



How schools, councils, community groups and sporting organisations created shade

10 Case Studies



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Introduction

Australia has the highest rates of skin cancer in the world and most Australians are at risk. Overexposure to ultraviolet radiation (UV) leads to burning and tanning in the short-term and results in premature skin aging and skin cancer in the long term.

Overexposure to ultraviolet radiation (UV) leads to burning and tanning in the short-term and results in premature skin aging and skin cancer in the long term.

Here are five easy steps you can take to protect your skin from the sun:



Shade can provide a protective environment and 'good quality' shade has been shown to reduce UVR exposure by up to 75 per cent. Many schools, local councils and community groups in New South Wales have created new shade. The following 10 case studies provide an overview of the experiences of planning, creating and using 'new' shade structure(s).

The case studies illustrate the organisation's:

- Understanding and commitment to sun protection
- Enthusiasm to provide a shaded space
- Approach and actions to create their shaded area
- Outcomes as a result of their enthusiasm, approach and actions

These case studies highlight a range of ways that organisations can create shade. These examples are intended to stimulate interest, ideas and a commitment to work within your organisation to create effective shade. Note that these organisations received grant funding from either the Cancer Council NSW EFTPOS Shade for Secondary Schools Program or Cancer Institute NSW Evidence to Practice Grants.

The selected case studies showcase experiences in a variety of settings where new shade has been created. They provide a range of organisations and locations across NSW including; five schools (government and non-government), two local councils (swimming pool and playground) and three community groups (beach groups and soccer club).

Each case study tells a unique story but highlights issues that may be relevant to other similar organisations. The information presented in these case studies are the result of interviews with the site shade project managers and/or grant recipients and a single visit to each site on a specific day across the period March-May 2015. Each case study includes extracts from the interviews and images of the completed shade structures.

The following outline has been used to create each case study:

- Context – description of the organisation including location, site, members
- The Challenge – shade requirements for the organisation; how the organisation identified the need for shade and determined the site
- The Solution – specification of the shade constructed
- The Results – users of the area including any new activities that can now take place
- Lessons Learnt – matters that were discovered during the process and had to be overcome to successfully complete the shade
- Hot Tips – ideas to consider before you create shade
- Find Out More – links to resources to help you to plan for new shade



Case Study 1

Norwest Christian College, Riverstone

Norwest Christian College is a private college located in North Western Sydney. The school caters for pre-schoolers through to Year 12 students.

The Challenge

The school boasts large open spaces for student use and is committed to providing adequate shade across their grounds.

A SunSmart shade audit was undertaken confirming an area near the canteen, PE change rooms and sporting fields was a priority site for shade.

Since the removal of a previous shade cloth this area was underutilised and unpleasant due to high temperatures.

The project team were keen to create a sun safe area for PE lessons, recess and lunch.

“We designed it deliberately so that the seats would sit under the shade all of the time and if the sun moved it didn’t really matter.”

Geraldine Paynter – Business Manager
Norwest Christian College

The Solution

“We have turned an unusable space into something that is a bit of a hub for kids to kind of gather around.”

Geraldine Paynter – Business Manager
Norwest Christian College

The new shade sail structure was fixed to the canteen and PE change rooms building next to the school sporting fields.

The shade was created for a budget of between \$15,000 and \$25,000 and has the following features:

- measures 27.8m x 5.7m with a height between 2.5m and 3.3m
- a waterproof shade cloth with a UPF of 20+
- six steel posts providing support away from the building with the shade cloth connected to the building at ten points
- built onto an existing structure which can increase the efficacy of the shade structure itself
- aluminium bench seats positioned in shade across most of the school day
- surrounded by grass to reduce reflective UV radiation



Case Study 1 | Norwest Christian College, Riverstone

The Results

Staff report increased usage of the area by students and teachers during lunchtime and recess. The area also provides a shaded space for year 7 and 8 students who lack a common room.

There is also increased usage of the area during PE lessons throughout the day.

Provides good shade during key school break periods- in Autumn, 70% to 80% of the area is in shade between 12 and 2pm.

Provides good thermal comfort - is up to 6 degrees cooler under the shade during sunny periods.

