

MEDIA RELEASE

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Bush tucker gardens open in Inglewood

It was a very hot day in Inglewood when more than 120 schools students came together on December 2 for the official opening of two bush tucker gardens in the town.

The gardens were built and planted by community members, students and teachers from Inglewood State School and St Maria Goretti Catholic School, sponsored by the Queensland Murray-Darling Committee (QMDC), Inglewood Landcare Group and Australia Post.

QMDC Regional Aboriginal Program Coordinator Tim Knox officially opened the bush tucker gardens, recognising the traditional owners of Inglewood, and thanking both schools for the hard work they had put into ensuring the gardens were created.

Various businesses and individuals in and around Inglewood donated materials and time to assist in the construction of the gardens which include native 'bush tucker' plants, such as Wild Lime (*Citrus glauca*), Old Man Saltbush (*Atriplex nummularia*) and Native Leek (*Bulbine bulbosa*).

Inglewood Landcare Coordinator Veronica Aster said the bush tucker gardens were more than a fantastic way to get students outdoors, they were also a great learning resource.

"It is great to see the students become more aware of Indigenous culture through this project," Ms Aster said.

"The children started on the gardens back in February this year and both schools have been working hard to finish them, in fact, the students from St Maria Goretti Catholic School are continuing their project by fundraising to buy more bush tucker species."

Ms Aster said a book about the gardens had also been produced – *Australian bush tucker and other cultural uses* – which contained information about the Inglewood bush tucker gardens, the processes involved in their construction, Aboriginal history and plant profiles.

"And after the official opening, students were introduced to some traditional Indigenous games and enjoyed a barbeque lunch," she said.

"Inglewood Landcare would like to thank all the supporters of the Bush Tucker gardens, in particular QMDC, Australia Post and David Allworth, a Toowoomba-based-plant specialist who helped with species selection."

Media contacts

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Please note: These photographs are available as high resolution jpegs upon request.



Students from St Maria Goretti, Veronica Aster, Tim Knox, and students from Inglewood State School at the St Maria Goretti bush tucker garden.



Students from Inglewood State School playing a traditional indigenous game.