This project is the development of a sculpture trail in and around the Sawtell Public School community garden, with both an educational and a creative focus for the wider community.

The Sawtell Public School garden is about growing good food and teaching children about gardening. It also teaches about, contributes to, and signifies many other aspects of life. This sculpture trail intends to create a visual interpretation of some of those aspects.

There are going to be 7 sculptural elements, including some 2-dimensional (e.g. mosaics, stepping stones) and 3-dimensional pieces. The concept of seven sculptures correlates with seven years (Kindergarten to Year 6) in the school.

**Sculpture concepts:**

*Sculpture 1: Natural energy*
- Natural energy in - from the sun, earth and water (e.g. sun, water, nutrients, photosynthesis)
- Natural energy back out - good health fresh natural fibrous food for vitality = people with energy

*Sculpture 2: Connections*
- Connection to country
- Connection to nature
- Connection to food production
- Connection to the past and the future
- Connection to community and school
- Connection to family and friends
- Connection to oneself

*Sculpture 3: Hard-work rewards*
- Hard-work is rewarding
- Many hands make the work lighter
- Gardening pays dividends in good vegetables, fruit, herbs and spices

*Sculpture 4: Organic principles*
- Organic and biodynamic – healthy soil, natural fertility, lots of composters and aerator bugs; natural replenishment and production

*Sculpture 5: Healthy environment:*
- Bio-diverse
- Healthy as: water, land, soil, plants, air
- Ecologically sustainable (reduce, re-use, recycle, locally grown)

*Sculpture 6: Nurturing & growth*
- Cycle of life and change, nurturing and growth

*Sculpture 7: Creativity and fun*
- Creativity, laughter, fun, enjoyment, relaxation
- ‘Creativity is intelligence having fun’ Albert Einstein
Sculpture design elements and preliminary designs

**Sculpture: Natural energy**
This will be a mosaic (on a brick wall) depicting the Sawtell PS logo – a breaking wave – which signifies energy, with other mosaic elements around it also signifying energy (energy in and energy out)

![Sculpture: Natural energy](image)

**Sculpture: Connections**
This sculptural element will physically ‘connect’ the other sculptural elements in the trail through a stepping stone pathway (with each ‘stone’ representing 1 of the 7 concepts in the trail - using oxide coloured cement and symbols designed by the Sawtell Students) and 7 timber features (each painted and routed to represent 1 of the 7 concepts) that bolt onto posts along the walkway between the school hall and the garden.

![Sculpture: Connections](image)
**Sculpture: Hard-work rewards**
This will be a tripod structure from 3 saplings or branches of fallen down trees (or driftwood) - made to resemble gardening tools at the base which morph into branches of a tree with ceramic ‘fruit’ growing from them. The hard work represented by the ‘tools’ is rewarded by the outcomes - represented by the ‘fruit’

![Sculpture: Hard-work rewards](image)

**Sculpture: Organic principles**
This will be an adobe-cement sculpture depicting an earthworm as an ‘indicator’ of healthy organic processes happening in a garden

![Sculpture: Organic principles](image)

**Sculpture: Healthy environment:**
This sculpture will include three linked carved posts, each representing different aspects of the environment

![Sculpture: Healthy environment](image)
**Sculpture: Nurture and growth**
This timber and steel sculpture will represent /symbolise a fern with the tip unravelling – signifying growth.

![Sculpture: Nurture and growth](image1)

**Sculpture: Creativity and fun**
This will build-on, re-vamp and put more fun into the existing ‘gateway’ to the garden path

![Sculpture: Creativity and fun](image2)
Rough time-frames and approach

9 weeks in Term 1: 3 sculptures running consecutively

‘Energy’ - mosaic. Term 1. Request ceramics (tiles etc.) at start of year. Commence mosaic once renovation work is complete on the toilet block (as this will be on the outside western wall). Paint on design. Get different classes to come and put bits on. Parents mosaic working bee to complete.

‘Connection’ – path and posts. Term 1 (finish T2 if necessary). Get students to design elements for the 7 connections, inc. colours for the timber post frames. Make the 7 frames and router the words. Get various student groups to paint on designs. Connect to posts. Digger to dig in path and get small wall removed. Fill path with woodchips + start to construct ‘stepping stones’. All students to participate in design and painting process.

‘Hardwork rewards’ – timber & ceramic sculpture. Term 1. Focus art group (~ 8 students. Do the ceramics for the sculpture (fire at Toormina H.S.) + construct sculpture

‘Organic principles’ – steel frame and mesh with cement render. Commence Term 1 if possible – at least framework. Render on one day before end of term if possible - either small group of students (~4) and/or a parent working group.

About 5 effective weeks in Term 2 for sculpture

‘Health Environment’ Timber sculpture. Two groups of 4 or 5 students. One group working on Recycling element, one group on biodiversity element (3rd element on healthy water / air/ earth already underway - HM). Parent group to fix sculpture (cement base)

Term 3. About 9 weeks effectively

‘Nurturing and Growth’. Term 3. Finish by late October T4

‘Creativity and Fun’. Term 3. Finish by late October T4. Lots of students in small groups doing different components (painting, mobiles, spiders etc.) + parents help with base construction.

Interpretive signage. Organise towards the end of the project once sculptures are mostly complete and it is clear how many $ remain from funding.
Proposed general placement

1 = ‘Energy’ mosaic
7 = “Fun gateway’
4 = ‘Organic earthworm’
5 = ‘Healthy environment’
3 = Hardwork rewards
2 = ‘Connections (+ includes pathway with stepping stones in the garden)
6 = ‘Growth’