



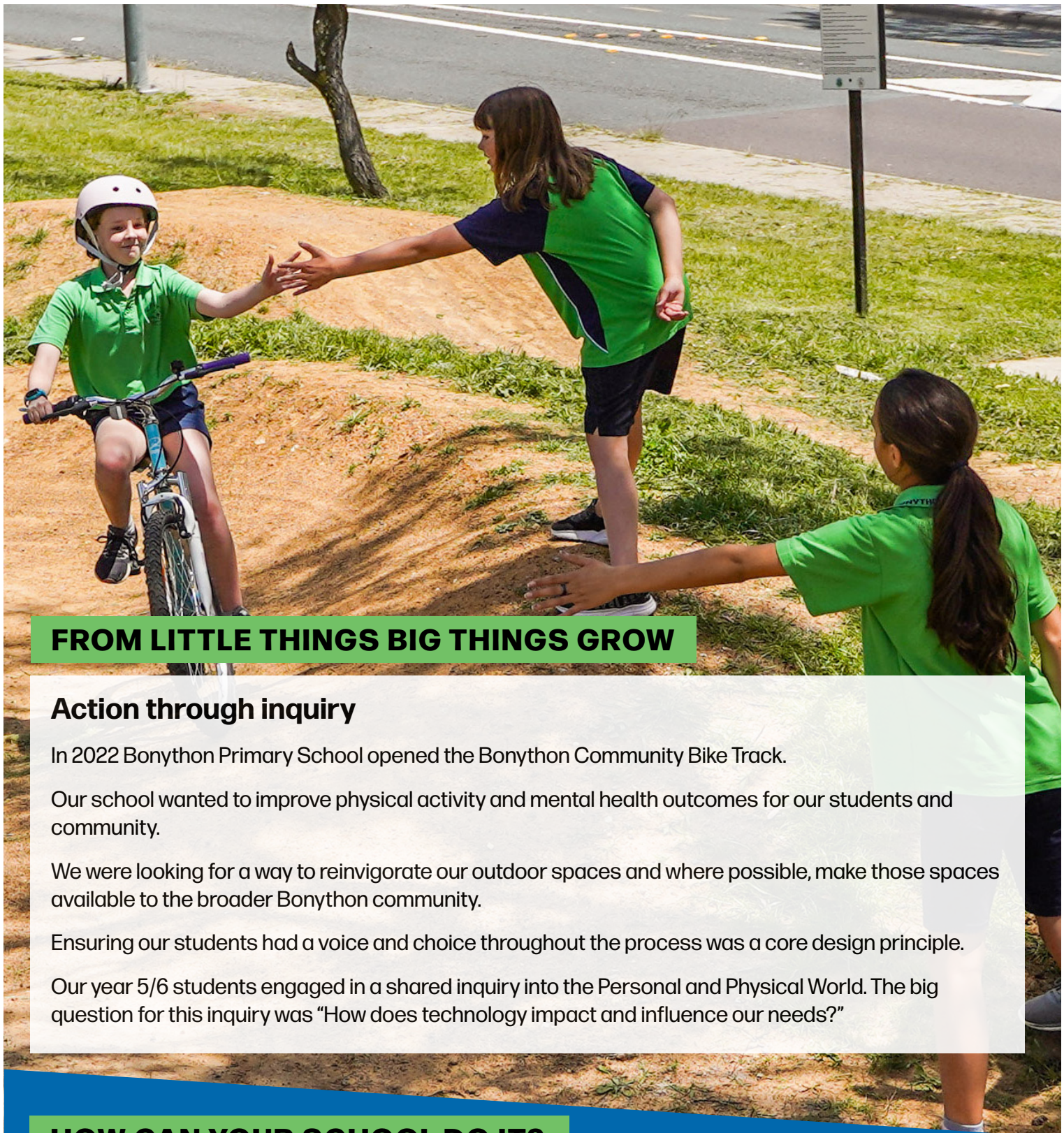
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Featuring
**BONYTHON
PRIMARY
SCHOOL**

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— HOW to GUIDE

Creating a community space at your school



FROM LITTLE THINGS BIG THINGS GROW

Action through inquiry

In 2022 Bonython Primary School opened the Bonython Community Bike Track.

Our school wanted to improve physical activity and mental health outcomes for our students and community.






We were looking for a way to reinvigorate our outdoor spaces and where possible, make those spaces available to the broader Bonython community.

Ensuring our students had a voice and choice throughout the process was a core design principle.

Our year 5/6 students engaged in a shared inquiry into the Personal and Physical World. The big question for this inquiry was “How does technology impact and influence our needs?”

HOW CAN YOUR SCHOOL DO IT?

This guide takes you through the key aspects of the Bonython Primary School project:

-  **Student voice and agency** – *what do your students want?*
-  **Consultation with community** – *how can your community support the project?*
-  **Fundraising, sponsorship and partnerships** – *how can you fund your idea?*
-  **Data** – *what data can be used to support your idea?*
-  **Ongoing maintenance** – *how can you maintain your space?*

STUDENT VOICE AND AGENCY

What do your students want?

- » Remember who your main users are – students!
- » Students will be using the space so need to feel that they have had a voice in the process. They will likely have a very clear idea of what works and what doesn't.
- » Get students involved in the designing of the space. Show them examples for inspiration and to help get started.
- » When students feel heard and that their contributions are valued, they are engaged and proud of the final outcome.

THE BONYTHON STORY

Through a process of shared inquiry, students worked together in small groups to put together a proposal for an outdoor space. Ideas included a quiet area in the playground, a rocket ship, an adjustable basketball hoop and a bike track.

