



Landcare Link

Quarterly Newsletter of the Queensland Murray-Darling Committee
July 2009

Students build skills in property management

More than 60 students took up the challenge to design a working property management plan for a farm as part of the Property Planning program offered by the Queensland Murray-Darling Committee (QMDC). Schools involved in the day included Stanthorpe State High School, Warwick State High School, Downslands College and St Saviour's College.



Students determine the characteristics of the property's soil.

The Property Planning program takes students through the steps involved in developing a property management plan. To complete the plan, the students had to take into consideration all of the natural resource assets on the property and then judge the health of those assets, as well as any possible future threats. The final step of the plan is to create a management strategy based on their assessment of the resources and the landholder's overall goals for their enterprise.

The field trip was held at "Googoorewon" near Allora on May 26 where students assessed and monitored riverine environments, soil health, cultural heritage values, weed management and biodiversity values.

"It is stimulating and rewarding to be involved with other professionals (industry and teachers) from both a knowledge and a pedagogical point of view," Stanthorpe State High School's Tony Heading said.

Ballandean community on a quest to reduce carbon footprint

Ballandean State School, with 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.



Students and community members conduct a waste audit.

Through the Ballandean Low Carbon Diet Challenge, school and community members are working to reduce their energy consumption and waste production by implementing a number of climate smart actions. To help generate enthusiasm and the knowledge to succeed in their challenge a number of workshops are planned for Ballandean. The first workshop was held at Ballandean State School on May 27.

Continued over page.

*"My future starts when I wake up every morning ... Every day I find something creative to do with my life."
Miles Davis*





New Resource - Outdoor classrooms - A handbook for school gardens

Written by
Queensland
teachers Janet
Millington and
Carolyn Nuttall this
book provides a
practical guide to
establishing a
school garden.

The book is the
culmination of
many years
teaching in and out
of the classroom, of
practical gardening
experience and
learning how best
to integrate a
garden into a
school community
and creatively
weave the outdoor
classroom through
all levels of
curriculum.

Living Sustainably: the Australian Government's National Action Plan for Education for Sustainability

www.environment.gov.au/education/nap/



Ballandean community on a quest to reduce carbon footprint *cont.*

The Ballandean Environmentally Sustainable Team (BEST) took everyone on a tour of existing school sustainability projects aimed at reducing the school's carbon footprint, including a Bokashi composting system, paper brick making, a vegetable garden and aluminium can recycling.

The day at Ballandean State School also involved hands-on sessions on recycling, energy, waste and climate change. As part of the activities participants 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 a wind turbine was used in sessions on climate change, and parents learnt how to make their homes more climate smart.

Another information and activity session is planned for 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.

Need some ideas for Semester Two?

QMDC library resources are now able to be searched via the web. The majority of resources in the Toowoomba collection have been added to a library database called Libcode. Resources from both the Roma and Goondiwindi Offices will be added in turn.

Libcode is very similar to the systems that you would be familiar with from school or city council libraries. The database allows you to conduct searches by subject, title and author and the web search function allows you to access and search the catalogue from anywhere with internet access. To access the online catalogue visit the QMDC website – www.qmdc.org.au – and go to 'QMDC Library Services', a menu item on the left hand side of the screen.

New teaching resources have also been added to the library. QMDC is grateful for the donation of resources from Householder's Options to Protect the Environment (HOPE) and Condamine Alliance. New titles include:

- a number of resources for secondary teachers;
- plant and animal identification resources;
- titles relating to growing Australian native plants; and
- guides for establishing school garden projects.

See the 'New Resource' blurbs throughout the newsletter for more details on individual resources.



As there are no community paper recycling facilities, paper bricks are made from paper waste. These can be used instead of wood in fireplaces.

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Help choose the face of Junior Landcare by voting on the auditions of 10 entrants in the Young Attenborough Junior Landcare Competition. Visit www.juniorlandcare.com/attenboroughcomp.



