

MEDIA RELEASE

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Yelarbon school turning green

Students and staff from Yelarbon State School are well on their way to making their school a 'greener' place to learn.

From school vegetable gardens to chook pens and worm farms to energy-saving devices, everyone at Yelarbon School has helped their school become more sustainable, and they shared their achievements with the wider community last week.

Yelarbon school took part in the Earth Smart Science program in 2010 and was one of 15 schools across south-west Queensland to take part in the initiative, which supports schools to become more sustainable with assistance from the Queensland Murray-Darling Committee.

Principal Philippa Sly said she had seen some fantastic results from being involved in the program.

"Not only have we seen students become more aware of the need to save energy and reduce waste, we have also seen all students engaged in real-life learning," Ms Sly said.

"Those students who aren't usually interested in the academics of school have really been able to link their learning in environmental education to their lives, and that is wonderful."

QMDC Education Officer Pippa Bagshaw said Yelarbon had really taken a lead with the Earth Smart Science program.

"QMDC has been supporting schools across south-west Queensland all year to develop sustainable learning and projects and, whilst all have done an amazing job, it is really exciting to see the difference the Yelarbon School has made to their school grounds and student engagement," Ms Bagshaw said.

Local Yelarbon resident and past student Beryl Wallace was also happy to see the work that had gone on at the school. Beryl, who is 94 years old and first attended Yelarbon School in 1923, was invited to assist one of the youngest members of the school community to plant a tree in the school grounds.

"I really am quite honoured to be given this opportunity," Ms Wallace said. "I have lived in Yelarbon all my life and it is great to see all this happening at the school these days."

Students gave presentations to the community on the hard work they have been involved with this year, including using a Bokashi bin and cooking with vegetables from their own garden. Students had a market stall available, with items such as potatoes, shallots and recycled paper available for sale. Money raised will go towards more sustainable initiatives next year.

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. Visit www.qmdc.org.au for more information.

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