

MEDIA RELEASE

6 June 2007



Roma set to 'Discover Landcare' in August

The third annual Discovering Landcare environmental and sustainability event for schools will be coming to Roma in August this year.

Natural resource management group, the Queensland Murray-Darling Committee (QMDC), host the event, and received funding from the Blue Print for the Bush and the National Science Week round of grants.

"This funding has made it possible to move the event outside of Toowoomba, where it's previously been held, and bring it to Roma," QMDC Education Officer, Pam Fisher, said.

"QMDC works with a lot of communities in the Maranoa and Balonne catchments, and is very aware of the difficulties rural schools have in attending such an event. For this reason we wanted to bring this event, which has had huge success in Toowoomba, to a rural centre," she said.

Another change to the traditionally school-based event will be the inclusion of guest speakers and sessions for the adult community as well.

"The theme this year is 'Is That Science?', so it will be more of a forum of speakers and activities, showcasing the importance of science to sustainable land management, and how many people in our rural communities actually use science every day," said Pam.

Topics to be showcased will include climate change, the carbon cycle, biodynamics and sustainable agriculture, the Daughterless Carp program, as well as numerous hands on activities for students such as DNA sampling, GPS, and the science behind Traditional Owner culture.

Pam said "I have been absolutely astounded at the response to this year's event. I was aware there was a need to bring Discovering Landcare to Roma, however I am still quite overawed at the excitement this event is generating."

One school that has already jumped on board is Dulacca State School.

"Country communities don't always get the chance to attend events like this, where kids can present their environmental projects to other schools, listen to celebrity guest speakers, and learn from real scientists," said school principal, Christine Snars.

Christine said that her students were keen to showcase their project on the Rare and Threatened Trees of the Dulacca area at the Forum.

To find out more about the third annual Discovering Landcare Forum, contact Pam Fisher on 07 4622 2993.

ENDS

Media contact/s

Released by:

Amelia Radford, Communications Officer, 07 4637 6234

More information:

Pam Fisher, Education Officer, 07 4622 2993

Renee Fletcher, Education Officer, 07 4637 6224

Images

Below: images from the 2006 Discovering Landcare Forum, held in Toowoomba. The event was extremely popular with students, attracting over 350 kids and teachers from around southern Queensland. The 2007 event, making its first appearance in a regional centre at Roma, will also be open to adults and community members.



For high resolution images, contact Amelia Radford on 07 4637 6234, or ameliar@qmdc.org.au