

If you haven't already registered for a professional development session, do it now. Simply fill in the enclosed form and return it to the Landcare Discovery Centre. Don't forget that Learning Through Landcare participants receive one free session.

Planning your project? Help is at hand.

The Landcare Discovery Centre is here to help. Please do not hesitate to contact us. We can assist you to plan and implement your project. We can also suggest potential mentors who can bring significant technical knowledge and experience to your project as well as giving students an understanding of the 'real world'



Where can we go?

Looking to go on an excursion to an interesting and relevant site? Try these on for size.

EnviroShack

This house has been built to the highest standards of environmental and social sustainability and it's luxurious to boot. Take a tour of this highly functional house and discover its ingenious energy and water saving features. The EnviroShack has windows that can tell when it's raining, floors lined with bamboo, hidden water tanks, walls that move and much more to discover. Educational activities and resources to suit all ages and interests have been developed. The EnviroShack is located in McKenzie St Toowoomba. Contact Cassandra or Deb on ph. 4638 4433

Gummingurru Stone Arrangement

This ancient meeting place and initiation site has significance for Aboriginal people from across the region and the state. Giant and complex stone arrangements bear testimony to the different groups that have visited this place, tell stories and hint at the different ceremonies that have taken place here. Site custodian Brian Tobane provides an engaging and informative tour of the site as well as a range of educational resources that have been developed for the site. An onsite education centre is under construction and will further expand the range of activities on offer. Gummingurru is located at Gowrie Junction and is not to be missed.



Above: Teachers learn how to monitor water quality and identify waterbugs during a professional development session last year.



Below: Putting theory into practice, students from Rangeville State School Monitor Water Quality in Toowoomba.



Landcare Link

Newsletter of the Landcare Discovery Centre

March 2006

Welcome

Welcome to the first edition of *Landcare Link* for this year. An especially warm welcome to those of you who have joined the Learning Through Landcare Program for 2006. The *Landcare Link* newsletter will keep you up to date with funding opportunities, project ideas and competitions to enter. In this edition you will find some fantastic funding opportunities as well as new ideas for excursions.

Landcare Discovery Centre

The big news in 2006 is that the Landcare Discovery Centre library has undergone an upgrade and is now open for business. There is a great range of books, kits, displays, CD's and much more to choose from. We are in the process of re-cataloguing the library however all the education materials have been catalogued and you can easily search the collection by logging on to the 'School Resources' page at www.discoveringlandcare.com.au and following the links to the 'Library Catalogue'.

This database includes several other libraries so be sure you enter 'QMDC' in the 'office' section of the search function. There are a range of teacher resource kits available for loan covering topics from reptiles to cotton farming and everything in between. Below are a couple of examples of resources that are available.

Do Something! Environmental Education in Action for Primary Schools

A fantastic curriculum resource folder containing 15 units of study designed to "empower kids into reducing their day to day impact on the environment". The kit has been put together by teachers and effortlessly fits the environment into many aspects of the curriculum.

Examples of units include:

Energetic Alternative – explores alternative energy sources. This unit challenges students to design and build a Land Yacht and Solar Oven.

The Air we Breathe – focusing on what is air, indoor and outdoor air pollution.

Trash into Treasure – aims to get students thinking about which materials can be reused and the creative ways this can be done. Included paper making instructions and a junk art activity.

Priceless Drops – all about water and its importance. Focuses on how we use water and ways to use water wisely, includes a water survey.

Each unit has activities aimed at lower primary, middle primary and upper primary students. Teaching notes and worksheets are easily removed from the folder for photocopying.

Discovering Landcare Conference 2006

That's right; it's on again. Mark Monday 16th and Tuesday 17th October 2006 on your calendar now! Those who attended last year will need no prompting to come along again as a fantastic time was had by all. Check out www.discoveringlandcare.com.au for the rundown on all the fun from 2005. The 2006 conference, which will be held in Toowoomba, is a unique opportunity for your students to present their project to their peers and participate in fun, hands-on environmental education activities. As a *Learning Through Landcare* participant you are entitled to five free student tickets and one free adult ticket. Stay tuned for more information closer to the date.



Nature Photographer Steve Parish with students at the 2005 Discovering Landcare Conference



Tell us about it. *Landcare Link* is your newsletter and the perfect place to share ideas, find out about environmental projects that are running successfully in other schools and showcase all your hard work. We would love to hear from you. Contributions of any kind are welcome including work by your students and your own ideas, experiences or requests for information.

Contact us
We are hear to help. phone or e-mail us with your questions; ask for Laura Weedon.

Ph: 46376201

E-mail:
lauraw@landcare.com.au

Website:
discoveringlandcare.com.au

Bird Watching Kit

This kit contains six pairs of binoculars and a fantastic book titled *Birds of the Darling Downs; a Land Managers Guide*. This book is a great teaching resource as it includes photos and descriptions of all our local birds allowing for easy identification. It also includes information on habitat requirements, indicator species (i.e. birds whose presence or absence is an indicator of habitat condition) and what can be done to help protect these species.

A list of suggested resources such as *Field Guide to the Birds of Australia* is included in the kit. It may be useful to borrow these along with the kit.

