



Water: Learn it for life! is a free comprehensive online water education program written by Queensland teachers. The resource provides lesson plans, background information, activities and links. The program supports the Queensland curriculum and is framed around Essential Learnings. To access the resource visit <http://www.nrw.qld.gov.au/waterwise/education/index.html>.

On Borrowed Time
This free resource is a selection of inquiry-based teaching and learning units exploring key biodiversity issues. Designed for secondary school students, the resource is based on a book by ecologist and conservation biologist, David Lindenmayer. Register to receive a free copy at <http://www.publish.csiro.au/onborrowedtime/>

Lopees—Reusable Envelopes
Lopees are an environmentally friendly alternative to the use of paper envelopes for school payments and correspondence. Lopees are envelope-sized organic cotton bags, with a zip to prevent money from falling out. A small plastic pocket on the front of the bag holds a business-sized card showing the student's name and class, so that the Lopee can be returned to them. For more information visit <http://www.lopees.com.au>

Funding Opportunities cont.

Green Door Foundation

Grants of up to \$5000 are available to support project(s) that encourage school communities to creatively address achieving a smaller carbon footprint. The funded project(s) will effect real behaviour and attitude change; will include the whole school community and will act as a model project for other schools to adopt. **Applications should be submitted by 24 October 2008.** The winning project(s) will be run in the 2009 school year. For an Expression of Interest Form contact Trish Parrott at info@thegreendoor.com.au / (07) 5543 8555.

NRW - Natural Resources Awareness Grants

Grants of up to \$5000 are available to community NRM groups to help develop small projects promoting the importance of natural resources in our lives. Projects should be educational and encourage people to become involved in NRM activities in Natural Resources Week in May 2009. Groups can work in partnerships with schools or businesses. **Applications close 31 October 2008.** For assistance and application forms contact the Department of Natural Resources and Water on (07) 3238 3165.

For information on current funding opportunities featured in past issues please visit the following websites or contact QMDC for more details.

National Solar Schools Program—<http://www.environment.gov.au/settlements/renewable/nationalsolarschools/>

Queensland's Solar and Energy Efficiency Program—<http://education.qld.gov.au/facilities/solar/energy.html>

Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program for Primary Schools—www.healthylife.gov.au and www.kitchengardenfoundation.org.au

Term Four Events

Greenfest

Greenfest is a free 'green' festival to be held in Brisbane on the weekend of October 11 and 12. The event features a range of activities including guest speakers, film screenings and exhibitions. The event opens with a talk by Jane Goodall and also features a guest speaker talking about Pittwater High School and their Solar Panel Power Station Project. For more information visit www.greenfest.com.au

Coal Mining in Our Backyard - A Film and Information Evening

Organised by Friends of Felton the evenings feature guest speakers and the showing of a film with the aim of discussing the issues associated with coal mining in our region. Guest Speakers include; Caroon Coal Action Group, Liverpool Plains, NSW and Sid Plant, Farmer and Climatologist, Acland.

- Pittsworth – Wednesday, 8 October, 6:45pm, Pittsworth Golf Club, Hill St
- Toowoomba – Thursday, 9 October, 6:45pm, Toowoomba Indoor Bowls Club, 10 Annand St

Month	Event	Website
October	International Walk to School Month	http://www.iwalktoschool.org/
	National Ride to Work Day—15	http://www.bv.com.au/join-us/126/
	International Youth Coastal Conference - 19 – 22	www.onelifeonworldourfuture.com/coastal/
	National Water Week – 19 – 25	http://www.savewater.com.au/index.php?sectionid=595
	Regional Science and Technology Forum—20	http://www.learningplace.com.au/en/ddsw/smen
November	National Recycling Week – 10 - 16	http://www.planetark.com/campaignspage.cfm/newsid/9/story.htm
December	Walk Against Warming - 6	http://www.walkagainstawarming.org/



The Discovering Landcare Forum was supported by:



Landcare Link

Quarterly Newsletter of the Queensland Murray-Darling Committee
October 2008

Science to the Rescue—Discovering Landcare Forum and Property Planning Field Day 2008



Over 500 students, teacher and community members from across southern Queensland converged on Goondiwindi in August for the fourth annual Discovering Landcare Forum. Local students were joined by students from as far a field as Crows Nest, Mitchell and Warwick, and were involved in an array of exciting, hands-on activities based around the themes of science and sustainability.

