

# MEDIA RELEASE

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## Kindon kids discover the fun of landcare

Students from Kindon State School, between Goondiwindi and Milmerran, have been very busy over the last few months learning about the natural habitat in and around their school grounds.

With the help of principal Jonathon Druce and school groundsman Alan Walsh, the fifteen students have been building homes for an array of animals in their school yard, including frogs, birds, lizards and worms.

Mr Druce said that the students have learnt about the habitat that exists in their school grounds. "They now understand features of the natural environment, and the ways in which their actions can preserve the environment for the future", he said

"It is important that students acquire this information and are able to link it to something they can relate to", said Mr Druce. "That is why we decided to focus on the habitat found in our own back yard".

All this knowledge will be put on show when the students take part in the annual Discovering Landcare Forum in Goondiwindi on 19 and 20 August. Students from years four to seven will participate in the two day event along with over 250 other students from around the region.

Mr Druce said that he is looking forward to the students participating in the Forum. "Not only will they have an opportunity to demonstrate what they have learnt about the environment, they will also have a chance to mix with students from other schools," he said.

Pip Bagshaw, from the Queensland Murray-Darling Committee (QMDC), who is organising the Forum, said that the purpose of bringing such an event to regional centres was to provide small schools, like Kindon, with opportunities usually only available in more metropolitan areas. "Bringing this event to Goondiwindi means that smaller schools can access great speakers, fun activities, and new information that they otherwise don't get the chance to receive," she said.

"Educational experiences such as these are vital in reaching young people, especially in rural areas," she said.

"It is also an excellent way of increasing their knowledge and understanding of the roles science and the environment play in rural communities through the use of 'real-life' examples," said Pip.

The Discovering Landcare Forum will give schools the opportunity to showcase environmental projects undertaken by their students. Students will also participate in various interactive and fun, science-based workshops and presentations throughout the two days, including presentations from QMDC, the CSIRO, the Queensland Museum, and the Department of Natural Resources and Water.

The Discovering Landcare Forum is part of QMDC's Learning Through Landcare program, and is supported by the Australian Government, as part of National Science Week, and the Queensland Government Q150 celebrations.

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### Media contact/s

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Kindon S.S students have built a lizard home in their school yard.



Students hope the frog pond will attract more wildlife to their school yard.



The bird box

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