



Landcare Link

Newsletter of the Landcare Discovery Centre

May 2007

Contact Us

**Renee Fletcher
(Toowoomba)**

Ph. 4637 6224

Email:

reneef@gmdc.org.au

**Pam Fisher
(Roma)**

Ph. 4622 8446

Email:

pamf@gmdc.org.au

**Laura Weedon
(Toowoomba)**

Ph: 46376225

Email:

lauraw@lqmdc.org.au

**Amanda Woods
(Goondiwindi)**

Ph: 46717900

amandaw@gmdc.org.au

www.qmdc.org.au



Is that Science? Discovering Landcare Forum - 28 and 29 August 2007

The Discovering Landcare Forum is back! This year the forum will be held in Roma on the 28 and 29 August to coincide with National Science Week. The theme of this year's forum is 'Is That Science?' which seeks to recognise the importance of science in managing our environment.

Students and teachers from all year levels are welcome to attend. A separate primary and secondary program will be run to cater for the needs of the various age groups.

The forum will provide teachers and students of all ages with a chance to meet and share experiences with others from around the region through:

- Student-led presentations,
- Exciting workshops,
- High profile guests,
- Practical field-based activities,
- Promotion of a shared understanding of Traditional Owner land management practices,
- Discussions and focus groups, and
- A showcase of local scientists and science based careers.

Is That Science will demonstrate the cultural, social and environmental importance of managing our natural resources and the importance of science in this area.

Registration and Costs

This year teachers and parents can attend the forum for FREE! Parents and staff are encouraged to come along and support their students.

Student costs: \$8/day or \$14 for both days. Registration forms can be obtained by emailing Renee or Pam (see left for details).

Accommodation and Transport

Accommodation is free for schools camping at the venue (Basset Park Showgrounds). The showgrounds are fully equipped with amenity blocks but schools will need to supply their own tents and bedding. Alternative accommodation options are available in Roma.

Catering will be supplied by the Isolated Children's Parents Association (ICPA) for \$30/head for meals from Monday evening to Tuesday lunch. Kitchen facilities are available if schools wish to bring their own food.

A variety of transport options to and from the forum are available. PCAP buses are available for some regions and some local councils are also offering transportation assistance. Please contact us for more information.

Comments from last year's participants ...

"Congratulations again on a wonderful conference. It was certainly well worth us travelling down for it. The students really enjoyed it and got a lot out of it. Thanks again for all your help!!"

Teacher, Surat Sate School

"I enjoyed the activities because they were both educational and inspirational."

Student, Warwick State High School





Property Planning

Property Planning is a hands on property management program designed for senior secondary students. Students are guided through the process of developing a working property management plan. Natural resource management, environmental, cultural heritage and primary production are key themes. This years property planning field day is on the **30 and 31 July 2007**.

The study site for 2007 is an 'Origin Energy' site at Spring Gully north of Roma. Students will camp overnight at Bassett Park in Roma with activities planned for the evening.

Students will have the opportunity to discuss careers with a range of science and agricultural professionals.



2006 winners: Warwick State High School Teacher John Barling with his winning property planning students.



Teaching for Tomorrow - environmental education professional development

Why professional development in environmental education?

Discover exciting and innovative ways to meet your curriculum requirements and prepare your students to live a sustainable lifestyle as responsible citizens. Learn from other schools who have overcome challenges and are achieving great things through sustainability and environmental education programs. Some school sustainability programs also result in substantial savings as energy, water and waste bills plummet.

What do I get?

Teaching for Tomorrow professional development modules are designed to build the practical skills, confidence and capacity of teachers and other interested members of the school community.

The training sessions provide participants with hands on experiences and practical ideas for class projects as well as enough theoretical background knowledge of the topic to enable you to teach it with confidence.

All participants take home a free resource package including a range of curriculum linked activities in hard copy and online format. Basic ongoing support is also available.

Who should attend

Although designed for primary and secondary school teachers, members of the broader school community such as grounds staff, teacher aides and interested parents are also encouraged to attend.

What do past participants say?

"Practical, useful workshop which can directly be applied to work with students"

"Great to have an expert who really knows her stuff"

"Real life demos—great to see how it works before taking it to students"

"Outdoor activities and information sharing from start to finish"

"Interactive activities, methods, reasons and practical examples"

What topics are available?

- Biodiversity—what is it and why is it important
- Water quality monitoring and river health
- Soil, worm-farming and composting
- Climate Change—what can I do
- Weeds and Pests
- We can also tailor training to suit your needs on any environmental topic.



When and where

A range of Teaching for Tomorrow workshops will be offered in Toowoomba, Roma, Goondiwindi and Warwick throughout the year. Please contact us for details.

We can also visit your school to deliver tailored packages to suit you. Most workshops are two hours long and we are happy to run these after school hours. Costs will vary depending on number of participants. Please contact us to discuss your needs.

NSW Youth River Health Conference

The 2007 NSW Youth River Health Conference is the culmination of a process. This process involves students working with expert mentors many months prior to the event, and results in curriculum materials that will be in NSW Schools for many years after the event. Most importantly, the process is about promoting kids teaching kids as the highest form of learning and aiming for a cultural change in the way we view, use and perceive the environment and the resources and industries that it supports.

