

2021 International Day of the Tropics

Sprinting the Tropics

25 June 2021

James Cook University

(Global Tropics Future Project,
Thuringowa State High School)

Event Summary



INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE TROPICS

The International Day of the Tropics was endorsed by the United Nations in 2016 and is celebrated annually on 29 June. It commemorates the date when in 2014, the inaugural State of the Tropics report (an initiative led by James Cook University in collaboration with eleven institutions) was launched.

SPRINTING THE TROPICS

The 2021 International Day of the Tropics was celebrated with 84 Global Tropics Future Young Scholars from 11 North Queensland schools competing in a design sprint challenge. *Sprinting the Tropics* was held at James Cook University and students collaborated in mixed school groups and ages to innovate methods of reducing hunger, achieving food security, improving nutrition and promoting sustainable agriculture.

Dr Leo Foyle shared his expertise and passion for food security through real-world examples and current research. Students then used the design thinking process to define the problem, ideate a solution, create a prototype and present their solution.



Speakers:

- Dr Leo Foyle (Senior Lecturer, Academic Advisor, College of Public Health, Medical and Veterinary Science)
- Kaylene Mladenovic (Acting Principal, Thuringowa State High School)

James Cook University support:

- Claudia Pfoeffler (Future Student Advisor, James Cook University)
- Patrick Twomey (Future Student Advisor, James Cook University)
- Keziah and Hayley (Student Ambassadors, James Cook University)

Event support:

- Pauline Van Krieken (Laboratory Assistant, Thuringowa State High School)
- Maree Flynn (Department of Education, STEM Champion)

Student mentors:

- Jessica Elliott, Kimberley Stephens, Hayden Crick (Thuringowa State High School)
- Grace Quin (Kirwan State High School)
- Iliana Ralph (William Ross State High School)

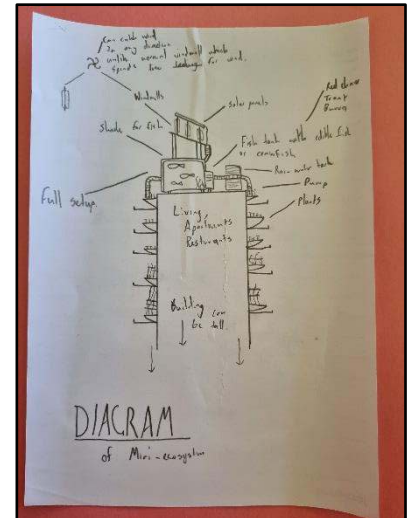
Teachers:

- Sam Askin, Kaitlyn Hotz, Luke Johnstone, Renee Louwen-Skovdam, Grace Laundon, Jennie Nash (Global Tropics Future teachers)

The students' solutions were judged according to technical innovation, creativity, design, usefulness and presentation.

Innovations included:

- Micro ecosystem (see diagram)
- Sea life monitor
- Education program
- Doctors and VETs work together to create vaccines
- Aquaponics on water
- Grow plants in space with carbon filters and UV lights
- Genetically modify chicken's immune system so they don't get sick



SCHOOLS REPRESENTED

Ingham State High School

Kelso State School

Kirwan State High School

Mundingburra State School

Rasmussen State School

Richmond Hill State School

The Willows State School

Thuringowa State High School

Townsville Central State School

Weir State School

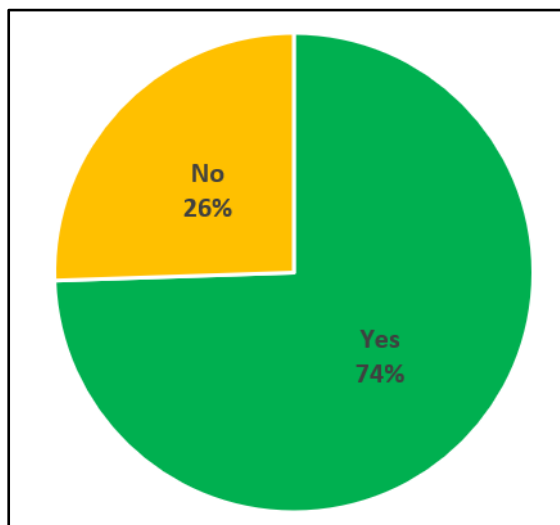
William Ross State High School

(84 students, 11 schools)