New Resource Blueprints for Greening Schools
By Noel Gough, this is a practical guide to policies and practices for environmental education in Australian secondary schools. Includes developing goals and strategies, policy to practice and information on developing curriculum.

Professional Development opportunities

If you have a group of teachers interested in a particular topic related to sustainability or natural resource management please contact QMDC (reneef@qmdc.org.au) to discuss the possibility of running a workshop in your town.

Sustainability Science Workshop

Date: Wednesday, 12 August (3.30 - 6.30pm)

Location: Goondiwindi

Program: This afternoon workshop will provide an introduction to the *Queensland Environmentally Sustainable Schools Initiative* and will involve practical 'hands-on' sustainability science activities for implementation in the classroom. Topics and presenters will include:

- **Energy** – Allan Morrison, Queensland Museum
- **Water** – Mary Rowland, Department of Environment and Resource Management
- **Waste** – Renee Fletcher, Queensland Murray-Darling Committee
- **Biodiversity** – Ross Brown, Amaroo Environmental Education Centre.

There is **no cost to attend** and afternoon tea and dinner will be supplied. Contact Kay Lembo on email at klemb1@eq.edu.au to register or for more information.

Water Awareness Workshop

Date: Tuesday, 11 August - date to be confirmed

Location: Dalby

Program: A one day field trip and workshop designed for Year 5 -10 teachers providing background information on water-related issues and practical science activities with presenters from a range of organisations. Topics will include water-use and treatment, macro invertebrate sampling, water quality testing and riparian assessment.

There is **no cost to attend** and lunch will be supplied. Contact Kay Lembo on email at klemb1@eq.edu.au to register or for more information.

Awards and competitions

Sustainability Alive Competition!

The Sustainability Alive Competition is being run by the University of Southern Queensland, Faculty of Sciences in collaboration with the Primary Industry Centre for Science Education (PICSE). This competition will engage primary and secondary school students in a range of science-based projects to explain and apply sustainability to elements of everyday living. Students will gain an awareness and appreciation of how science and technology are integral to sustaining our environment, society, business, development and other aspects of our everyday lives.

Categories:

Category A – Communicating science

Category B – Technological models and inventions

Category C – Scientific investigations

Prizes:

Monetary prizes will be awarded for first and second in each age division for each of the categories. All entries will receive a certificate of participation.

Age Division	1 st Prize	2 nd Prize
Division 1 (Grades 5-7)	up to \$125	up to \$50
Division 2 (Grades 8-10)	up to \$250	up to \$75
Division 3 (Grades 11-12)	up to \$500	up to \$100

The 2009 Sustainability Alive Awards will be displayed and judged in the Clive Berghofer Recreation Centre at USQ Toowoomba Campus on Open Day Sunday, August 16. Entries are to be received by **Friday, August 7**.





Free resource for Secondary Schools

Climate change for young and old. This book outlines the current and potential impacts of climate change in Australia and globally. A free copy is available for every secondary school by contacting helen@futureleaders.com.au. Visit www.futureleaders.com.au for more information.

Switched on Schools

is a national program by the Australian Youth Climate Coalition to get high school students educated, empowered and active on climate change issues. Registering is free online, and by doing so you get access to resources such as video clips, lesson plans, presentation materials, student leadership opportunities and links with other schools taking action on climate change. www.switchedonschools.org.au.



Awards and Competitions cont.

Sustainable Living Challenge

The Sustainable Living Challenge is open to teachers and students from any subject area in any secondary school around Australia. The program asks both teachers and students to identify a challenge and then take steps towards researching, designing and taking action to address it. Project submissions will be considered in five categories, and champions of sustainability will be selected on the basis of how projects demonstrate a vision for a sustainable future. All projects must be submitted by 30 October 2009. To register and for more information visit www.sustainableliving.com.au.



