

MEDIA RELEASE

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Students plan for the future

High School Agriculture and Geography students from across southern Queensland will take up the challenge to design a working property management plan for a commercial farm, as part of the annual Property Planning program offered by the Queensland Murray-Darling Committee (QMDC).

This year the Property Planning day will be held on Trevor and Lois Martin's property, "Marrakai", outside Goondiwindi, on Wednesday, August 20.

Program coordinator, Renee Fletcher, said that the Property Planning program would take students through the steps involved in developing a property management plan, including consideration of the natural resources, goals and limitations of the property.

Renee said that there had been an excellent response from schools so far. "The program has been very successful in past years, and 2008 will be no exception," she said.

Peter Collett, Agriculture teacher at Scots PGC Warwick and 2007 Property Planning participant, said that the success of the day lay behind the hands-on, practical nature of the program. "The students have access to industry experts, and are able to grasp the concepts taught through the use of real world examples," he said.

"The program caters for all students and learning styles, and we are looking forward to participating again this year." The students will also use digital mapping technology in the project.

The students will be assessing and monitoring riverine environments, soil health, weed management and biodiversity values. Megan Purvis, QMDC Riverine Technical Officer, said that the program would be a great opportunity for students to develop their abilities in Natural Resource Management.

"The skills gained by the students in property planning are a vital part of property management, and help to address natural resource issues at a property and catchment scale," she said.

For more information, please contact Renee Fletcher from QMDC on (07) 4637 6270.

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Images



Scots PGC students at last year's Property Planning field day, north of Roma.



QMDC's Kate Reilly shows St George High School Students Todd McCosker and Kirk Willis how to measure water quality, with parent Phillip McCosker looking on.

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