

MEDIA RELEASE

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Discovering Landcare event heads outback

The third annual Discovering Landcare event, an environmental and sustainability event for schools, will be heading west in 2007.

Previously held in Toowoomba, host the Queensland Murray-Darling Committee (QMDC) will be bringing this two-day event to Roma during National Science Week in August this year.

“QMDC works with a lot of communities in the Maranoa and Balonne catchments, and are very aware of the difficulties rural children have in attending such a conference,” QMDC Education Officer, Pam Fisher, said.

“For this reason, we wanted to bring this event, which has had huge success in Toowoomba, to a rural centre,” she said.

QMDC has received funding from the Department of Education, Science and Training to hold the event.

This means the forum will be able to undergo a face-lift from previous years, to cater for a wider audience and the different environmental issues in the Roma area.

“QMDC really wanted some input from the community, so we’re inviting community members to sit on an organising panel for the event,” said Mrs Fisher.

“We’ll hold a meeting on 4 April, at the Landcare and Catchment Management Office in Roma, for anyone who’d like to be involved in planning this event.

Teleconferencing will also be available for those unable to attend in person,” she said.

The 2007 event, titled ‘Is that Science?’, won’t just be for students, though.

“We wanted to be able to showcase all the people in rural communities that use science every day, but aren’t commonly associated with lab coat wearing scientists,” said Mrs Fisher.

So, QMDC is hoping that more than just schools will be interested in planning the event. Mrs Fisher said that input will be sought from local businesses, Aboriginal groups, the health sector, and the farming community, as well as others.

“There’s a lot of potential for local businesses and community groups to support and sponsor the event, which will attract more than 300 people to Roma for the two days, as well as celebrity guest speakers and media,” she said.

Primary and secondary schools from across southern and western Queensland have already been contacted, and can register their interest in attending the conference with Pam on 07 4622 2993.

To be involved in planning the third annual Discovering Landcare Forum, contact Pam Fisher on 07 4622 2993 before 4 April.

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Caption: Murray’s Bridge students (near Stanthorpe) learn how to monitor water quality by checking bugs at the 2006 conference



Caption: Mitchell Elder, Mrs Irene Ryder, taught students about Aboriginal environmental management through art at the 2006 conference.