



information is available from www.nwf.org.au, scotta@ianpotter.org.au or 03 9650 3188. **Applications close 30 June 2006**

Sunshine Foundation Grants

These grants support projects which enhance the quality of life including conservation and environmental projects. Further information is available from www.mgg.com.au/sunshine.htm, sunshine@mgandg.com.au or 03 9419 5133. **Applications close 1 July 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 3rd August and 19th October.

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 30th June, 30th September, and 31st December.

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 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. Check out the Property Planning Program on page three as well.

Queensland Young Achiever Awards

The Queensland Young Achiever Awards acknowledge, encourage and promote the positive achievements of young Queenslanders aged 14-26. The Awards recognise the achievements of young people in seven categories - Community Service; Arts; Sport; Environment; Career Achievement; Science & Technology and Regional Initiative. Visit www.awardsaustralia.com/YAA_qld.html. **Applications close 30 June.**

Hands on for Habitat Awards

These awards encourage primary school children to learn about Australia's plants and animals and what they can do to help preserve our native species. Further information is available at www.deh.gov.au/biodiversity/threatened/ts-day/habitat.html or 1800 803 772. **Nominations close 30 June**

Queensland Arbor Day Awards

These awards recognise the contribution of individuals, local government, corporations and community groups in the establishment of vegetation for environmental and community purposes. Further information is available from sncbishop@qld.greeningaustralia.org.au or 07 3902 4404. **Nominations close 31 July**

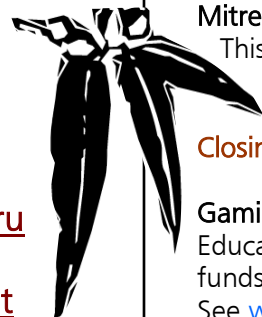
Queensland Regional Achievers Community of the Year

These awards acknowledge, encourage and reward those individuals, organisations and community groups who have made outstanding contributions to their local community, town, city or region. Visit www.awardsaustralia.com/RAA_qld.html.

Nominations close 18 August

Gummingurru Stone Arrangement

This ancient meeting place and initiation site has significance for Aboriginal people from across the region and the state. Gummingurru is located at Gowrie Junction, near Toowoomba, and is not to be missed. 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 now complete and will further expand the range of activities on offer. Contact Brian on ph. 4630 8222.



Landcare Link

Newsletter of the Landcare Discovery Centre

June 2006

Congratulations

A big congratulations to all of you who are busily working away on environmental projects. I know many of you are continuing on with projects or units of work from previous years and some of you have been working to get new ideas off the ground. In all the projects I have been involved I have noticed a common element; the students love it. Students involved in environmentally themed projects are engaged and enjoy the responsibility of working towards a more sustainable future. So keep up the good work and don't forget to contact the Landcare Discovery Centre if you need a hand.

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.

The 2006 conference, being 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. Schools not presenting are also able to come along and participate.

This year there are some great prizes on offer for presenting schools. Prize categories include: most interactive presentation, most innovative presentation and best overall presentation. **Cash prizes of up to \$400 for your school are up for grabs.** Class teachers (that's right a prize to acknowledge all your hard work) have not been forgotten with **\$100 book vouchers for teachers** forming part of the prize in the best overall presentation category.

Check out www.discoveringlandcare.com.au for the rundown on all the fun from 2005 and for more details on this years conference. Watch out for the funky blue conference flyers, they will be coming your way in the next few months. Don't forget if you are a *Learning Through Landcare* school you are entitled to five free student tickets and one free adult ticket.

Some comments from last years participants....

"The conference offered great hands-on experience and social interaction. The outdoor classroom setting is more conducive to extended learning. The conference was well organised with activities that suited the varying age levels and extended their view on learning."

Teacher, Rangeville State School

"A totally awesome conference! The children were engaged fully in the learning experiences, so many hands on opportunities and fun!! Being included in some of the 'more adult' parts, e.g. Dr Karl, made the children feel valued, as did presenting their own PowerPoint. And for me personally, I learnt heaps, lots for me to appreciate and knowledge to pass on to others." Teacher, Harlaxton State School

Accommodation for the Discovering Landcare Conference

There have been several enquiries about accommodation for this years conference. We are happy to help arrange accommodation as we did last year. The rate last year was \$25 per person for bed and breakfast at Camp Toowoomba, a dedicated school facility. Please let me know as soon as possible if you will require accommodation.