Teach Sustainability Award

This annual award seeks to recognise innovative sustainability education teaching programs. To enter, a teacher submits their own sustainability education teaching program to the Teach Sustainability website by the end of **November 2009**. (Usually in word or PDF format). Prizes include a sustainability book pack from the UNSW Bookshop, membership to the Australian Association of Environmental Education. For more information visit www.teachsustainability.com.au.

Junior Landcare Pumpkin Challenge

Open to individual and groups under 16 years of age. Similar to 2008's Watermelon Challenge, participants this year will compete to grow a pumpkin. **Registrations open in August**. Visit www.juniorlandcare.com.au for more information.

Threatened Species Week poster competition

The Griffith University EcoCentre would like you to help raise awareness of threatened species in Australia by creating a poster on the theme of *Habitat is Home*. The competition is open to primary school students of all ages, individual and class entry. **Entries close August 6**. Contact Rhiannon Chamberlain to register and for more information, email R.Chamberlain@griffith.edu.au or phone 3735 5546.

Schools First

Schools First is a national awards program aimed at bringing together students, teachers, parents and community members, to support each other and help improve student outcomes. The awards are open all Australian primary and secondary schools. Schools First provides financial recognition of success in establishing effective school-community partnerships and financial support to build stronger school-community partnerships. There are two categories of awards:

- **The Impact Awards** are for those school–community partnerships that can demonstrate improved student outcomes as a result of their partnership.
- **The Seed Funding Awards** are for those schools that are either in the process of setting up a partnership or in the early stages of the partnership and are seeking funding to help the partnership develop further.

The closing date for applications is August 14. For more information visit www.schoolsfirst.edu.au/cms-home/index.phps.

Future Leaders Awards

Open to senior students these awards recognise and reward young Australians who have shown strong leadership and potential. They aim to inspire others to engage in environmental and community issues and make a difference. Categories include Climate Writing Award, Climate Action Award, Environment Award and the Helen Handbury Leadership Award (an award for community development in rural and regional Australia). The awards have different prizes ranging from \$1000 to a fully funded fellowship to participate in an Earthwatch Expedition to Australia or New Zealand.

Closing dates are July and August. For more information visit www.futureleaders.com.au.



Contribute to the CSIRO **National Consumption survey** - <http://apo.org.au/notice/lifestyles-consumption-and-environmental-impact-national-household-consumption-survey>

New Resource Activate Your Students - An inquiry-based learning approach to sustainability -

Sharon Rushton. The series consists of three resources for lower, middle and upper primary students. The sustainability focused units contained in this series encourage students to become actively involved in their world. Based on problem-based and inquiry-based learning pedagogy, each unit contains detailed teacher information on planning and implementing the unit of work, and supporting reproducible student worksheets.

Awards and Competitions cont.

Queensland Regional Achievement and Community Awards

Nominations are now open in several categories including the Golden Circle **Environment and Landcare Award** and the Golding Contractors **Youth Leadership Award**. Prizes include television exposure or a \$2,500 AwardSaver account. **Nominations close Friday, July 31**. For more information visit www.awardsaustralia.com.au or call 1300 735 445.

Grants and Funding Opportunities

Ergon Energy Envirofund

Funding is available for incorporated, not-for-profit organisations to undertake energy saving and environmental projects in their local communities. Preference will be given to projects with an energy conservation focus. Projects must occur within the Ergon Energy area of operation (all of Queensland excluding Sunshine Coast, Brisbane and the Gold Coast). Amounts from \$200 - \$20,000 are available, dependent on the size and merit of the project. **Applications for the first round of grants close on Friday, July 31**. For more information visit <http://evolve.ergon.com.au/>.

Junior Landcare grants

Coles Junior Landcare School Garden Grant - Schools and youth groups can apply for grants of up to \$1000 (ex GST) to create gardens in their school or community such as bush tucker gardens, waterwise gardens or vege gardens.

