

# MEDIA RELEASE

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## Sowing the seeds of education

School playgrounds across south west Queensland will soon be transformed with teachers acquiring new skills in a series of environmental professional development workshops.

Ten teachers from 10 different schools attended a Learning Through Landcare workshop in Toowoomba last Wednesday on 'Selecting and Growing the Best Plants for Your School'.

"The workshop responded to requests we'd had from a number of schools and provided insider tips, like using sandpaper to scratch wattle seeds to allow moisture in or choosing a potting mix designed for native species," said workshop organiser Laura Weedon.

The skills provided by the workshop will enable teachers to begin environmental projects that will cover mathematics, science, communication and teamwork in the classroom.

Wednesday's workshop had come at a good time for Crows Nest State School teacher, Lee Reushle. Her Grade Six students will use the new skills to further their 'living classroom' with the planting of a mini forest taking place next week.

"Since we started planning the mini forest the students have been so enthusiastic - they have really taken ownership of the project," she said.

Laura Weedon applauded Lee's approach, and hoped that the Learning Through Landcare program, especially yesterday's workshop, would help other schools to follow suit.

"Planting projects with themes such as bush food gardens, butterfly habitats or a flowering calendar are a great way to get students actively involved in education," she said.

The Learning Through Landcare program is a Queensland Murray-Darling Committee initiative. Please contact QMDC on 07 4637 6201 to find out about the program's next teacher workshop.

**ENDS**

### Media contact/s

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**Caption:** Teachers get their hands dirty at the Learning Through Landcare workshop last Wednesday.

