



Marine Teachers' Association of New South Wales Inc

Menai High School, 40 Gerald Rd, Illawong, NSW, 2234
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To Whom It May Concern,

We would like to write in support of the amazing work that AFTA has done in supporting marine students across the state as part of the "Lets Go Fishing" program. With over 60 kits distributed to schools across the state, so many students have benefited from this program. So many of our teachers work on a very limited budget, and such equipment would be out of reach for many. The provision of the fishing kits has allowed so many students to experience fishing for the first time and learn valuable skills that they otherwise would never have had the chance to learn.

You can see the impact of this program from the feedback provided by our teachers:

- We are very grateful for the fishing gear we received. The quality of the gear is great. It will help deliver very beneficial programs to our students. The highlight of our fishing program is the Community Fishing Afternoon we hold annually. This friendly fishing tournament helps connect the school and the wider community. The fishing kit will allow greater access to this program. Dean Callahan – Hopetown High School.
- The equipment is a fantastic asset for our school's Marine Studies program. Warners Bay High School is very grateful for the provision of this free equipment so that the financial burden of updating our equipment is not placed on our students. Michael McGarvey.
- Really great initiative - has given some kids their first real fishing experience. Jemma Stapleton – Hastings Secondary College.
- We look forward to using the great fishing gear again and again. Thanks from all the 2019 Year 10 Marine Studies students at Wingham High. Merinda Williams.
- The equipment really is excellent. All of my students had a rod and really enjoyed the experience of going fishing and the thrill of catching fish. Marcus Coombes – Wollongong High.
- LHCS runs fishing as a school sport. Each Thursday we go to Gunnamatta to try our luck. Students have learned to rig up rods, burly the water, catch and release techniques as well as fish identification. For many students, it is the first time they have ever been fishing, although we do have a small group of very keen fishers. It's always great see how happy the students are when they catch a fish for the first time. Garon Aiken – Lucas Heights Community School.
- This was a sensational way to end our year 10 marine studies course. The students had researched the types of fish they could catch in the location, the best baits and rigs. The fishing grant gear meant that everyone had a quality fishing rod to use, not just those that had their own gear. This really made our day as all were involved and we had to stop them fishing at 2:30 so we could still make it back to school on time. Michael Lord – St Edwards.

With 127 member schools, 279 teachers and over 2500 students, we would very much like to see this program continue and fishing kits supplied to even more of our member schools.

Regards

Jacqui Rogers

President – Marine Teachers Association of NSW

*President: Jacqui Rogers, Menai High School
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