

# MEDIA RELEASE

---

31 March 2006



## Educating for the future

Creating a butterfly garden, designing and building a frog habitat pond, monitoring the health of a river, saving a threatened species; this doesn't sound like school!

Yet this is just what the Queensland Murray-Darling Committee's (QMDC) *Learning Through Landcare* program is all about.

A school based environmental education initiative, Learning Through Landcare (LTL) has been fostering the development of these practical projects since 2000.

Six years on and the program has been embraced by many schools across southern Queensland.

LTL provides support to teachers and students, developing locally relevant environmental projects that encourage awareness of the issues facing our country's natural resources.

"This program provides a unique opportunity to reach future landholders and decision makers in their formative stages," said QMDC's Landcare Education Officer, Laura Weedon.

"Community engagement is also a welcome by-product in that many of the schools undertake projects whose environmental ramifications extend beyond the boundaries of the school," she said.

Partnerships with mentors and interested local organisations also encourage the element of community participation.

A major focus of the LTL program is to help teachers broaden their knowledge of natural resource management issues and build practical skills to co-ordinate class environmental projects through a series of professional development workshops.

Topics on offer include GIS, water quality monitoring, biodiversity and native plant propagation and growing.

Teachers, who attended the first professional development workshop on urban sustainability held at Toowoomba's EnviroShack, highlighted the usefulness of the session.

"The EnviroShack has some really interesting and innovative features. I have come away with lots of ideas for teaching these concepts to my students as well as some fantastic resources," St George State High School Agriculture teacher, Sheryl Rigg, said.

Another benefit in participating in the LTL program is the opportunity it provides to celebrate and share the success of environmental projects with other students from across Queensland at the Discovering Landcare Conference. Prizes are being offered this year to encourage excellence and innovation in student presentations.

Last year the conference was attended by over 240 students and teachers and provided a further platform to raise community awareness about natural resources.

Building on the strength of the 2005 Discovering Landcare Conference this year's event, planned for October, promises to be even bigger and better.

For further enquiries contact Laura Weedon or Annette Gray at the Landcare Discovery Centre on (07) 4637 6201 or visit [www.discoveringlandcare.com.au](http://www.discoveringlandcare.com.au)

**ENDS**

**Media contact**

**Laura Weedon,  
Landcare Education Officer,  
Queensland Murray Darling Committee  
Phone: (07) 4631 6201**



Caption: Students from Kindon State School monitor native vegetation as part of their LTL program



Caption: Charlotte Whitley, from Toowoomba's Rangeville State Primary, learns all about water quality monitoring