Getting out and about with binoculars and field guide is a great way for students to monitor existing habitat or check up on previously revegetated areas.

Obviously birds are not the only thing binoculars are useful for watching. Butterflies, insects and tree hollows can also be interesting to study.

Funding Opportunities

We would all love a bit of financial assistance and for many of you your projects may qualify for a grant. There is more information on grants in 'How to Plan and Implement Your Project'

Community Natural Resource Grants

Grants of up to \$2,500 (GST inclusive) are available for schools to develop small, innovative and creative projects Successful projects will take place either in or close to Natural Resources Week (13-21 May 2006). The theme of Natural Resources Week is *managing our resources... for today and tomorrow*.

Applications for the grants are now available on the Department website:

http://www.nrm.qld.gov.au/funding/nraa_school.html

Applications close 31 March 2006

Mitre 10 Junior Landcare Grants

This grant scheme provides funds to enable young people to participate in local Landcare projects. Visit www.landcareonline.com or www.mitre10.com.au/landcare/grant.asp.

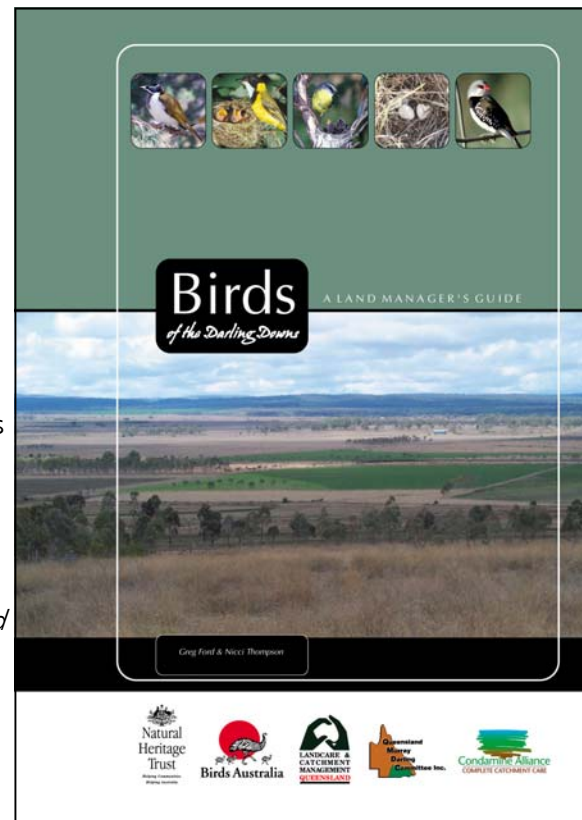
Closing dates for applications in 2006 are 23rd February, 18th May, 3rd August and 19th October.

Australian School Innovation in Science, Technology and Mathematics

This project has funding available for schools involved in collaborative projects with clusters of other schools and organisations. Grants of up to \$80,000 are available.

See their website <http://www.asistm.edu.au>

Expressions of Interest are being taken in right now and close March 31st 2006. I am considering applying for this funding. If anyone is interested in being involved in this (LTL may be considered an appropriate project cluster) please contact me.



Above: Students in action at the Discovering Landcare Conference 2005.

Envirofunds

Visit www.nht.gov.au for more information.

Next round Envirofund opens February 2006.

Gaming Machine Community Benefit Fund

Educational institutions are ineligible, but incorporated P&C groups can apply for funds. Successful applications have been made in the past for monitoring equipment. See www.gcbf.qld.gov.au for more information.

Closing dates for funding rounds are 31st March, 30th June, 30th September, and 31st December.

Challenge Ya!

This program is seeking creative, fun, innovative and inspiring ideas that can be turned into action by young people. www.youngaustralians.org or contact the Foundation for Young Australians on 1800 252 316.

Smart School Subsidy Scheme

All Queensland State schools are eligible to initiate projects. For more information call (07) 3235 4005.

Australia Post Junior Landcare Grant

Schools are eligible for grants of up to \$550 to improve biodiversity in the local community. See www.landcareonline.com.au for more information.

Closing dates for applications in 2006 are 23rd February, 18th May, 3rd August and 19th October.

Community Water Grants

Grants of up to \$50,000 for projects that encourage water efficient, re-use, recycling or enhance the health of ground or surface water.

Visit www.communitywatergrants.gov.au for more information.

Competitions

Entering competitions is a great way to give students a goal to work towards as well as get recognition for all your hard work.

Lord of the Weeds

A national competition run by the CRC for Australian Weed Management (Weeds CRC). The competition offers schools **total prize money in excess of \$3500**. Students investigate a weed-infested area and then write a report addressing key criteria.

Accompanying teacher resources have been developed. These include suggested lesson activities, pro formas to assist students writing the report, a marking guide and appropriate contacts for teachers to use.

Visit <http://www.weeds.crc.org.au> for more information.

Registration closes 26th May 2006.

AGL Sustainable Living Competition

'The Sustainable Living Competition is an exciting national competition which rewards High School students for environmental projects undertaken in the classroom or individually.' Visit <http://www.sustainableliving.com.au/competition> for the run down on guidelines and registration.

Register Now