High school students were also involved in a property planning field day at a local property outside Goondiwindi, where they participated in a range of activities related to real-life property management. Agriculture students travelled from Stanthorpe, St. George, and Warwick to participate in the field day.

Community members didn't miss out, either. A community dinner was held on the Tuesday evening, where community members and special guests heard presentations from inspiring speakers, including Her Excellency Ms Penelope Wensley, AO, Governor of Queensland, and local farmer, John Coggan. While the dinner was being held, local children and families were entertained by Dr. Joel Gilmour from the University of Queensland Physics Troupe, where they saw some amazing science experiments, featuring mini explosions and fire tornados.



QMDC would like to thank the Forum sponsors as featured on the left and the many supporters, including Trevor and Lois Martin, Farmgate Butchery and Providore, Batesy's Bakery, the Department of Natural Resources and Water, the Queensland Museum, Cotton Catchments and Communities CRC, the Euraba Paper Mill, New England TAFE, Waggamba Landcare, Granite Borders Landcare and the University of Queensland, who all helped with the running of the event.





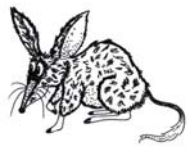
Contact Us

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 in Toowoomba 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.



Free Climate Change Action Kit

The Australian Conservation Foundation are offering free information packs about what climate change is and what you can do to help. To register for a pack visit <http://www.acfonline.org.au/>



Reptile Workshop at Myall Botanic Gardens



Above: The golden-tailed gecko is one of the species covered by the Reptiles of the Brigalow Belt information kit. Photo courtesy of Craig Eddie, Boobook Consulting.

A reptile identification workshop was held at the Myall Park Botanic Garden, Glenmorgan on 4 October to launch a new threatened species toolkit. The workshop included an early morning bird walk as well as reptile species and habitat identification activities and was attended by over 70 community members.

The new toolkit, funded by the Threatened Species Network, features factsheets on 16 reptile species found in the Brigalow Belt bioregion that have recently become the target of recovery actions. If you would like to receive a free copy of the toolkit contact Renee.

New Employment Strategy for the Region

The Queensland Murray-Darling Committee (QMDC) would like to invite you to be part of a series of public meetings to address education, employment, business opportunities and skills shortages in the natural resources and agricultural industries across the Borders Rivers and Maranoa-Balonne catchments.

QMDC is organising these public meetings to bring together a range of people across the broader community to address these important issues.

QMDC will use the feedback and information gathered from these meetings to build an Aboriginal Employment Strategy for the region, which will aim to provide a framework to address Aboriginal unemployment, and the skills shortages being experienced in these two industries. However, we hope to support the local community to consider all sectors of unemployment in an attempt to fill specific skill gaps.



- Goondiwindi Bowling Club – 8 October, 9:30am to 11:30am
- Dirranbandi Motor Inn – 10 October, 10:30am to 12:30pm
- Balonne Skill Centre, St. George – 13 October, 10:00am to 12:00pm
- Berkley Lodge Motor Inn, Mitchell – 14 October, 9:30am to 11.30am
- Maranoa Club, Roma – 15 October, 9:30am to 11.30am
- Murilla Landcare Centre, Miles – 16 October, 9:30am to 11.30am

If you would like any further information about these meetings, please contact Cheryl Moggs on 07 4671 7900, or 0417 468 861. Please notify QMDC's Border Rivers office, on 07 4671 7900, if you would like to attend any of these meetings.