“They’re certainly using the space and it’s been very positive, staff like it as well as PE teacher’s, they like the instructional space to give practical lessons underneath there as well.”

Geraldine Paynter – Business Manager
Norwest Christian College

Lessons Learnt

- SunSmart shade audit tool was simple to complete and helped plan shade for the most appropriate area
- School sun protection policies should focus on reinforcing protective behaviours for students and role modelling

“We have turned an unusable space into something that is a bit of a hub for kids to kind of gather around.”

Geraldine Paynter – Business Manager
Norwest Christian College

Hot Tips

- Investigate sail materials that can also provide wet weather protection to maximise benefit of your structure
- Confirm the Ultraviolet Protection Factor (UPF) of the shade material. Cancer Council NSW recommends a minimum UPF of 15 to provide good protection
- Position seating away from the edge of the structure to ensure effective shade coverage throughout the day
- Consult with other teachers and school staff to identify areas for shade with broad usage across your school community



Find Out More

[Link to checklist](#)

[Link to shade handbook](#)

[Link to audit tool](#)

[Link to funding applications](#)

Case Study 2

Trangie Central School

Trangie Central School is located in North Western NSW, approximately one hour west of Dubbo. The rural school has approximately 200 students from Kindergarten to Year 12.

The Challenge

Shade provision is important for Trangie Central School because of hot summer temperatures (average 33°C), extreme UV ratings and a lack of natural shade on the school grounds.

The SunSmart Shade Audit was completed and identified the area next to the school bus stop as a priority for shade.

The area is used by students waiting for afternoon buses. During summer in Trangie the temperatures and UV ratings often remain high until late afternoon.

This area could also provide a much needed, quiet study space for senior students with the addition of tables and chairs.

“We have such extreme weather conditions out here, especially during the summer... with the shade planned to be an outdoor learning environment the students will be able to sit in the comfort of the shade.”

Mel Gleeson – Community Liaison Officer
Trangie Central School

The Solution

“We used the Cancer Councils Shade Audit Tool. It gave us the tool for things that we could look out for.”

Mel Gleeson – Community Liaison Officer
Trangie Central School

A permanent shade cloth structure was chosen for this location and constructed with a total budget of less than \$10,000.

The built shade structure;

- Is 5 metres wide and 4 metres long, with a pitched roof
- Covered in quality shade cloth material with an ultraviolet protection factor (UPF), of 15-20
- Located close to three classrooms providing protection from the North; North West and North East maximising the amount of shade provided throughout the day
- Provides good thermal comfort - up to 3°C cooler on sunny days
- Is over a grass area, minimizing UV reflection
- Features stainless steel posts - durable and resistant to corrosion
- With the introduction of seats and a table have activated the area
- Provides a large area of shade coverage during peak UV periods of the day (12pm – 2pm)
- A 1m space between the shade structure and the building allows for building maintenance



Case Study 2 | Triangie Central School

The Results

“The school and the P&C have contributed to purchasing seating that’s gone in under so it wasn’t just a shade it was actually an environment that they wanted to be in.”

Mel Gleeson – Community Liaison Officer
Triangie Central School

- The area provides UV protection and shade every afternoon for 20 students waiting for buses
- Senior students and teachers/aides use the shaded area during the day for study and outdoor lessons
- Students prefer to use the area to seek shade and quiet space at lunchtime

Lessons Learnt

“The secondary students use it for an outdoor learning area... and we also use it for the bus stop for our students in particular for the afternoon sun. Some afternoons it’s been 40 odd degrees. it’s been brilliant for that purpose.”

Mel Gleeson – Community Liaison Officer
Triangie Central School

- Consider warranties offered when selecting a shade sail supplier
- Be active in maintaining communication with contractors to confirm timelines and minimise disturbance during construction

Hot Tips

- Use the SunSmart Shade Audit tool to help identify priority shade needs for your site
- Consider side protection from buildings or plants to maximise the amount of shade at all times of the day/angles of the sun
- Consider additions to enhance the shaded area e.g tables, chairs
- Plan shade areas that can attract multipurpose usage



Find Out More

[Link to checklist](#)

[Link to shade handbook](#)

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Case Study 3

Coledale Waves Junior Soccer Club

Coledale Waves is a growing community soccer club located in the Illawarra on the NSW South Coast. The club has approximately 200 junior soccer players, 150 youth and 100 senior players.

