

## Project proposal for an Industrial Placement Student

**Location of Placement:** Landcare Discovery Centre, Toowoomba

**Field Supervisor:** Landcare Education Officer

### **Project Background and Scope:**

The Condamine Catchment has a high number of schools increasingly incorporating Landcare and natural resource management in their curriculum areas. This has placed a high demand for services on the Landcare Discovery Centre. One area that needs development as a result of this demand is in the coordination of **professional development packages** for teachers across a range of appropriate environmental themes.

It is intended that the PD packages take teachers through **underlying issues** relating to a range of topics such as:

- vegetation identification, selection and propagation
- threatened species
- salinity and soils
- energy ,waste and recycling
- urban sustainability
- climate and greenhouse issues

This would involve collating information from existing publications held in the Landcare Discovery Centre's Resource collection. Some topics are supported by a good body of background information already while others need further compilation.

Also included in the PD package would be suggested **activities** for teachers to run with their students relating to the various themes. For example, a suitable activity to include in a package on energy, recycling and waste might be to work out individual ecological footprints for each student. The links to websites would be included in the activity description along with interpretive information and suggestions to lessen each footprint. Again, much of this information is already available at the centre, but needs to be compiled and sorted according to relevance and usefulness.

A suggested format is available in terms of how each activity is to be run in the class (much like a teacher's lesson plan).

A further useful addition the PD packages would contain is a compilation of **contact people** who are able to assist in classroom activities either by speaking to the class or helping to run activities relating to the topic. People who are interested in mentoring classes should also be represented on this list. Compiling this list would involve liaising with various government departments, natural resource

management bodies and volunteer community groups. (A great way to network for future employment opportunities!)

### **Purpose/Outcomes**

- To compile a usable professional development package to assist teachers in delivering environmental education to students.
- The package is intended to provide a written record of professional development sessions run by Landcare Education Officers and delivered to teachers.
- Ideally the packages will be suitable for teachers of a middle schooling age range (10 – 15). Some activities could be earmarked for a particular age group.
- The PD packages may be marketed as a saleable item after sufficient trials to determine effectiveness.

### **Skills required:**

A student with a keen interest in environmental education and interpretation with:

- Proficient use of computer programs
- Effective research and literature review skills
- Effective interpersonal skills and the ability to work both as a part of a team and individually
- Interest in environmental education
- Ability to write to a specified target audience
- Possession of current drivers license

### **Skills Acquired**

The student should expect to develop:

- Communication skills development with government personnel, community groups, education sector personnel and landholders
- Presentation of information to a specified audience
- Literature review skills
- Desktop publishing skills
- Appreciation of educational resources and facilities on offer through the Landcare Discovery Centre