Competitions and Awards

MobileMuster National Schools Recycling Challenge

MobileMuster is a competition for all Australian schools to see how many old mobile phones and accessories can be collected for recycling before the end of National Recycling Week on the 14th November. MobileMuster will give schools native Australian trees for students to plant at school based on the total kilograms of mobile waste collected. For more information and to register visit <http://www.mobilemuster.com.au/?Page=1875>

WWF-Australia – Have your say competition

The competition is open to youth aged 12-18 years. There are two ways in which they can enter: They can write an essay in the form of - "A Letter From The Future" or They can enter a photo in the - "Natural Australia Photo" competition. There will be two winners chosen and both will win a trip for two to Borneo. To enter and for more information go to www.wwf.org.au/competition. **Competition opens on the 5th October and closes on 20th October 2008.**



Participants in the 2008 Discovering Landcare Forum & Property Planning field day.

Overseas Teaching Opportunity

International Student Volunteers (ISV) is currently seeking secondary school teachers, to travel abroad for free during the summer holiday break - co-leading the student volunteer programs. For more information visit <http://www.isvonline.com/highschools/>.

Funding Opportunities

Landcare Australia - Junior Landcare Grants Program

The grants fund activities to help young people participate in Landcare projects, at their school or within their local community and environment. There are a number of grants on offer within the program:

- Coles Junior Landcare School Garden Grant** – projects up to \$1,000.
- Australia Post Junior Landcare Biodiversity Grant** – projects up to \$550.
- VISY Junior Landcare Recycling Grant** - projects up to \$1,100.

Emphasis is placed on projects which:

- involve the school community or broader local community
- have determined educational outcomes with an environmental focus
- link with a community landcare group
- are student-oriented and allow maximum student involvement.

For more information visit

http://www.landcareonline.com/funding_opportunity_details.asp?fo_id=6 or contact Roger at roger@landcareaustralia.com.au / (03) 9662 9977.

The final round for 2008 closes October 24 2008.

Norman Wettenhall Foundation Grants

The Foundation supports projects that enhance or maintain the vitality and diversity of the Australian natural environment. The Foundation aims to build capacity in local communities to effect long-term beneficial change in the natural environment and to support education relating to our natural environment. For more information visit <http://www.nwf.org.au/grants/index.html>. **Applications close Monday 22nd December 2008 and Tuesday 31st March 2009.**

Landcare Australia - Woolworths Sustainable Farming Program

Grants of \$5,000 are available through Landcare Australia from the Woolworths Sustainable Farming Program. The grants seek to encourage Australian farmers to implement innovative techniques which contribute to more sustainable production and competitiveness of our primary industries. The grants are available for farmers in areas that were still declared eligible for "Exceptional Circumstances" assistance in January, 2008 (includes the Queensland Murray Darling Basin). The Innovation Grants are aimed at helping farmers develop good ideas, focusing on issues such as climate change adaptation, crop or animal production, water or nutrient use efficiency and management of waste, salinity or managing drought. Applications close on Wednesday, October 22, 2008. For further information and application forms, visit http://www.landcareonline.com/funding_opportunity_details.asp?fo_id=14 or contact the Project Officer – Shivani Jayasinghe on 02 9412 1040 / shivani.jayasinghe@landcareaustralia.com.au.

Enviro Saver Program

Fieldforce Services is offering schools an opportunity to help the environment while fund raising. The company provides a free service to households and businesses, providing energy saving tips, free supply and installation of energy-efficient light globes and advice on solar energy, insulation and energy-efficient appliances. Companies then buy carbon credits from Fieldforce Services to offset their emissions. Fieldforce Services will provide \$5 to schools for each household or business contact information supplied to participate in the program. (The business/household must want the free service.) For more information, please contact Stuart Harwood, stuart.harwood@fieldforce.net.au or 3258 1007.