



A teaching resource focusing on environmental aspects of the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games has been produced by the Australian Federation of Societies for Studies of Society and Environment (AFSSSE). There is a section on sustainability themes suitable for secondary students available at http://www.afsse.asn.au/afsse_res/Environment_67.pdf



National Tree Day took place on 27 July 2008. Edna has compiled a collection of resources including information on Australian native plants, the structure and function of plants and plant pictures. The theme page is available from: http://www.edna.edu.au/edna/go/schooled/school_theme_pages/pid/1578



Funding Opportunities cont.

Queensland's Solar and Energy Efficiency Program

The Solar Schools program is not to be confused with the Queensland Government's Solar and energy Efficiency program. The Queensland Government has committed \$60 million to a solar and energy efficiency program that will be implemented in all Queensland state schools over the next three years. The program will introduce a 2Kw solar system into all state schools not already accessing solar power and will include funding for other energy efficiency measures in state schools such as improved lighting technology. A trial will initially be conducted in 10 state schools of varying sizes and in different regions of Queensland beginning in July 2008. The program will then be progressively implemented across all State schools in Queensland. The project aims to deliver reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and energy usage of at least 30%, supporting the State's Strategic Energy Efficiency Policy. For more information visit <http://education.qld.gov.au/facilities/solar/energy.html>.

Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program for Primary Schools

The Australian Government has committed to implement the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden program over four years in up to 190 primary schools nationally. One-off funding of up to \$60,000 is available to cover costs associated with building kitchens and gardens. The focus of the initiative is for students in Years 3 - 6 to learn how to grow, cook and share fresh food in the belief that this approach will provide a better chance of positively influencing children's food choices. Interested schools need to provide an expression of interest for inclusion in the pilot, in accordance with the on-line application form and selection criteria which will also be available on the Department's website. For more information visit www.health.gov.au, www.healthyactive.gov.au and www.kitchengardenfoundation.org.au.

The Spark Fund

The Foundation for Young Australians will provide up to \$5000 to financially support young people aged 12-25 years to ignite their ideas and initiatives to make a positive contribution to the community and enhance their skills and experience for themselves, other young people and their communities. The Foundation has five focus areas young Australians, youth participation, equity, community contribution and sustainable outcomes. The grant is open to any individual aged 12-25, or small group (up to five people) all aged 12-25. This can be done with the support of an organisation such as a school or youth group. For more information visit http://www.youngaustralians.org/fund/ya_fund_spark.asp, email fya@youngaustralians.org or telephone (03) 9670 5436. **Closes: September 22, 2008.**

Term Four Events Calendar

August	National Science Week—16th-24th	http://www.scienceweek.info.au/Pages/index.aspx
	Discovering Landcare Forum 19th & 20th	www.qmdc.org.au
September	Landcare Week—1st -7th	http://www.landcareonline.com/
	Weedbuster Week 1st-7th	http://www.weedbusters.info/
	National Threatened Species Day—7th	http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/threatened/ts-day/index.html
October	Low Energy Day—11th	www.amarooeec.eq.edu.au
	National Bilby Day—14th	www.savethebilbyfund.com
	International Youth Coastal Conference - 19th – 22nd	www.onelifeoneworldourfuture.com/coastal/
	Regional Science and Technology Forum—20th	http://www.learningplace.com.au/en/ddsw/smen



The Discovering Landcare Forum is supported by:



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Queensland
Government



Landcare Link

Quarterly Newsletter of the Queensland Murray-Darling Committee
August 2008

'Science to the Rescue' Discovering Landcare Forum

If you haven't already heard, the 2008 Discovering Landcare Forum is coming to Goondiwindi. 'Science to the Rescue' will be held on 19 and 20 August at the Goondiwindi Cultural Centre. A range of great hands-on activities will be on offer, from climate change workshops to close up looks at mini-beasts. Participants will also have the opportunity to listen to students share details of their school-based environmental projects.

