Circular Case Study

Phillip Island Community and Learning Centre

Long before the circular economy was mainstream, the Phillip Island Community and Learning Centre (PICAL) has been a quiet pioneer in circularity, fostering community resilience through resource recovery and social impact. Now, PICAL is amplifying its impact, transforming its long-standing practices into a cohesive, interconnected ecosystem of circular economy activities for social good.

PICAL has several programs circulating materials for social good, including redistributing surplus food, upcycling wasted textiles, and cultivating local networks. Culture and skills for sustainable materials practice are fostered through education and hands-on experience.

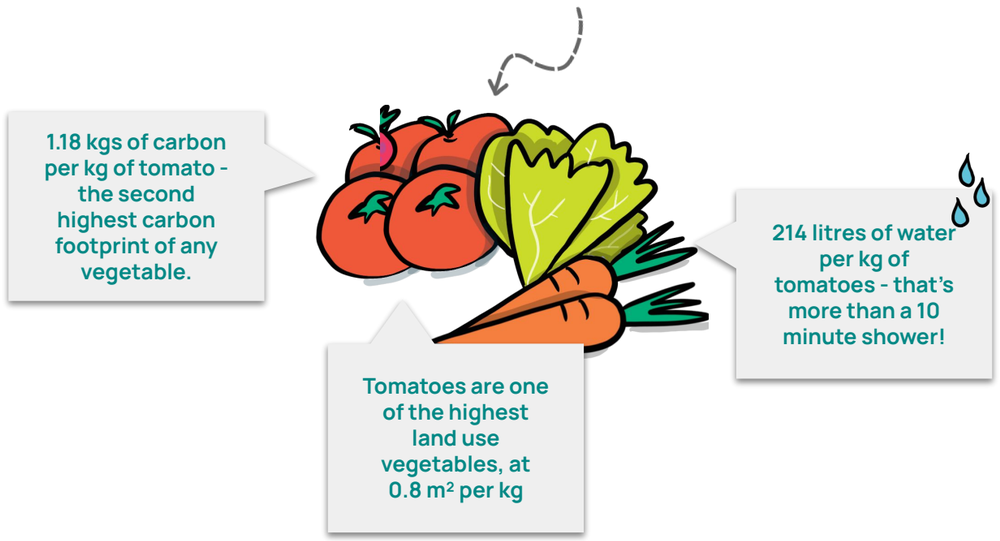
RESCUING SURPLUS FOOD

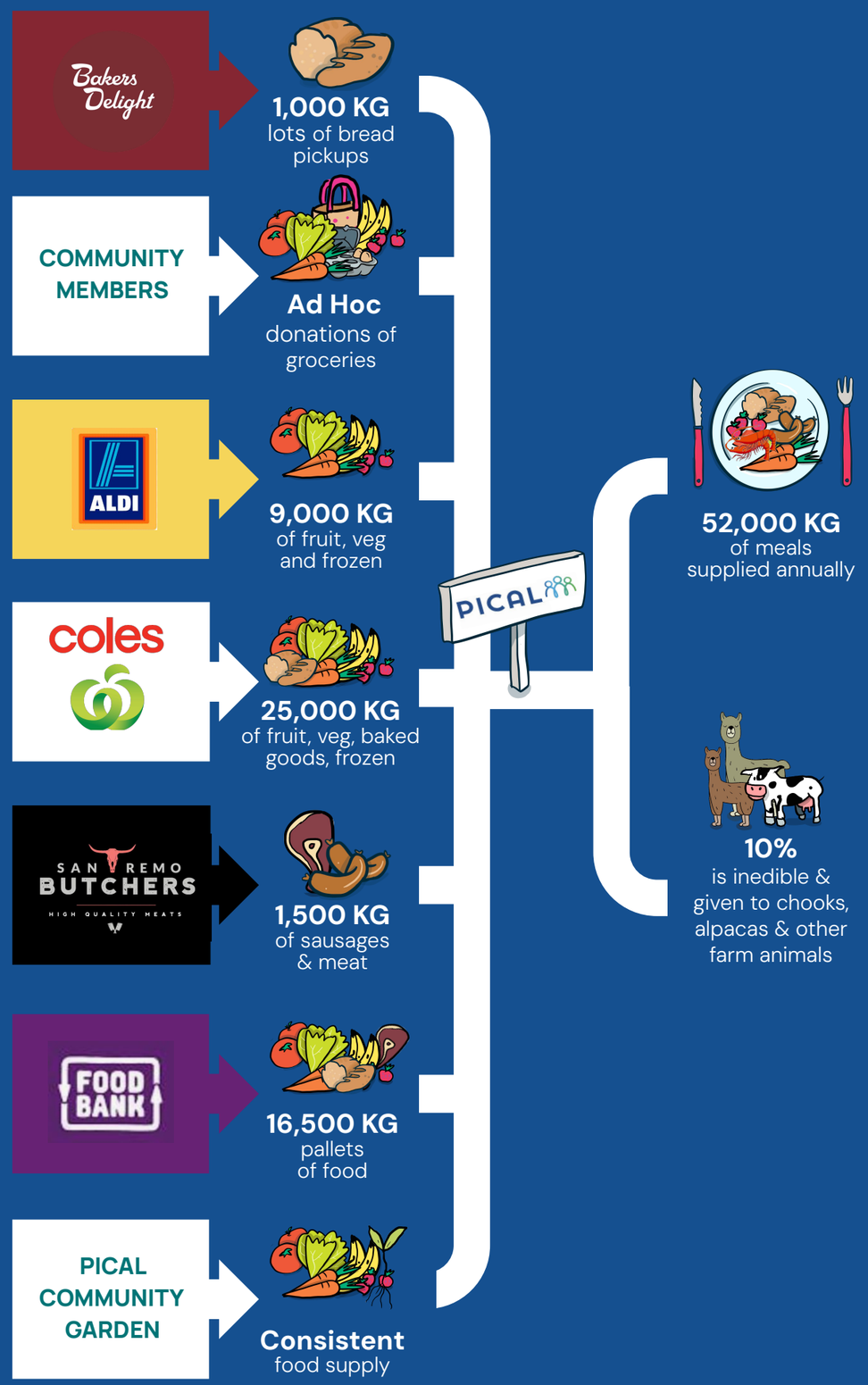
One of PICAL's key circular economy programs is a food rescue initiative- PICAL's volunteers ensure no food is wasted.

