

MEDIA RELEASE

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QUEENSLAND
MURRAY-
DARLING
COMMITTEE



Bymount East School celebrates sustainability

Staff and students at the Bymount East State School have a clear vision of their sustainable future, developed as part of their work in the Earth Smart Science program.

With the support of staff from the Queensland Murray-Darling Committee (QMDC), staff and students were able to work on units that focused on saving energy and water, as well as reducing waste and increasing the biodiversity in the school grounds.

QMDC Education Officer Pippa Bagshaw was very impressed by the hard work put in by students and teachers throughout the year.

“The school has developed some great projects, and the students are obviously really engaged in the whole process, especially when it comes to the vegie garden,” Ms Bagshaw said.

Parents and community members gathered to see the successful vegetable garden that was planted and grown by students, as well as taking the time to look at the numerous native plants that were planted in the school grounds earlier this year.

Bymount East Science Teacher Glenn Telford said the students had enjoyed working on the topic of sustainability in science this year.

“We have found that these sorts of units of work and activities not only engage the students in hands-on learning but that the learning is really relevant to real life; the students are able to put their learnings in context, which is really important,” Mr Telford said.

“We have also focused on saving energy by installing digital timers and using remote controlled power switches, and the students have again taken a lead in this area.

“All this work on sustainability fits easily into our School Environmental Management Plan (SEMP), written during the course of year with support from QMDC staff. Now our school has a vision of where we are heading and what we would like to achieve in sustainable education.

“We have more plans for 2011, with research on a frog pond construction and the benefits it will have already underway.”

QMDC is the South West Queensland hub for the Earth Smart Science program, which is an Education Queensland Initiative. QMDC staff members support schools in the Queensland Murray-Darling Basin to develop SEMP's and implement exciting programs around sustainability and the environment.

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

Media contact/s

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PLEASE NOTE: Print quality jpeg photographs from this event are available upon request.