When: 19 & 20 November 2007

Where: Inverell, New South Wales

Who: All NSW schools – grades 5 to 11, maximum 2 teachers and 15 students per school

Cost: \$ 38.50

www.onelifeoneworldourfuture.com

Sustainable Schools

QMDC is pleased to announce that through a partnership with Education Queensland we are now offering interested schools from across the region the chance to get involved with the Australian Sustainable Schools Initiative (AuSSI).

AuSSI is a partnership of the Australian Government, the States and Territories that seeks to support schools and their communities to become sustainable. AuSSI involves participants in a whole-of-school approach, to explore through real-life learning experiences, improvements in a school's management of resources and facilities including energy, waste, water, biodiversity, landscape design, products and materials. It also addresses associated social and financial issues.

The program is extremely flexible and will be customised for each participating school

QMDC provides participating school with the following;

- A customised sustainability education program for each school.
- Coordination of the whole program.
- Access to scientists and Natural Resource Management specialists via a range of QMDC run activities, field days and student forums.
- Professional Development for teachers on a range of topics; see facing page.

QMDC facilitators also provide assistance with:

- Sustainability audits
- Setting targets and developing a School Environmental Management Plan
- Developing action plans for operations and curriculum
- Implementation of action plans and School Environmental Management Plan
- Specialised student activities linking curriculum to practical action
- Cost-saving ideas and assistance to apply for grants and funding.
- Follow-up and monitoring outcomes
- Celebrating achievements and successes via QMDC and school events and publications.

To read the stories of schools involved in Sustainable Schools across Australia visit <http://www.environment.gov.au/education/aussi/case-studies.html>

Resources

Australian Indigenous Knowledge and Libraries

The E-book on Australian Indigenous Knowledge and Libraries, edited by Prof Martin Nakata and Professor Marcia Langton, has recently been launched.

This is an E-book that has been negotiated with authors as 'open source material' so that it won't cost you or your students anything to download it. The negotiations with the authors for free access were made on the basis that an open source text could reach more Indigenous people across the globe:

Download the book at: <http://epress.lib.uts.edu.au/dspace/handle/2100/55>

Charlotte's Web—The Story Behind the Movie

The movie version of Charlotte's Web has prompted the folks at Awesome Stories to assemble background information—including science information—about the book and the film. Students can learn about spiders like Charlotte (how they spin their webs, eat, lay eggs, and balloon), as well as pigs (like Wilbur) and rats (like Templeton). The site also offers links to lesson plans and scientific links for older students. <http://snipurl.com/Ascharlottesweb>

Online resource list

This comprehensive resource list is arranged by topic. Follow the links to the Sustainable Schools teacher resources and web links page. <http://www.maroochycatchmentcentre.org.au/>



Teaching for tomorrow: Hands on professional development



Water monitoring team: Dirranbandi Secondary school students undertake water quality training.



International travel for teachers

Four Peter Doherty Teacher Postgraduate International Professional Development Awards valued at **\$10 000** each are available. They recognise outstanding teachers of science who want to undertake professional development experiences overseas. These awards are designed to inspire teachers and improve the quality of science education in the Smart State.

For further information about the Peter Doherty Awards for Excellence in Science and Science Education you can contact Robert Tomaschewski on (07) 3405 5674 or at robert.tomaschewski@eta.qld.gov.au



Solar and Renewable Energy Online

New solar and renewable energy resources are now available. Activities are suitable for students in Years 5-10. Each topic provides:

- fun and interactive classroom activities with curriculum connections
- background information
- useful diagrams
- interesting experiments.

Visit www.originenergy.com.au/education to download or print these free resources for your classroom. For more information call 1800 659 511 or email order@ei.com.au

Laboratory Action Videos

Watch videos of biology in action. See clips of T-cell invasion, electroplating, SDS separation of proteins, agarose gel electrophoresis for separation of DNA and RNA. What does PCR detect? Learn the process of PCR (polymerase chain reaction). What do you do in a darkroom? Go to <http://www.labaction.com>. For more advanced topics, such as bacterial infection of fruit flies, or isolation and transplantation of stem cells in mice, go to <http://www.jove.com> and watch the demonstrations with audio.

Funding Opportunities

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 2007 are 17 May, 3 August and 18 October.

Indigenous Small Grants | Foundation for Young Australians

These grants provide an opportunity for organizations working with Indigenous people and communities to support innovation and expansion of existing successful initiatives. Maximum grant is \$5,000. More information is available from fya@youngaustralians.org, freecall 1800 252 316. **Closing dates for funding rounds are 21 May, 20 August and 19 November 2007.**

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 30 June, 30 September & 31 December 2007.

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.

Registrations close 22 June 2007..

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 1 June 2007.**

Dilmah Water Quality Funding

Grants of up to \$1,650 (inc GST) are up for grabs. Schools and community groups are able to apply for the following: Water quality testing kits for community groups and schools, water quality testing training and water quality testing kit consumables and additions. Further information is available from

<http://www.landcareonline.com.au/> **Applications close 25 May 2007.**