



# Landcare Link

Newsletter of the Landcare Discovery Centre

August 2006

## Accommodation and Transport for the Discovering Landcare Conference

Accommodation is available for the night of Monday 16 October. Accommodation for Sunday 15 and Tuesday 17 can be arranged on request. Accommodation is provided by Camp Toowoomba. Visit [www.qccc.com.au](http://www.qccc.com.au) and check them out. We have made bulk bookings at a cost of \$31 per primary school student (adults and secondary \$33) including all meals. (A packed lunch will be provided for you to bring to the conference.) Please contact Renee at QMDC if you wish to be included in these accommodation arrangements. [reneef@qmdc.org.au](mailto:reneef@qmdc.org.au)

Many regional schools have access to and are eligible to use Priority Country Area Program (PCAP) buses to assist with transport to events such as the Discovering Landcare Conference. Visit <http://users.growzone.com.au/~swpcap/> for more information. QMDC is currently approaching a number of local councils to seek support for schools to cover their transport costs. If you would like to register your interest please contact Renee at QMDC. [reneef@qmdc.org.au](mailto:reneef@qmdc.org.au)

Well here we are in third term already. We are all well into the year now and many of us are really getting stuck into projects with our students. I am fortunate to work in a job that keeps me in touch with many schools and their projects. In this edition of the Landcare Link I am introducing a new team member and figured it was also a good chance to explain a bit more about myself and the Queensland Murray-Darling Committee.

## Discovering Landcare Conference 2006

The Discovering Landcare Conference is on again! This exciting hands-on event will be held on October 16 and 17, 2006 in Toowoomba. It is open to Teachers and Students from Years Three to Twelve.

### The program features:

- Keynote speakers such as Narelle Oliver (Environmental author), Frank Manthey (Bilby Brothers), Ranger Tim (Totally Wild) and Delphine Bentley (North Australian Pastoral Company)
- A range of engaging hands-on environmental activities provided by the CSIRO, NRMW, DPI, USQ, local indigenous artists and more
- Farm management problem solving scenario for senior students — Learn how to use a GPS and new management software.
- Excursions to sites of environmental and cultural significance around Toowoomba
- Students presenting the results of their Learning Through Landcare projects
- Awards dinner and USQ drama production



Discovering the wonders of waterbugs, DLC 2005

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](http://www.discoveringlandcare.com.au) for the rundown on all the fun from 2005 and for more details on this years conference. Don't forget if you are a *Learning Through Landcare* school you are entitled to five free student tickets and one free adult ticket.

"Giving young people the chance to learn in a friendly environment with friends, peers and classmates is definitely helping the world become a better place."  
Student, 2005 Discovering Landcare Conference participant





## Who is QMDC? What is the Landcare Discovery Centre?

These are questions I am often asked. Here is a brief rundown.

The Queensland Murray-Darling Committee (QMDC) is a non-profit, community-based organisation working in the Queensland Murray-Darling Basin.

QMDC's vision is to achieve the equitable, efficient and sustainable use of water, land and other environmental resources in the Basin to ensure long-term sustainability and economic and social well-being.

QMDC is directed by a committee of landholders, local government, industry and environmental representatives from across the Queensland Murray-Darling basin.

QMDC aims to encourage students to get involved in issues that impact on our environment and its well-being for future generations. Through emphasising and celebrating the positive environmental initiatives undertaken by young people we are providing a sound basis for tomorrow's decision makers to consider long-term sustainability and NRM challenges.

The Landcare Discovery Centre is simply the Educational arm of QMDC. We house a resource library which you are all welcome to borrow from. The Landcare Discovery Centre provides professional development for teachers on topics related to Environmental Science and Natural Resource Management. We can assist you with grant application, planning projects or units of work and with ideas

## Meet the Team

Renee Fletcher recently joined the QMDC team as a Project Officer. Renee has a passion for Environmental Science and it is her mission to organise all aspects of the 2006 Discovering Landcare Conference. She is doing a fantastic job having secured some great guest speakers. Renee has worked in Japan as an English teacher and most recently at the Toowoomba Preparatory School as a science teacher. Contact Renee if you have any conference questions.

Many of you already know me, Laura Weedon, from last year's conference and from professional development days. Before migrating north to sunny Queensland I worked in Environmental Education in Victoria and taught as a volunteer in South Africa. My role is to assist schools with environmental science projects, teacher training, grant applications and accessing our library. Please give me a call for these or any other queries. If I can't help I might know who can.



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[www.discoveringlandcare.com.au](http://www.discoveringlandcare.com.au)

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

Please note that our e-mail addresses have changed as above, please update your records to reflect this.