The action doesn't stop with day-time events. Teacher professional development workshops covering sustainable science concepts from the Queensland Museum's Science in a Box kits will be offered by Queensland Museum staff. Dr Joel Gilmour from the UQ Physics Troupe will entertain and amaze participants into the evening with breath-taking science demonstrations. The wider community is also invited to attend the Landcare Community Dinner, which will feature three guest speakers and buffet dinner.

On day two, both primary and secondary students will attend field trips. Senior students will travel to a working property to apply property planning concepts in the field, and primary students will take a closer look at the fauna and flora of the local area through a number of field-based investigations.



Above: Kindon students will share school environmental projects with their peers at the Forum.

The event is being held during National Science Week to promote the importance of managing our natural resources sustainably and the importance of science in this area. Support to hold the Forum has been provided by a number of organisations, including the Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research.

For more information on any of the activities planned as part of the Discovering Landcare Forum, please contact Renee on 07 4637 6224, reneef@qmdc.org.au, or visit www.qmdc.org.au.

Educators Explore Concepts of Sustainability



A number of teachers, teaching aides and school volunteers gathered at Amaroo Environmental Education Centre on Friday, 25 July to find out more about the Queensland Environmentally Sustainable Schools Initiative (QESSI) and gain ideas for science-based learning activities based around sustainability.

The Darling Downs QESSI Hub is offering the opportunity for six schools from the Darling Downs and South West region to join the Sustainable Schools Initiative. There are many benefits of becoming a sustainable school, ranging from economic savings to educational and social benefits. The initiative does not seek to replace sustainability activities already being undertaken in schools, but to provide a recognised framework and support for school-based environmental action.

To find out more about future PD workshops, or QESSI, please contact Renee (4637 6224 / reneef@qmdc.org.au) or Ross (4696 7140 / admin@amarooeec.eq.edu.au).



Contact Us

Renee Fletcher
(Toowoomba)
Ph. 4637 6224
E: reneef@qmdc.org.au

Pip Bagshaw
(Goondiwindi)
Ph: 4671 7900
E: pipb@qmdc.org.au

Need Resources or Information?

The Landcare Discovery Centre has a resource library open to schools and the community. The library contains books, resource packs, posters, models (worm farm and compost) and range of kits including: water quality testing kits, biodiversity sampling kit, paper making kit, bird watching kit (includes 10 binoculars) and more. We can post resources (excluding larger kits and models) to you if you can't make it into the centre.

Address:
Corner of Campbell & Bellevue streets
Toowoomba
Ph: 07 4637 6224

New Queensland Waterwise Education Resource, "Water: Learn it for Life!" based on Essential Learnings is available through www.nrw.qld.gov.au/waterwise/education.



Managing Carp in the Murray-Darling Basin

(Dr. Peter Gehrke, SMEC Australia Pty Ltd, Peter.Gehrke@smec.com.au)

Carp are a pest fish introduced to Australia in 1959. Large numbers of carp came to the Murray-Darling Basin after floods in the early 1970s. Carp cause damage to our waterways and compete with native fish for food. The integrated pest management project is applying a range of techniques to reduce carp populations at specific locations in the Murray-Darling Basin. The environmental benefits of carp control are also being monitored.



Above: Carp removed from Warra Lagoon

Carp are being removed from Lagoons in the Condamine and Macintyre catchments. Environmental changes in these lagoons will be compared against conditions in other lagoons. Carp have been removed using electrofishing, fyke nets, gill nets, traps, and angling. Exclusion fences were erected to prevent carp re-entering.

The environmental benefits of carp control are being measured by monitoring parts of the food web that are affected by carp. Data are collected for fish, zooplankton (small animals in water column), macroinvertebrates (shrimp, worms, and insects), phytoplankton (algae in water column) macrophytes (water plants) and water quality. Birds and freshwater turtles are also recorded.

By reducing carp numbers, the impacts of carp on water quality are predicted to be reduced. It is expected that more food will be available for native fish when carp numbers are low. This will help to increase native fish numbers in lagoons.

