



## Sharif 2021 - succulent sales fund irrigation system

### Goals for the year

Sharif is a leader in sustainability at his high school, and has been working on rejuvenating and expanding the school's garden space for the last three years. This year his aim was to install an irrigation system, but plans for a new building changed everything.

The six raised beds, two compost bins and eight of the fruit trees donated by Bunnings have been relocated, but many of the native plants put in as part of a big 2019 National Tree Day working bee will be lost to the build. Five fruit trees, some of the natives, and the 100% recycled plastic benches will remain in the original space.

This year Sharif and his team worked on getting financial donations for the garden, to set up an irrigation system in the new location, by selling succulent jars that they had created. They are also able to use the funds generated from recycling cans and bottles at the school to use towards garden projects.

### Biggest success or achievement

The team recycles thousands of bottles and cans each year to invest back into the garden. This is all part of their work to develop more sustainable practices in the school to reduce resources going to landfill. They have set up soft plastics recycling, taking 45 bins worth from the Canteen to RedCycle in 2021 alone, as well as battery recycling, polystyrene (20 car loads so far), and plastic lid and straw recycling (in 2019 they saved over 4500).

### Advice

Sharif said that when he first started, he was stressed about not having a budget. But many of his ideas have come to fruition because he talked to others - his peers, Principal, teachers and local garden centres. Sharif found that when he shared his vision, everyone wanted to contribute, and the whole garden was built on donations. His advice is - don't stress too much, don't give up even if your plans have to be changed, and remember many people are there to help.