

# MEDIA RELEASE

---

21 August 2008



## Kids discover fun at the forum

Over 300 students from across southern Queensland converged on the Goondiwindi Cultural Centre last week for the annual Discovering Landcare Forum, organised by the Queensland Murray-Darling Committee (QMDC).

Local students were joined by students from as far a field as Crows Nest, Mitchell and Warwick, and were involved in an array of exciting, hands-on activities based around the themes of science and sustainability.

Philippa Sly, from Yelarbon State School, said that she felt the forum was a great way for the students to learn, and provided fantastic opportunities to meet new people and see new things. "The variety of activities was fantastic, and all the presenters were able to connect science to real life situations that our students were able to relate to, which was very valuable," she said.

Forum organiser, Renee Fletcher, from QMDC, said that she was very happy with the event, and that she hoped the students all learned something about science and sustainability from the activities. "It was great to see the passion and enthusiasm students show for improving our environmental sustainability," she said. "And it was very rewarding for QMDC that we were able to reach the smaller, more remote schools, and give them opportunities that often only exist in larger, metropolitan areas."

High school students were also involved in a property planning field day at a local property outside Goondiwindi, where they participated in a range of activities related to real-life property management. Agriculture students travelled from Stanthorpe, St. George, and Warwick to participate in the field day.

Community members didn't miss out, either. A community dinner was held on the Tuesday evening, where 75 community members and special guests heard presentations from inspiring speakers, including Her Excellency Ms Penelope Wensley, AO, Governor of Queensland, and local farmer, John Coggan.

"While the dinner was being held, around 140 children and families were entertained by Dr. Joel Gilmour from the University of Queensland Physics Troupe, where they saw some amazing science experiments, featuring mini explosions and fire tornados," said Renee.

The two day event, themed "Science to the Rescue", was the fourth Discovering Landcare Forum hosted by QMDC in the region.

Renee said that she wanted to thank the Forum supporters, including staff from QMDC, the Department of Natural Resources and Water, CSIRO, the Queensland Museum, Cotton Catchments and Communities CRC, the Euraba Paper Mill, New England TAFE, Waggamba Landcare, and the University of Queensland, who all helped with the running of the event.

This year's event was made possible through funding from the Australian Government's National Science Week grants, the Queensland Government's Q150 Community Funding grants, the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal, and the Heritage Building Society. Local businesses also contributed to and supported the event, including Farmgate Butcher and Providore, the Goondiwindi Co-op, and Batesy's Bakery.

## **ENDS**

### **Media contact/s**

**Released by: Pip Bagshaw, Landcare Education Officer, ph: 07 4671 7900**

**More information: Renee Fletcher, QMDC Education Officer, ph: 07 4637 6270**

### **Images**



Caption: QMDC's Megan Purvis shows students from St. Mary's Primary School, Goondiwindi, how to test the quality of their water.



Caption: Students from St. Patrick's Primary School, Mitchell, learning how a real life catchment functions.



Caption: Her Excellency, Ms Penelope Wensley, Governor of Queensland, with Lyn and John Coggan, at the Community Dinner, where the Governor and John were two of the speakers.

For electronic copies of any of these photos, please contact Amelia Radford on 07 4637 6234, or [ameliar@qmdc.org.au](mailto:ameliar@qmdc.org.au)