

MEDIA RELEASE

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Gearing up to Discover Landcare

The Goondiwindi community is gearing up for the annual Discovering Landcare Forum, which is being held on 19 and 20 August, at the Cultural Centre.

Students from across the region, community members, and a number of dignitaries will be participating in the two-day event, hosted by the Queensland Murray-Darling Committee (QMDC), which will include hands-on workshops, displays, interactive presentations and inspirational speakers.

Over 250 students will be attending the Forum, getting stuck into activities with people from the Euraba Paper Mill, Department of Natural Resources and Water, CSIRO, the Cotton Catchment and Communities CRC, the Queensland Museum, New England TAFE, local agricultural consultants, the Australian Cotton Exhibition Centre, Waggamba Landcare, and the Murray Darling Basin Commission.

QMDC staff member and event organiser, Pip Bagshaw, said that the day would promote the cultural, social and environmental importance of managing our natural resources, and the science that underpins many elements of rural and agricultural life.

“The theme for the Forum is ‘Science to the Rescue’, and we’re keen to show both students and the community the importance of science in innovation in the past, present and future of our rural communities,” said Pip.

Pip also said that QMDC would deliver free teacher professional development sessions on 19 August to “equip teachers with some useful tools to support their teaching of sustainability topics.”

The event won’t just be for schools, though, with community members invited to attend the Discovering Landcare Community Dinner at 6pm, 19 August, at the Cultural Centre.

“People attending the dinner will hear from Her Excellency, Penelope Wensley, AO, Governor of Queensland,” said Pip.

“The other key speakers will include Carol Neal, Manager of Forest Management Services, Queensland, Theresa Kunde, from Queensland Partners in Grain, and local landholder, John Coggan.”

Tickets cost \$25, and include a buffet dinner. A bar will be available during the night.

That evening will also include an outdoor session for children and families, with the UQ Science Troop, starting at 5.45pm. Participation is by gold coin donation, and a barbeque dinner will be provided.

The Forum, now in its fourth year, has been supported by the Australian Government through National Science Week, the Queensland Government's Q150 grants and FRRR. A number of local businesses have also offered their support, including Farmgate Butchery and Providore, Baitsy's Bread, the Co-op, and Tait Toyota.

For more information about any of the activities happening during the Forum, please call Pip Bagshaw on 07 4671 7900, or Renee Fletcher on 07 4637 6270.

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Students participating at the 2007 Discovering Landcare Forum, in Roma