The Challenge

Coledale Waves soccer fields are located on an extremely exposed, often windy coastal site with almost no existing natural or built shade.

The club recognises the importance of sun safety and provides free sunscreen for players, referees and spectators.

The need to provide shade for spectators and players emerged as a priority for the club.

The Solution

“We have contractable shade sails which means if the winds pick up, we can just contract them in”

Stuart Gibson – Project Manager
Coledale Waves

Retractable shade cloth was selected for high wind conditions of the site. Two portable shade gazebos were also purchased.

Extensive planting of trees and shrubs was planned but not approved by the local council.

The total budget for both types of shade structures for this site was between \$25,000 and \$35,000.

Retractable Shade Panels:

The three retractable shades are attached to the northern side of an existing canteen building - the hub and main thoroughfare of the site. The shade structure has the following features;

- A total span of 16 metres by 3 metres
- A simple, manual wind out tool to extend the shade cloth
- Shade cloth material that blocks 100% of the sun's UV radiation
- Provides a pleasant space, on sunny days – up to 7°C cooler
- Side protection from the adjacent canteen building
- Provides shade for users across high risk UV periods (10am-2pm)



Case Study 3 | Coledale Waves Junior Soccer Club

Pop Up Gazebos:

The two pop up gazebos are used at the side of the playing fields and have the following features;

- Are 3 metres by 3 metres
- Material with an Ultraviolet Protection Factor (UPF) of 50+ that blocks 98% of UV radiation
- Compact for easy transport and storage
- 24kg weights to stabilize structure
- Are used over grass reducing UV reflection from the ground

The Results

The retractable shades are used by players, spectators and referees across Autumn and Winter. Crowds gather under the shade for the canteen and to meet/watch soccer matches.

The club intends to place more seating under the shades to encourage greater use.

The pop up gazebos are used at the side of fields where players wait for games or take breaks from play.

“I think you need to liaise with the council. Communicate with the council what you’re planning to do.”

Stuart Gibson – Project Manager
Coledale Waves

Lessons Learnt

- Ask council for shade building requirements ‘upfront’
- Receive quotes from a number of suitable shades contractors. As if one contractor withdraws other contractor options are readily available.

Hot Tips

- Consult your local council early, approval processes can be lengthy
- Check local council requirements for planting natural shade
- Incorporate shade assembly, pack up and storage into existing procedures
- Sun protection is important throughout the year; in winter UV levels can still reach 3 or above
- Consider funding for seating to increase use



Find Out More

[Link to checklist](#)

[Link to shade handbook](#)

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Case Study 4

Collaroy Beach Playground

Collaroy beach playground was recently upgraded to an all-inclusive play area featuring an extensive range of playground equipment. Picnic settings have been included throughout the playground site, enabling parents and carers to sit near the equipment. The playground is visited by children aged 0-12 years and their carers who often spend extended periods of time when visiting the park due to the range of activities.

The Challenge

Planning of the upgrade to Collaroy Beach Park playground involved consideration of how to provide effective shade across the vast site.

The shade design was influenced by; budget, impact on neighbour's view and key areas that attract prolonged use such as swings.

“It is sections of shade like panels, so if one is damaged you don't have to replace the whole shade structure you only have to replace a panel.”

Lia Skoutzos – Asset Management Officer
Warringah Council

The Solution

A landscape architect designed 9 shade sails to cover key pieces of playground equipment. The structures were created by Warringah Council with the following attributes:

- Designed using shade maps to predict shade at different times
- Fire retardant sail material
- Stainless steel poles and fittings to prevent corrosion
- Surrounded by Norfolk pine trees that offer side protection
- In autumn at 12noon directly underneath the structure 50% is shaded with further shade extending beyond the structure
- Provides good thermal comfort; at 12 noon temperatures underneath the structure can be 6°C cooler

The Results

At midday, when UV ratings are generally highest, the shade cover over key pieces of equipment is most effective. The playground attracts a large number of children and carers in the middle of the day and the shade benefits visitors to the park.



