



# WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO



Action4Agriculture (A4A) is a registered charity established in 2009 that:

- ➔ Acts as an independent, non-profit organisation whose primary purpose is to benefit all farmers, the Australian agricultural sector and rural, regional and remote communities.
- ➔ Cultivates a national network of credible and memorable youth voices, who we call Young Farming Champions. We equip them with the tools to engage urban and rural audiences based on shared community values and supports them on their journey to be part of community conversations around agriculture.
- ➔ Delivers environmental and agricultural education programs in primary and secondary schools that support young people to meet Australia's commitments to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- ➔ Designs events and activities that inspire pride in Australian farmers and the products they produce.
- ➔ Promotes agriculture as an exciting industry where:
  - innovation, disruption, and creativity are fostered
  - careers with purpose can grow limitlessly and
  - partnerships across sectors are encouraged and nurtured.

At A4A we know "the world equally distributes talent, but it doesn't equally distribute opportunity" A4A initiatives empower young people to reach their full potential through life-long learning and support. Ensuring location, economic status nor age should preclude individuals or their communities from fulfilling their dreams.

We are proud to be investing in young people. When young people thrive, their communities thrive.

Young people may only be 20% of the population but they are 100% of our future.

We equip young people with the skills needed to navigate the world, give them the confidence to share their stories and support them to take on leadership positions, all while contending with the many changes, life will throw at them.

Our mission is to put young people at the centre of the learning and doing experience.

We are taking the next step to ensure young people are not just getting a seat at the table, they're actively engaged in the conversation and have the skills and knowledge to put their ideas into action.

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# OUR SCHOOL PROGRAMS

**Action4Agriculture** is connecting young people in schools with real people, with lived experiences to investigate real issues together. Our school programs use a co-design model and are tailored (through extensive monitoring and evaluation) to meet the wants and needs of teachers and students and to give young people agency and voice.

## THE CONCEPT

A4A school programs (The Archibull Prize - secondary school and Kreative Koalas -primary school) engage students in agricultural and sustainability awareness, understanding and action through art, design, creativity, teamwork, and project development.

The programs are aligned to the learning areas, general capabilities, all three cross curriculum priorities and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Using critical and creative thinking students investigate and reflect on global sustainability issues through the lens of agriculture and act at a local level. The program provides students with opportunities to meet young agriculturalists and gain knowledge and skills about the production of the food they eat, fibres they use and the environment they live in.

Teachers, students, and their communities are inspired to have courageous conversations and become changemakers.

The artwork the students' design and create becomes a legacy, reminding the community about the importance of looking after our planet and each other.

## HOW IT WORKS

1. Students identify a United Nations Sustainable Development Goal (Global Goal) on which to design, deliver and report on a community behaviour change project.
2. Schools are provided with a white life size fibreglass cow (secondary schools) or a giant fibreglass koala ( primary schools )as a canvas for students to create a sustainability themed artwork.
3. Schools are allocated a Young Farming Champion who visits the school and mentors the students during the program.
4. Schools are also connected with local experts who can support the school on their journey and open young people's eyes to the diversity of careers with purpose that support the production of the food we eat and the natural fibres we use.
5. Students capture their learning journey, via a Digital Learning Journal, communicating what they have learnt in fun and creative ways to a broader audience.
6. Teachers are provided with multiple professional learning opportunities.



**ENGAGING STUDENTS IN AGRICULTURAL AND SUSTAINABILITY AWARENESS.**



# LEGACY

Action4Agriculture programs are tailored to:

- ➔ Support teachers to empower students to be critical and creative thinkers, confidently working together with agency and voice.
- ➔ Act a succession plan and talent pipeline for the agriculture sector.

## WORK INTEGRATED LEARNING MODEL SUPPORTS TRANSITION TO CAREER PATHWAYS

One third of young people are aspiring to jobs that won't exist in the future and there is a high interest in occupations where there are limited positions available. This suggests young people are finding it hard to see a link between their education and future work opportunities and could indicate why 40% of young people are disengaged at school."

- Grattan Institute, Engaging Students: Creating Classrooms that improve learning (2017).

Our Young Farming Champions are role models of who you can be in agriculture and represent the diversity of careers the agriculture sector. They act as recruiting captains inspiring the students, they interact with to aspire to career pathways in the agriculture sector.

In the past 12 years they have worked with 300,000 school students, 1680 teachers and 720 schools.

Action4Agriculture's work integrated learning programs provide an opportunity for schools to build long lasting relationships with agricultural sector employers and surround themselves with a business, industry, community Ecosystem of Expertise support system and career pathways for students to tap into.

## USING ART TO HEAL

Our programs use art as a vehicle for students to share their learnings. The programs attract schools from all socio-economic areas and give all students equal opportunity to thrive and shine.

For those who have experienced trauma, including young people who have experienced adverse childhood experiences, natural disasters and pandemics, research shows creative arts have the power to heal. Art can enhance well-being, improve social connections and promote a sense of belonging. It can provide a means of self-expression and advocacy and promote positive feelings. The student's enjoyment is enhanced by coming together as a group with shared experiences to learn new skills, gain confidence and communicate with the wider community to address communal fears."

As a prime example of the success of the model students from NSW Department of Education SSP school Penrith Valley won The Archibull Prize in 2020 and The Lakes Youth off the Streets school was runner up in 2018.



# PARTNERSHIPS FOR GOOD

We are proud of our partnership with NGOs such as St Vincent De Paul and OzHarvest that support teachers to help young people learn resilience and transition from education to the workplace.

## ST VINCENT DE PAUL

Alongside St Vincent de Paul's (Vinnies) NSW Bushfire Recovery and Community Development Program, we deliver Kreative Koalas into primary schools adversely affected by the Black Summer bushfires. The Program focuses on future preparedness, building resilience, community cohesion, and environmental regeneration and sustainability.

**Action4Agriculture school programs are particularly powerful in the way they focus on resilience building and environmental sustainability. We share common values in both being organisations focused on social justice and systemic change."**

– John Fenech, Community Development Bushfire Recovery at St Vincent de Paul Society of NSW

## OZHARVEST FEAST

FEAST is a primary and secondary school program designed to teach children about healthy eating and reducing waste. We're working to empower communities to identify solutions and drive change.

**OzHarvest's FEAST food education program and Action4Agriculture programs are a perfect example of how NGOs can work together to play a pivotal role in raising awareness about careers in agriculture and how they nourish our country."**

– Amelia Berner, National FEAST Education Manager, OzHarvest.

## IMPACT

To date we have identified and trained 110 emerging leaders in rural and regional Australia.

Our Young Farming Champions have become role models of who you can be in rural and regional Australia and recruiting captains for the next generation of agriculturalists.

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