

MEDIA RELEASE

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Success for Ballandean students on climate change quest

Ballandean State School students are combining fun and learning as they work to lower the carbon footprint of their school and community.

The school, with the help of local natural resource body the Queensland Murray-Darling Committee (QMDC), secured a community grant awarded through the Low Carbon Diet Community Funding Program, a ClimateSmart initiative of the Department of Environment and Resource Management.

Ballandean State School Principal Kath Wenban said a coordinated school-wide approach to sustainable education had led to the development of the Ballandean Environmentally Sustainable Team (BEST).

“The students in this team took a lead role at a workshop held last Wednesday (May 27) where the whole community learnt more about recycling, reusing and renewable sources of energy,” Ms Wenban said.

“The students took everyone on a tour of existing school sustainability projects aimed at reducing our ecological footprint, including a Bokashi composting system, paper brick making, a vegetable garden and aluminium can recycling.”

QMDC Education Officer Renee Fletcher said it was wonderful to see how senior students guided and involved junior students in the sustainability projects.

“It is also really important to engage the community, which Ballandean State School has successfully done with a number of parents and community members on hand for the May 27 event,” Ms Fletcher said.

The day at Ballandean State School also involved hands-on sessions on recycling, energy, waste and climate change. As part of the activities students used peddle power to drive a milkshake maker and harnessed the energy of the sun to toast marshmallows in a solar cooker.

“A sustainable energy trailer featuring demonstration solar panels and wind turbine was used in sessions on climate change, and parents appreciated learning how to make their homes more climate smart,” Ms Fletcher said.

Another information and activity session is planned for later in the year at Ballandean State School but will be held later in the afternoon to encourage working parents to attend. For more information, contact Kath Wenban on 4684 1254 or Renee Fletcher on 4637 6224.

Media contact/s

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Photographs: Please note these photographs are available as high resolution jpeg files.

010609QMDC1: Ballandean students learn about recycling waste and composting.



010609QMDC2: Ballandean students give waste paper a new life as paper bricks for use in fireplaces.



010609QMDC3: A waste audit was conducted to find out how much waste is being produced by the school and to help identify ways to reduce the amount of waste produced.