Case Study 4 | Collaroy Beach Playground

Lessons Learnt

“Some residents and users were consulted and had quite a bit of influence in the outcome of the design. So we had to try and come up with a balanced design that considered everyone’s needs.”

Lia Skoutzos – Asset Management Officer
Warringah Council

- Use experts such as architects and construction project managers to plan the shade project
- Consult with shade users and the broader community to develop the most appropriate shade for your site

Hot Tips

- Undertake shade mapping to track the sun across your site. This can help design shade that provides the best protection from the sun
- Separate sail panels can be cost effective for maintenance i.e. if damage occurs only one section needs to be replaced
- Dark coloured shade sails look cleaner over the long term than light coloured sail materials (and offer better UV protection)
- Consider side protection such as trees to increase the amount of shade provided at different angles of the sun



Find Out More

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Case Study 5

Surfing NSW, Schools Regional Titles

Surfing NSW is the largest recognised state body for surfing. Surfing NSW and its 9 regional associations manage surfing events and board riding clubs along the NSW coast and deliver coaching and educational programs.

The Challenge

“Our events run all day. And there’s a lot of them, there’s about, 150 days a year we’re on the beach, running events and the tents might be used 8 hours a day.”

Luke Madden – Event Manager
Surfing NSW

Surfing NSW recognised the significant need for effective portable shade for surfers, judges and the public at surfing events at exposed beach locations. With many events throughout each region portable shade was needed that was robust, yet easy to transport and assemble.

“Whenever we have a tent, whether it be for weather and obviously sun as well, you get sides and as well as the tent roof.”

Luke Madden – Event Manager
Surfing NSW

The Solution

Surfing NSW purchased 10 portable tents, providing one to each regional association for use at their events.

The 10 shade tents were purchased at a total cost of between \$45,000 and \$55,000 including training and administration.

The tents have the following features;

- Are 3 metres wide by 3 metres long and 2 metres high
- Black polyethylene material with an Ultraviolet Protection Factor (UPF) of 50+, blocking 98% of the sun’s UV radiation
- Have 3 attachable sides for protection from the sun at different angles and times of the day
- Are waterproof and flame retardant
- Have sand bags to stabilise the structure
- Provide a large area of shade during peak UV times (10am-2pm)
- Provide a cooler space, on sunny days – up to 4°C cooler



Case Study 5 | Surfing NSW, Schools Regional Titles

The Results

“It would be a mix of staff as well as some of those regions would just have all the kids. It’s a bit more relaxed so they could just sit around and share the judging time as well, so the public could also sit under those tents.”

Luke Madden – Event Manager
Surfing NSW

The portable shelters are used for Surfing NSW events, 150 days of the year from 7:30am to 4:30pm by:

- Surfing NSW judges and volunteers
- Public spectators
- Competitors

Typically up to ten people are using the shade structures at any given time.

Portable tables and chairs are placed under the shade to encourage use. An added benefit has also been their use in rainy weather due to waterproof material.

Each Surfing NSW regional body was provided with training about storage, transport and correct use of structures.

“So they will go towards providing competitor shade, public shade and staffing shade.”

Luke Madden – Event Manager
Surfing NSW

Lessons Learnt

- Thorough planning ensured the shade project went smoothly
- Regional associations were consulted throughout the project to ensure future stakeholder use.
- A supplier was sourced before funding approved to ensure that the funding level was adequate.

Hot Tips

“We educate the regional, regions, key personnel to say if you want to keep these tents a long time, you’ve got to do XY and Z.”

Luke Madden – Event Manager
Surfing NSW

- During quoting check that shade suppliers provide:
- Warranty details
- UPF of the material- Cancer Council recommends a UPF of 15+
- Consider the thermal comfort of the structure; darker coloured material tends to be warmer
- Ensure sides are used to increase the amount of quality shade
- Consider transport of the structure
- Make people aware that the shade is available for all
- Locate structures close to the main event



Find Out More

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Case Study 6

Nundle Pool, Tamworth City Council

Nundle is located an hour South East of Tamworth with a population of 300 people. The 25 metre Nundle swimming pool is located in the centre of town opposite the primary school and is a popular attraction for both locals and visitors.

The Challenge

Nundle pool opens from September to April annually with temperatures and UV ratings frequently high.