Discovering the wonders of waterbugs, DLC 2005

Making Waves

It's new and it's blue!

The theme of the 2006 Discovering Landcare Conference is **Making Waves**. The conference this year coincides with National Water Week and with water being quite topical at the moment this theme seemed fitting.

In keeping with this theme CSIRO will be running an ocean session with students, other water themed activities will also be taking place throughout the event.

Contact us:

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We also have Landcare Education Officers at offices in Goondiwindi and Roma





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 here 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

Professional Development

With eight professional development sessions over and done for the year I wanted to say a big thank you to all who attended. Judging from the feedback forms all who attended went back to their students with plenty of ideas, resources and inspiration. If you have topics you would like to see included in next years professional development calendar please let us know.

Don't forget that we can bring Professional Development to you. If you have several teachers who are interested in learning more about any environmental education topic we can negotiate a time, place and price to suit you. Topics include: Water Quality Monitoring, Native Plant Propagation, Geographic Information Systems, Urban Sustainability and Biodiversity Assessment.

A success story

Crow's Nest State School are part of the 2006 Learning Through Landcare program. Teacher Lee Reushle took advantage of a teacher training day to help get her project off the ground. Below is an extract from a published article following one of the training days.

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 and Seven 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.

Not long after that workshop I visited Crow's Nest School to help out with their planting day. Lee has done a fantastic job, her students are so dedicated to the mini forest and excited about learning. They have even branched out into habitat box building, litter education and water conservation including plans to collect runoff from the drinking fountains.

These grade 6 and 7 students have real sense of ownership of their project and are very proud of their achievements. Lee has used the mini forest project in many areas of the curriculum including in mathematics to study the concepts of area and perimeter. Studying the environment has also brought out the creative side in these students with some wonderful poetry being produced in creative writing classes.



Top five Crow's Nest Students hard at work. Bottom five: teachers in action at professional development days

The panel to the right shows some photos from the Crow's Nest planting day as well as from professional development workshops.

Property Planning Program

The Property Planning Program is about hands-on learning in a 'real' environment. It has been designed specifically for teachers and students of secondary Agricultural Science and offers a practical and informative way to deliver Unit 2: Natural Resource Management. Students will be introduced to the concepts of property planning, including resource assessment, goal setting and constraints. Students and teachers will take part in a field day on the case study property, "Lushfarm", on 4th August where they will participate in a number of hands-on activities with expert instructors.

Using the information acquired at the field day and in class students map out their plan for the property. Training and resources are provided to allow this to be done using digital mapping software. Students write a report detailing their suggested management practices.

The best plans from each school are submitted for judging and finalists will be invited to present their plans at the Discovering Landcare Conference where prizes will be awarded.

Program cost is \$200 per teacher and \$10 per student. This includes the field day, teacher training, extensive resource material, tutorial CD Rom, field notes, digital mapping software and more.

Contact Pam Fisher, our education officer in Roma, for more information; pfisher@mbllc.org.au or phone 4622 8446

Funding Opportunities

We would all love a bit of financial assistance and for many of you projects may qualify for a grant. There is more information on grants in 'How to Plan and Implement Your Project' Please contact the Landcare Discovery Centre if you would like assistance applying for a grant.

Threatened Species Network Community Grants

These grants provide funding for community organisations to conduct on-ground work for the ongoing health of our natural environment, specifically targeting the needs of nationally threatened species and ecological communities. Activities include habitat restoration, weeding, feral animal control, population surveys and monitoring, fencing, and fire management. Further information is available from www.wwf.org.au or 1800 032 551. **Applications close 2 June**

AWARE Foundation Grants

This program aims to conserve and preserve the aquatic environment and its resources. Further information is available from www.projectaware.org or info@projectaware.com.au. **Applications close 15 June 2006**

Water Smart Australia grants

Water Smart Australia is a large scale project program that supports on-ground water resource projects that will make a significant contribution to the sustainable and efficient management of Australia's water resources in rural, regional and urban areas. Further information is available at www.nwc.gov.au. **Applications close 16 June**

Norman Wettenhall Foundation Grants

These grants support and encourage research, education and recording of all aspects of the natural living environment. Further