These proposals had to take into consideration many factors, including sustainability, cost, appeal, accessibility and diversity.

Students were given the chance to vote on proposals and the four most popular proposals were presented to our Principal and Building Services Officer (BSO) for consideration. A bike track was selected.

Students were heavily involved in the design process for the track with a local track builder. They shared their own designs and gave feedback to come up with the final design of the track.



CONSULTATION WITH COMMUNITY

How can your community support the project?

- » School communities are untapped resources. Many school community families have expertise that they are just waiting to share.
- » Depending on the school situation, the space created may be accessed out of school hours, on the weekends or during school holidays.
- » When a community supports the space, they are more likely to help look after it.
- » This is an opportunity to share positive experiences amongst the school and wider community.

THE BONYTHON STORY

Our bike track sits outside our school fence, but within the school land boundaries. We selected the location outside the fence to encourage the community to access the space outside of school hours.

The bike track design was shared with community members across all of our school communications. This gave the opportunity for everyone to have a say. In our case, this led to families making donations towards the cost of the track.

We received positive feedback from community members about the development of the bike track. Community members are accessing the space outside of school hours and building positive memories of our school. The presence of the community outside of school hours may also help deter antisocial behaviour.



FUNDRAISING, SPONSORSHIP AND PARTNERSHIPS

How can you fund your idea?

- » Getting your school community involved in fundraising is a great way to promote excitement about your idea.
- » Involving students in the fundraising initiatives can also gain their interest and commitment to the project.
- » Look for opportunities to connect with local businesses for sponsorship or create relevant partnerships. Local businesses are often looking for these opportunities and some could even be members of your school community. Ensure that you check your organisation's sponsorship policy before agreeing to anything.

THE BONYTHON STORY

Students were involved in fundraising initiatives right from the beginning where we posed the question "How can we support the cost of the track?"

We raised money for the bike track by selling products and creating raffles from donated goods. Be sure to check the ACT Education Directorate's Healthy Fundraising Options Factsheet: [Healthy Fundraising Options \(act.gov.au\)](https://act.gov.au). We explored connections that the school already had, and promoted their donation of bikes and helmets through our fundraising.

We developed a partnership with a local bike store, which includes benefits for our school, as well as our local community when purchasing bike products from them.



DATA

Why data can be used to support your idea?

- » Data can support with the development of an appropriate space and can also amplify the student voice driving your project.
- » The use of data, such as student surveys, demographic information, can support your project when trying to source funding, including applying for grants.

THE BONYTHON STORY

When the shared inquiry led students towards the idea to develop an outdoor space at our school, students were asked to consider the users of the space.

To help gain support for the outdoor project, data was collected from all classes across the school.

Questions asked included:

- > What types of activities do you like to do at break times?
- > How do you like spending your break times?
- > Where do you like spending time during your breaks?
- > What pace of play do you enjoy the most?



ONGOING MAINTENANCE

How can you maintain your new space?

- » Think about the sustainability and long-term use of your space.
- » Think about the products and types of materials you use in your space. Will they be weather affected? Will they wear?
- » Ensure you have considered cost implications of your space. Will there be a maintenance cost? If so, how will the school fund this?
- » Develop a maintenance plan that considers regular checks for hazards or vandalism, routine and scheduled maintenance, a process to manage and address any risks identified and budget.
- » Encourage students and the school community to be part of the ongoing maintenance of the outdoor space.

THE BONYTHON STORY

We worked with a local track builder, who have many years of experience and reputation when designing and creating our track. They were familiar with local weather conditions and ensured that the track design included natural contours and drains to support when it rained. They used local recycled products during construction which has lower maintenance requirements.

Our BSO conducts regular checks of the track and works with a small group of students to develop their understanding of any hazards or risks that need attention.

We continue to review and develop our maintenance plan and seek opportunities to fund the ongoing care and maintenance of the track.





BENEFITS WE HAVE SEEN FROM THE BONYTHON COMMUNITY BIKE TRACK



The bike track is a **gathering space for students and families** before and after school, promoting a community atmosphere. Parents bring younger siblings and their bikes to school at pick up time to explore the track together.



As the bike track is a student-led inquiry, it has **inspired other students** to think about the actions they could take or the impact they could make with their own personal or shared inquiries.



Our **bike shed has never been fuller!** We have noticed a huge increase in the numbers of bikes coming to school each day. More students are choosing active and healthy ways to get to and from school.



The community are regularly using the bike track on weekends, **showcasing our school and community spirit.**

STEPS TO DEVELOP YOUR OWN OUTDOOR SPACE

STEP 1: PLAN

- » Create interest amongst students and the community
- » Get students involved in the process early
- » Gather data to inform considerations and to design the space
- » Familiarise yourself with any organisation policies or government rules and regulations for your space
- » Think of ways to support the cost of your space
- » Engage with your local community to see what connections you can make or donations you could source

STEP 2: IMPLEMENT

- » Work with a reputable and reliable company
- » Keep your community informed about what is happening

STEP 3: PROMOTE

- » Encourage students to use the outdoor space
- » Have an 'opening' for your space that celebrates the work and achievements of all involved
- » Invite the community to use the outdoor space



The bike track at Bonython Primary school was brought to the community by the Bonython Primary School students of 2021 & 2022, supported by Marissa Owens, Vince Wood, Marc Warwick and built by Iconic Trails.

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Contact: healthpromotion@act.gov.au

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We acknowledge the land upon which we learn, play, walk and wonder, and pay our respects to the Ngunnawal and Ngambri People as the traditional custodians.



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