Tamworth Regional Council recently removed an existing tree due to a safety risk, from the pool area limiting the available shade.

Council identified a need to provide a shade structure for school students, the general public, and local swimming carnivals.

The Solution

“The majority of the use would be public use but the swimming club are now also using it as their marshalling area.”

Tony Taylor – Supervisor
Nundle Swimming Pool

Two permanent shade cloth structures were chosen for this pool location. The two structures were built for a cost of between \$15,000 and \$25,000 and have the following features;

- Measure 9 metres by 5 metres (main large structure) and 5 metres by 4 metres (smaller structure)
- Thick canvas material that blocks 97% of the sun's UV radiation
- Offer good thermal comfort - it is up to 8 degrees cooler under the structures on a sunny day
- Covers existing tables and chairs under the main structure with plans to purchase more in the future
- Good coverage over tables and chairs in the middle of the day with shade moving to grass areas in the afternoon
- Offer some side protection from existing trees (large structure)



Case Study 6 | Nundle Pool, Tamworth City Council

The Results

According to Tamworth City Council about 6,000 people visit Nundle pool annually with the majority of visitors using the new shade areas.

Approximately 50 people can use the structures at any time with up to 150 people utilising the shade on any day.

The swimming club has taken advantage of the shade structures using them as a marshalling area for participating kids as well as a spectating area for parents. The structures are also well used and appreciated by visiting school groups for swimming carnivals.

“On a busy day I might get about 150 people come to the pool, and the majority of people that have walked in the gates since the structures have been up have all started walking up and sitting up on the grass where the shade areas are now.”

Tony Taylor – Supervisor
Nundle Swimming Pool

Lessons Learnt

- Working within a large council enabled engagement of an experienced project management team
- There is a need to be flexible with timelines as weather conditions may slow construction

Hot Tips

- It is important for young people in smaller communities to have access to effective shade. Explore available grant and funding schemes to help create shade for your community
- When planning a shade structure, it is important to check position of underground wires and water pipes as this can impact on the size, location or design of your shade



Find Out More

[Link to checklist](#)

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Case Study 7

Sydney Technical High School, Bexley

Sydney Technical High is a selective public boys' school with approximately 900 students located in the Southern Sydney suburb of Bexley.

The Challenge

The school recognised the need to provide effective shade on the school grounds and was keen to promote sun protection amongst the students.

The school site has a large exposed quadrangle area that is heavily used at break times and for students and staff when moving between buildings. After conducting a SunSmart shade audit one section of the quadrangle was identified as a priority due to its position, potential usage and large amount of sun exposure.

“It was quite important for the school. I really wanted to get the ball rolling about protecting the students [from the sun] to get the message out there.”

Arthur Zigas – Careers Adviser
Sydney Technical High School

The Solution

“The feedback that I’ve received from the teachers who do duty at the quad, is that there is a lot more shade than they anticipated.”

Arthur Zigas – Careers Adviser
Sydney Technical High School

A permanent shade cloth structure was built at this location for a total budget of between \$25,000 and \$30,000.

The shade structure:

- Measures 10 metres wide and 12 metres long, with a hipped roof
- Is located close to two buildings on the northern and southern sides providing seasonal side protection
- Provides pleasant space with excellent thermal comfort – up to 10 degrees cooler on sunny days
- Provides a large area of shade over peak UV periods of the day. Between 90% and 100% of the area is shaded over lunch and recess
- Features galvanised steel posts with custom padding for safety
- Has a portable picnic table and chairs that can be moved to remain in the shade throughout the day



Case Study 7 | Sydney Technical High School, Bexley

The Results

Provides a large area of shade over peak UV periods of the day. Between 90% and 100% of the area is shaded over lunch and recess

Provides pleasant space with excellent thermal comfort – up to 10 degrees cooler on sunny days

At recess and lunchtime the area is used by students to play handball or eat lunch/recess

The addition of a portable picnic table allows students to sit comfortably in the area and will encourage use as an outdoor learning space

Lessons Learnt

- Contact the DoE Assets Management Unit during planning; construction must allow for maintenance of existing buildings
- Ensure all costs are included in the original quote

Hot Tips

“Government schools should get in contact with their local asset management unit to get some feedback on or ideas on how the structure would work”