Yates Environmental Management Planning Grant - Schools and youth groups can apply for grants of up to \$1000 (ex GST) to undertake School Environmental Management Plans (SEMP) or to undertake works identified in an earlier SEMP. Closing dates for 2009 are Friday, August 7 for Round 3 and Friday, October 23 for Round 4. To download application forms and for more information visit www.landcareonline.com/funding_opportunity_details.asp?fo_id=6

Healthy Environment Leadership Mentoring (HELM) Grant for Young Artists

Australian Council for the Arts has funded an environmental mentorship project providing \$13,000 grants for young and emerging artists to use their creative talents to tackle conservation topics. The HELM project, will result in selected artists producing a work that brings together the environment community and their own artistic practice. Nominations close August 3. The project is being managed by Queensland Conservation. Details available at www.australiacouncil.gov.au/grants/grants/healthy_environment_leadership_mentoring_program2 and further enquiries to sam@wombatcreative.com.au.



Great website for students - Cool Schools

Presented like a large pin-board the site covers a range of environment and sustainability topics from an Australian perspective. The site contains age-specific information for student groups from years 1-10 and teachers. The site contains engaging, student-friendly information on topics including transport, climate change, pollution, energy, water and biodiversity. Visit www.ourcoolschool.org/cs_home.html.

Access free online environmental education journal - Eingana

The Victorian Association of Environmental Education (VAEE) publishes a tri-annual journal containing a range of resource materials and academic articles for teachers and community educators. The journal can be accessed for free online at www.vaee.vic.edu.au/resources/resources_publication.html

Events Calendar



- July**
- 5-12 - **NAIDOC Week** www.naidoc.org.au
 - 11-13 - **Power Shift Youth Climate Summit** www.powershift.org.au
 - 31 - **National Schools Tree Day** <http://treeday.planetark.com/>
- August**
- 2 - **National Tree Day** www.treeday.planetark.com
- September**
- 7-13 - **Landcare Week** www.landcareonline.com.au
- October**
- 1-2 - **NSW Environmental Educators Conference**, Coffs Harbour www.aaeensw.org.au/nsw_ee_conferences.htm
 - 12-14 - **International Teachers' Conference on Teaching Current Climate Change in Secondary Education**, Copenhagen, Denmark www.ice2009.org
 - 18-20 - **MDBA International River Health Conference**, Canberra. www.onelifeoneworldourfuture.com/index.php?pageid=419
 - 19 - **Regional Science and Technology Forum**, Toowoomba www.learningplace.com.au/en/ddsw/smen
 - 22-24 - **Engage Enact, Empower: Sustainability and the Early Years**, Melbourne www.eeec.org.au

Power Shift

3,000 young people from around the country will come together to hear inspiring speakers such as Tim Flannery, as well as meet other students from around Australia. For young people aged 14 to 29.

www.powershift.org.au

To help you celebrate **NAIDOC Week** a list of resources and links are available on the OzProject site. www.ozprojects.edu.au/course/view.php?id=35

A great resource to help select **native plants** suitable for growing in the **Toowoomba** region. www.toowoombaplants2008.blogspot.com

Funded by:



Australian Government



Queensland Government

Schools Tree Day

Planet Ark is looking for teachers to register as Site Coordinators. Tree planting can take place within your school grounds or on approved public land. Site Coordinators are required to organise and supervise their registered tree-planting site. Planet Ark provides support to all registered Site Coordinators through its National Tree Day Hotline and website, where downloadable resources, a step-by-step guide to organising your tree-planting and lesson plans from the 'Get Growing!': Environmental Education Kit', are readily available. For more information visit <http://treeday.planetark.com/>

We want to hear from you!

Have your students produced some artwork relating to a school sustainability project or have they composed an interesting short story or poem they would like to share?

The *Landcare Link Newsletter* would love to feature inspirational pieces from students across the region.

We are also interested to receive information from teachers on the projects and learning activities being undertaken.

Students that contribute work will receive an encouragement prize for their efforts!

Send your contributions to reneef@qmdc.org.au or pipb@qmdc.org.au today.