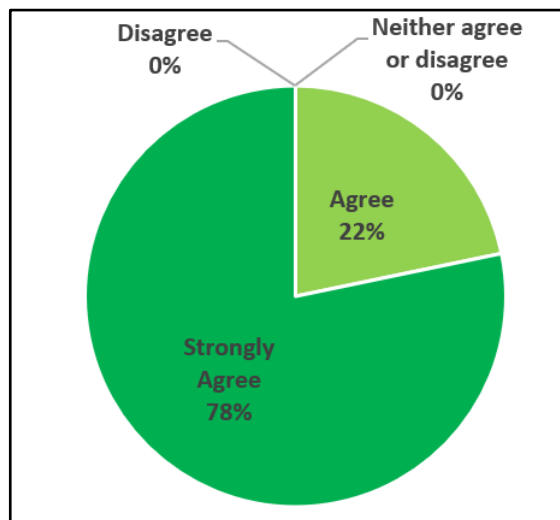


FEEDBACK

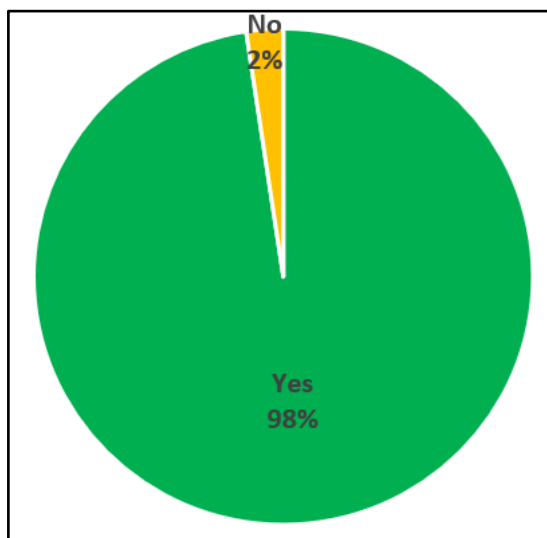
Is this your first time visiting
James Cook University?



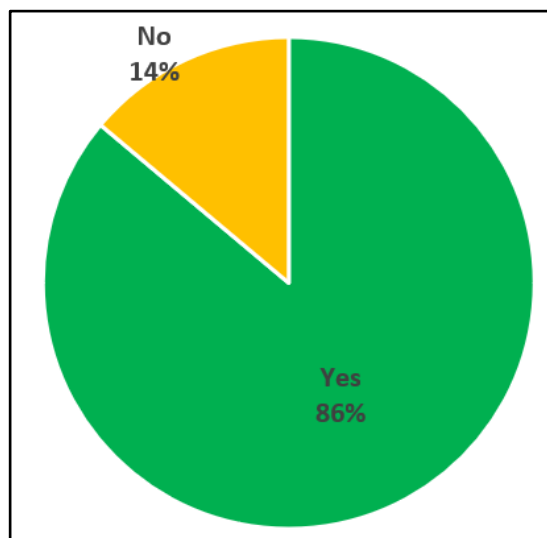
I enjoyed today's International Day
of the Tropics Design Sprint



Has this event increased your interest in
studying STEM courses at school?

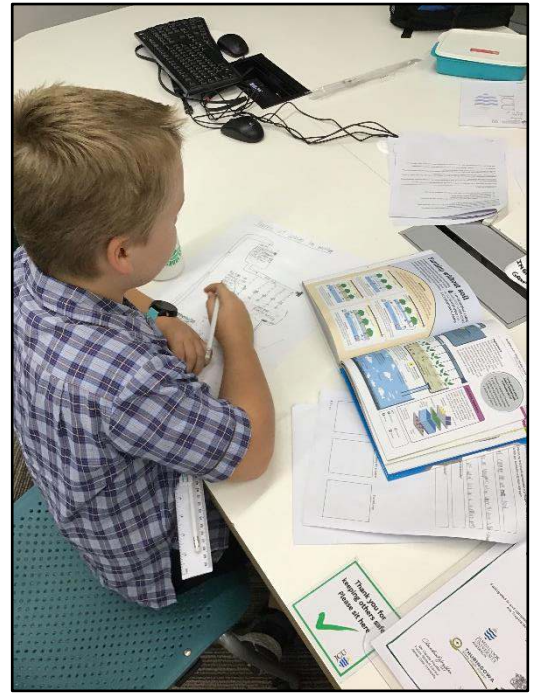


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Student comments:

- I was able to brainstorm with other people who were enthusiastic about it.
- At first, my group was shy but now I am really happy to have worked together.
- Every single time I do a STEM related event I always wanna come back.
- It has inspired me to do more with life. I loved it.
- I give this university 10/10. Actually 100/10.
- I wish this went for longer.
- We've all had a great time exploring this topic and interacting with other young scholars.
- This event has definitely increased my interest in studying stem because I have learnt so much.



For more information on the Global Tropics Future Project, contact:

Wendy Bode | Deputy Principal: Global Tropics Future | Thuringowa State High School

P: 07 47 538 899 or 0491 229 271 E: wbode1@eq.edu.au

Website www.thuringowashs.eq.edu.au or www.globaltropicsfuture.eq.edu.au

Facebook: Global Tropics Future Young Scholars Project