Arthur Zigas – Careers Adviser
Sydney Technical High School

- Consult widely with your school community when planning your structure to ensure support and interest
- Consider additional costs such as post safety pads, maintenance of shade material
- Try to build during holiday periods to minimise health and safety issues and disruption for your school
- Ensure your shade roofing material meets the Cancer Council’s recommendations



Find Out More

[Link to checklist](#)

[Link to shade handbook](#)

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[Link to funding applications](#)

Case Study 8

Maitland Christian College, Metford

Maitland Christian School is an independent Christian School with approximately 800 students from Prep to Year 12. The school is located in the Hunter region about 30 minutes from Newcastle.

The Challenge

A SunSmart Shade Audit identified a large exposed concrete amphitheatre with seating as the priority for shade due to high usage during peak UV times.

It was important for the school to create an appealing shade space to encourage use of the area and create a 'special space' for staff and students.

“The people who constructed it actually did shade maps of it throughout the year so we could see where the shade would actually be falling”

Vivienne Hughes – Community Relations Officer
Maitland Christian College

The Solution

“It has been a team effort the business manager’s poured over the contract for us and the property manager knows all about building structures and DA. I was involved in the submission and the marketing side of things”

Vivienne Hughes – Community Relations Officer
Maitland Christian College

The school project team, including the principal, property manager, business manager and the community relations officer (in consultation with their supplier) created a cantilever shade sail design. This shade was built for a total cost of between \$25,000 to \$30,000. The shade structure has the following features;

- Has a trapezoid shape with a sail of approximately 45m²
- Was designed using shade maps to track the angle of the sun on the site to maximise the shade provided by the structure
- Benefits from additional side protection from the sun from a surrounding building
- Provides a large area of quality shade under the structure. During summer 85% – 100% of the area under the structure is shaded across the peak UV period (10am- 2pm)



Case Study 8 | Maitland Christian College, Metford

The Results

“People are loving not only the shade and the protection that it gives them but the colour that it’s adding to the playground”

Vivienne Hughes – Community Relations Officer
Maitland Christian College

Students use the shade area before school and at lunchtime and recess to sit and play handball. Supervising staff also use the shade area during lunchtime and recess. The area is also used for music concerts and meetings/assemblies shading 30 students sitting on the seats and more standing or sitting on the ground.

Lessons Learnt

“So it hasn’t just built us a shade structure. It’s helped us to change our sun safe attitude, I mean as a school. The uniform policy has changed as a result of this because this gave us the impetus to say that has to change”

Vivienne Hughes – Community Relations Officer
Maitland Christian College

- When building near property boundaries Council approval is necessary and can be lengthy
- Using a contractor that understands suns angles and provides shade maps assists to construct an effective structure
- Constructing shade can prompt the school to encourage further sun protection by introducing compulsory hats for high school students

Hot Tips

- Gather a project team with different, relevant expertise to manage your shade project. Members with building or property experience can be particularly helpful.
- Check for required council approvals
- Check for underground cables or overhead services when planning a shade structure
- Find a shade contractor that is available to work during school holidays if this is essential for your site



Find Out More

[Link to checklist](#)

[Link to shade handbook](#)

[Link to audit tool](#)

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Case Study 9

Lumen Christi Catholic College, Pambula

Lumen Christi Catholic College is a co-educational Catholic school with approximately 500 students from Kindergarten to Year 12. It is situated in Pambula on the far South Coast of New South Wales.

The Challenge

The school site featured an amphitheatre area that was rarely used due to high sun exposure.

It was recognised that with effective shade this area could be used as an outdoor classroom/study area; for meetings and social events.

The Solution

“We were really pleased that it shades the whole area in the middle of the day. We’re really happy with the manufacturer.”

Pauline Armstrong – Business Manager
Lumen Christi College

A permanent, waterproof shade sail was chosen for this location and was constructed with a budget between \$10,000 and \$15,000.

The structure:

- Is pentagonal covering a total area of 40m²
- Has a canvas sail material with a UPF rating of 10
- Has the benefit of side protection from surrounding buildings
- Is waterproof, repelling both rain and dew
- Provides good thermal comfort, up to 5°C cooler in the shade



Case Study 9 | Lumen Christi Catholic College, Pambula

The Results

“Not only is it providing shade but it’s keeping the dew off. So it’s making that area much more able to be used regularly.”

