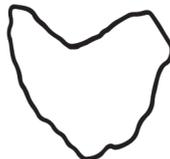
SA
668

NSW
2673

VIC
2187



ACT
213



TAS
192

