

MEDIA RELEASE

3 September 2007



Students develop solutions to environmental challenges

Over 450 students and community members converged on Bassett Park in Roma to participate in the Queensland Murray-Darling Committee's (QMDC) Discovering Landcare Forum on 28 and 29 August.

Students were involved in a variety of interactive, science-based activities as they examined natural and cultural resource management topics such as water quality, biodiversity, recycling, pests and weeds, water use efficiency and sustainable farming practices.

"We have been overwhelmed by the positive feedback we have had from participants," said Pam Fisher, event organiser.

"Teachers have told us that students said it was the best excursion they have ever been on."

"It was such a well organised, fun and informative Forum. I truly think the kids gained heaps of knowledge," said St Patrick's Primary School teacher, Kylie Douglas, from Mitchell.

The Forum didn't stop with day-time activities. Students were also entertained and informed into the evening with a look at the lunar eclipse with the Charleville Cosmos Centre and bat trapping with the Environmental Protection Agency.

"Throughout the event students were encouraged to think about possible solutions to some of the environmental challenges facing our region and focus on what they could do on a personal level to make a difference," said Pam.

"The Forum also focused on the role of science in natural resource management, and encouraged students to consider themselves as scientists and capable of making the next revolutionary invention."

Over 50 different organisations were involved in the Forum in some way. Involvement ranged from the Isolated Children's Parents Association, who provided the catering, to the Parthenium Action Group, who provided activities for the students.

"The Forum would not have been possible without the support of these organisations and QMDC would like to say a big thank you to the many organisations and individuals involved. We are also very grateful for the support provided by our sponsors the Blueprint for the Bush, National Science Week grants and Heritage Building Society," said Pam.

"QMDC looks forward to bringing the Forum to another regional town next year," she said.

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Left: QMDC staff and Crows Nest State School students take a close-up look at waterbugs at the 2007 Discovering Landcare Forum.



Left: A Roma College student learns the techniques involved in shearing as students examine sheep from conception to product at the 2007 Discovering Landcare Forum.



Left: Yamba the Honeyant soars like a bird with students from Dulacca State School and St Patrick's Primary School at the 2007 Discovering Landcare Forum.