Pauline Armstrong – Business Manager
Lumen Christi College

Students and teaching staff use the area for outdoor lessons/study area, meetings, concerts/presentations and social events.

A class of up to 30 students can often be found under the shade area across different times of the day.

The amphitheatre can seat up to 100 students and provide protection for the majority of them throughout peak UV periods.

“The fact that it’s being used so much is more than was expected”

Pauline Armstrong – Business Manager
Lumen Christi College

Lessons Learnt

- Experience in other school building projects assisted in finding a qualified team to plan, organise and complete the shade project
- Waterproof material assists to provide a comfortable area, keeping the rain and dew off the concrete seating

Hot Tips

“Because it’s such a beautiful space now that we can extend, open up downstairs and use that space, Make it an integral part of the college.”

Pauline Armstrong – Business Manager
Lumen Christi College

- During quoting check the UPF of the material; Cancer Council recommends a UPF of 15+
- Consider incorporating side protection such as shrubs or material into the design to protect the area at different times of the day



Find Out More

[Link to checklist](#)

[Link to shade handbook](#)

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Case Study 10

Taree Old Bar Surf Lifesaving Club

Located in Old Bar, on the Mid North Coast of New South Wales, the Taree Old Bar Surf Life Saving Club has approximately 110 members including junior ‘nippers’ and volunteer members. The club operates from October to April and is located on an exposed beach with minimal natural and built shade.

The Challenge

“Our main focus on the beach was sun safety this season.”

Ryan Rosenbaum – Director of Lifesaving
Mid North Coast

The club needed high quality portable shade for life savers and nippers. Their existing portable shade structures could not withstand the often windy beach conditions.

The Solution

“Firstly determining the needs of the club. Then identifying an appropriate shelter or structure that would best suit our needs”

Ryan Rosenbaum – Director of Lifesaving
Mid North Coast

It was important that structures were lightweight, portable, easy to set up and robust. The club selected portable shade gazebos so they could be used on the beach for lifesavers and nippers activities as well as on grass areas for carnivals and special events.

The two gazebos (which cost less than \$5,000):

- Are 6m x 3m each and can be joined
- Have zip on sides to increase the amount of shade provided at different times of the day
- Provide good thermal comfort and ultraviolet protection factor (UPF) of 50+ (a UPF of 15+ is recommended to provide adequate protection)
- Are secured using sand screws for beach use and weights for use on grass



Case Study 10 | Taree Old Bar Surf Lifesaving Club

The Results

“There’s always people under it, whether it’s the patrolling members or parents or nippers.”

Ryan Rosenbaum – Director of Lifesaving
Mid North Coast

- Lifesavers and nippers are protected from the sun
- Up to 8 lifesavers at a time are provided with shade across the entire surf patrol day (9am-5pm) including peak UV times
- Nippers and their parents/supervisors use the shade during nipper’s activities and breaks between activities

Lessons Learnt

- New shade prompted sun safety education for juniors and reminded all members of the importance of sun protection
- Training members on transport and set-up of tents will increase the safety of members and tents

Hot Tips

“We educated the members on how to transport and then put up the shade shelter. If anyone else was to take a project on, training to put up those shelters would be a must.”

Ryan Rosenbaum – Director of Lifesaving
Mid North Coast

Before buying portable shade structures consider whether you have the capacity to store, transport, and construct them easily.

Ask the following questions:

1. How heavy are they?
2. How many people are needed to put them up and take them down?
3. Is there room to store them securely?
4. Do they fit in existing vehicles for transport if needed?

- Educate users about the correct setup, transport and storage
- Use zip on sides to provide effective sun protection throughout the day



Find Out More

[Link to checklist](#)

[Link to audit tool](#)

[Link to shade handbook](#)

[Link to funding applications](#)



Australian Technology Park
Level 9, 8 Central Avenue,
Eveleigh NSW 2015

PO Box 41
Alexandria NSW 1435

Tel: +61 2 8374 5600
Fax: +61 2 8374 3600

Email: information@cancerinstitute.org.au

www.cancerinstitute.org.au