Each week, the team picks up approximately 225 kgs of surplus food from local supermarkets, community members, and the Food Bank, totaling approximately 54.1 tonnes annually. This food is either prepped into meals for redistribution to the community, reaching up to 50 individuals daily, or given to the farm animals for a good feed. PICAL distributes 200 meals a week, providing four days' worth of nutritious meals for local households.

Not only is this providing tons of social value to local community members increasingly affected by a cost of living crisis, it is also creating a positive environmental impact. By diverting surplus food, PICAL helps to avoid 67.2 tonnes of emissions from food waste in landfill annually, not to mention mitigating the impacts of food production...

Did you know what it takes to produce a tomato?!





CULTIVATING LOCAL CIRCULAR CULTURE

Beyond its projects in physical resource circulation, PICAL also empowers the Phillip Island community to embrace sustainable practices through repair culture, local food production, and resource recovery. Their **Fixit Centre** reduces waste by teaching practical repair skills through programs like **Girls on Tools**, while the **community garden** provides fresh, organic produce while teaching valuable skills for community resilience. Other educational offerings to empower communities include job-ready courses, digital skills, community living & interaction, & support workshops.

COMMUNITY GARDEN

PICAL's community garden is a vibrant and inclusive space that provides fresh produce for the PICAL food pantry and serves as a resource for local residents.

Key features of the garden include accessible garden beds, a main storage shed, a relocated shed for workshops, water tanks, and an accessible toilet and parking.

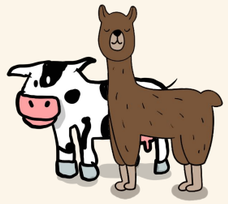
Managed by a dedicated team of volunteers from the PICAL Gardening Club, the community garden continues to play an integral role in supporting the local community, offering a place for people to learn, grow, and contribute.

PICAL's Girls on Tools program is a great initiative getting the community involved in a local circular economy!





COMMUNITY GARDEN GROWS PRODUCE AND EDUCATES COMMUNITY



UNUSABLE FOOD GIVEN TO FARM ANIMALS



MEALS PREPPED AND REDISTRIBUTED TO COMMUNITY

PICAL CIRCULAR ECOSYSTEM



COMMUNITY SKILLS DEVELOPMENT INCLUDING JOB-READY COURSES, DIGITAL SKILLS, COMMUNITY LIVING & INTERACTION, AND SUPPORT WORKSHOPS



FOOD COLLECTION FROM LOCAL GROCERY STORES AND SHOPS

TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT OUR CIRCULAR PRACTICES CONTACT DAVID AT
MANAGER@PICAL.ORG.AU

Coreo BASS COAST