

MEDIA RELEASE

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QUEENSLAND
MURRAY-
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COMMITTEE



Habitat Investigation field trip a success for students

More than 70 senior biology and geography students from across the Darling Downs participated in the first "Habitat Investigation" field day at Irongate Conservation Park near Pittsworth last week.

The field day, which was organised and run by staff from the Queensland Murray-Darling Committee (QMDC), was held to give students the opportunity to develop skills in flora and fauna monitoring techniques. Students participated in activities that focussed on various monitoring techniques including the line transect, quadrat technique and the visual assessment technique.

QMDC Biodiversity and Pest Management Regional Coordinator Holly Hanlon said the field day was organised to provide students and teachers with experience in surveying and monitoring techniques.

"Having hands-on experiences is really important, and we were able to provide that in a number of different ways during the field day," Ms Hanlon said.

QMDC Education Officer Sandy Robertson said it was the first time the regional natural resource management organisation had held the Habitat Investigation event.

"We are really pleased with the outcomes of the day; the students were engaged and were involved in learning about a number of different techniques," Ms Robertson said.

"It was also important for students to understand why we collect the flora and fauna data, and how it is used in vegetation and biodiversity management planning," she said.

Volunteers from the Pittsworth Landcare Group were also on hand to speak to the students about the history of the park and the plans they have for the future of Irongate Conservation Park.

Paula Halford, from the Pittsworth Landcare Group, said she was keen to get more young people involved in the planning and conservation of the park, and was glad to see the number of people using the park during the field trip.

The Habitat Investigation field day is aimed at Senior Biology and Geography students. Another field day is planned for 2011.

The Queensland Murray-Darling Committee is a natural resource management organisation that supports communities in within the Queensland Murray-Darling Basin to sustainably manage their natural resources. Visit www.qmdc.org.au for more information.

Media contact/s

More information: Pippa Bagshaw, QMDC Education Officer, ph: 07 4671 7900
Sandy Robertson, QMDC Education Officer, ph: 07 4637 6228

Released by: Pippa Bagshaw, QMDC Education Officer, ph: 07 4671 7900