

MEDIA RELEASE

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QUEENSLAND
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COMMITTEE



Bungunya School celebrates sustainability

Staff and students at the Bungunya State School, west of Goondiwindi, have been working hard to make their school more sustainable as part of their work in the Earth Smart Science program, and recently celebrated their achievements.

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 new gardens and the frog pond,” Ms Bagshaw said.

Parents and community members gathered to officially open the new frog pond last week, as well as listen to student presentations on some of the activities that have taken place throughout the year.

Bungunya State School Principal Mike Townsend said it was great to see the change in the school appearance over the course of the year.

“The students have not only been engaged in hands-on learning, but they have also learnt some easy habits that can help us reduce our energy usage and reduce waste production,” Mr Townsend said.

“We have also focused on saving water by installing water tap timers and fixing leaky taps, 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 more gardens and trees to be planted in the new year,” Mr Townsend said.

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.

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