If you would like teaching resources related to carp and other aquatic pests please contact QMDC. We have some copies of the DPI&F's Aquatic Invaders resource. This module is suitable for upper primary to lower secondary students. There is also the opportunity to participate in the two final carp busting days for the year, September 20 and 21 in St George and October 18 and 19 in Dirranbandi. Please contact Megan on 4671 7980.



Above: Electrofishing in Booberoi Lagoon

Regional Science and Technology Forum 2008

The annual Science and Technology Forum at Toowoomba State High School – Mt Lofty Campus will take place on the 20 October Student Free Day. The 2008 forum will offer a range of workshops that focus on pedagogical practices in science and technology (including ICT integration).

In addition to the workshops provided by external organisations, event organiser, Kay Lembo, is seeking primary and secondary teachers (either individually or as a team of teachers) to facilitate workshops at the 2008 Forum. The workshop would showcase work in science and technology education, such as successful units of work, resources developed, learning experiences devised, or teaching strategies that work well. Limited funds are available to help cover resources/expendable items required to present the workshop.

To submit an expression of interest, please contact Kay (phone 4637 1355, or email klemb1@eq.edu.au) for a fax back form and return the form by Wednesday, 13 August. Online forum registration will open on Friday, 22 August. Visit <http://www.learningplace.com.au/en/ddsw/smen> to register.



Students and staff participating in the Bush Tucker and Culture Tour

Culture Tour Visits Schools

A five-day Bush Tucker and Culture Tour visited rural and remote schools in southern Queensland in June, promoting local Aboriginal culture. Over 480 students from 16 schools participated in the tour, which was organised by staff from QMDC's Aboriginal Program.



Above: Getting 'painted up' in Dulacca

Cultural presentations included a session on bush tucker, where students were able to sample a range of traditional foods, including bush honey, emu meat and bush tomato relish. Kamilaroi dancers taught students traditional dances, and gave them the opportunity to get painted up using traditional colours and ochre. Students also played traditional sports and games and learnt the skills behind throwing a boomerang...and making it come back.

QMDC hopes to secure further funding to enable the cultural tour to be offered to more regional schools and to expand the school bush tucker gardens projects. However, schools are able to access funds directly from Education Queensland to support cultural programs in schools.

Program Seeks Teachers for Overseas Opportunity

International Student Volunteers (ISV) is an organisation offering high school aged students the opportunity to travel abroad on specialised volunteer, cultural and adventure travel programs. Working with a range of host organisations, the efforts of the volunteers contribute significant amounts to environmental and humanitarian projects worldwide each year. ISV is currently seeking secondary school teachers, to travel abroad for free during the summer holiday break - co-leading the student programs. For more information visit <http://www.isvonline.com/highschools/>.

Competitions and Awards

Young Australian Discoverer of the Year & Discovery Class of the Year
During Science Week, Australian Geographic will award the first ever "Young Discoverer of the Year" and "Discovery Class of the Year" awards. The prizes will be awarded to the best ideas to help the planet. The 2008 Young Australian Discoverer of the Year will win an amazing trip to explore the CSIRO Discovery Centre in Canberra where they will be shown around by a real scientist. For more information visit <http://www.scienceweek.info.au/Pages/AG.aspx>.

Competition closes on the 3rd of August 2008



Funding Opportunities

National Solar Schools Program

The Australian Government is offering grants of up to \$50 000 for primary and secondary schools to install solar and other renewable power systems, solar hot water systems, rainwater tanks and a range of energy efficiency measures aimed at reducing energy and water consumption. The National Solar Schools program replaced the Green Vouchers for Schools program on 1 July 2008. The amount schools are eligible for is not reduced by previous work funded from any state, territory or local government program, or for work funded by a water or energy authority or provider. The grant amount is only reduced if you have received funding under the Green Vouchers for Schools program. For more information contact the Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts on 1800 703 831, email nationalsolarschools@environment.gov.au or visit <http://www.environment.gov.au/settlements/renewable/nationalsolarschools/>.