## 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@qmdc.org.au](mailto:lauraw@qmdc.org.au)

Website: [discoveringlandcare.com.au](http://discoveringlandcare.com.au)



## Funding Opportunities

It must be the time of year for grant applications as I have been assisting quite a few schools with this lately. Please give me a call if I can be of any assistance to you. A letter of support from an organisation such as QMDC can lend that extra something to your submission.

**Grant Tip:** Form partnerships, many funding bodies look favorably on applications that demonstrate relationships between schools and other organisations such as local government, Landcare groups, regional NRM organizations (such as QMDC) and industry. They see it as better value for their dollar and it can also mean better educational value for your students.

### GrantsLink

This online service lists all grants available from the Australian Government. It is a great one to check out if you have a project in mind. [www.grantslink.gov.au](http://www.grantslink.gov.au)

### Mitre 10 Junior Landcare Grants

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

**Closing dates for applications in 2006 are 3<sup>rd</sup> August and 19<sup>th</sup> October 2006.**

### Myer Foundation

The Myer Foundation offers a range of grants and one of their focus areas is Environmental Education. Visit [www.myerfoundation.org.au](http://www.myerfoundation.org.au) for more info. Many of their grants are ongoing however one does have the **closing date of 3 October 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](http://www.gcbf.qld.gov.au) for more information.

**Closing dates for funding rounds are 30<sup>th</sup> September, and 31st December 2006.**

### 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](http://www.landcareonline.com.au) for more information.

**Closing dates for applications in 2006 are 3<sup>rd</sup> August and 19<sup>th</sup> October 2006.**

### 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](http://www.communitywatergrants.gov.au) for more information. **Closing date is 25 August 2006.**

## Competitions

Competitions are a great way to get recognition for all your hard work. They are also a fantastic motivator for students.

### 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](http://www.awardsaustralia.com/RAA_qld.html).



Some of the action from the 2005 Discovering Landcare Conference





## Events

**National Bilby Day** on the 10 September—Frank Manthey, one half of the famous Bilby Brothers is speaking at the Discovering Landcare Conference. This special day just for Bilbies is part of National Threatened Species Week. Lots of entertainment, stalls and Bilby fun is planned. Visit [www.savethebilbyfund.com.au](http://www.savethebilbyfund.com.au) for more information.

**Queensland Pest Animal Symposium—24-26 October.** A fantastic event, see advertisement below right.

Watch out for Woody Weed...



## Congratulations

Well done to the winners of the Comalco Green and Healthy Schools awards. Gatton Primary School won Darling Down's Greenest and Healthiest School for the second year in a row. Award winners listed below.

1. Eco School Award | Amiens State School
2. MacAir Airlines School Spirit Award | St Anthony's Catholic Primary School (Toowoomba)
3. The Wrigley Company Litter Prevention Award | Gabbinbar State School
4. Resource Conservation & Waste Management Award | Kaimkillenbun State School
5. EPA WaterWise Award | Gatton State Primary School
6. School-Local Government Partnership Award | Freestone State School with Warwick Shire Council
7. Protection of the Environment Award | Dalveen State School
8. Minister for Education's Young Legends Award | Ballandean State School
9. Brisbane Produce Market Health & Nutrition Award | Freestone State School
10. Community Action Award | Ballandean State School
11. Individual Outstanding Accomplishment Award | Celeste Lowe of Gatton Shire Council

## What do you want from us?

Many of you have been involved in Learning Through Landcare, the Discovering Landcare Conference or Professional Development sessions run by us. We are now planning for next year and want to know what you need.

## What services would you like to see us provide?

Suggestions for topics for professional development sessions.

What resources, support etc do you need to allow you to teach Natural Resource Management or Environmental science/issues to your students.?

Please email or phone Laura with your comments. [lauraw@qmdc.org.au](mailto:lauraw@qmdc.org.au) 46376225



**"Managing pest animals — we're all in this together"**  
**"Pest animals — knock em down, keep em out"**

You are invited to the **Queensland Pest Animal Symposium** to be held at Highfields Cultural Centre, Highfields (10 minutes drive north of Toowoomba) 24–26 October 2006

Program: Welcome reception 24 Oct, talks, trade display and conference dinner 25 Oct and talks and half-day field trip 26 Oct (Optional post-conference tour to the Robert Wicks Pest Animal Research Station on 27 Oct)  
Program will involve invited speakers covering four key themes:  
Prevention, Harvesting and Hunting, Managing Impacts and Innovation

Key note speakers will include:

**Peter Kenny** – President AgForce Queensland

**Dr Tony Peacock** – Director, Invasive Animal CRC

**Dr Chris Tideman** – Australian National University

Pest Animal Symposium, c/o Eventcorp, PO Box 5718, West End Qld 4101

or [awheildon@eventcorp.com.au](mailto:awheildon@eventcorp.com.au)