

## ORDER OF AUSTRALIA ASSOCIATION (QLD)

### PRIMARY SCHOOLS' CITIZENSHIP AWARDS 2009

**Blackall State School's** project, *Towner's Call to Action Across Australia*, was undertaken by students in Years 4 to 7 who celebrated the lifetime achievements of a local, Edward Towner who in World War One became Queensland's most decorated soldier earning the Victoria Cross and the Military Cross. The students created and presented a seven minute musical presentation that celebrated aspects of Towner's life including his days as a student, soldier, decorated war hero, geographer and his immortalisation through a bronze statue unveiled at ANZAC this year. The presentation was submitted to the Wakakirri Storytelling Competition to spread its message to improve knowledge of and respect for our heroes and history.



Students in Years Prep to Year 6 at the **Calamvale Community College** are involved in a *Day Camp* which develops positive relationships among the students and fosters caring and supportive behaviours. Using designated themes, students explore and develop positive and supportive relationships towards each other. This year the theme of creativity was explored and used to promote effective communication between students, build strong identities among students and the various groups, foster positive relationships and develop tolerance and acceptance of each other. These principles are the fabric for a healthy and strong society and promotes good citizenship.

**Camira State School** Year 3 students became real water warriors through a *Save The Drips* program. The students investigated water conservation and collected and published water saving hints that the whole community could use. These were published in the local newspaper and the local council web site for others to access. The students developed their knowledge of the importance of water, where it comes from, what it is used for and the different water environments in existence. Students became aware of water conservation in their daily lives and developed posters and gave oral presentations. Students learnt at first hand the value of water, especially, at a time when the drought has been a major concern to our country.



Students from **Coombabah State School** were involved with a redevelopment of a *Youth Precinct*. . Students assisted the local Council at a community area at Runaway Bay as they took part in shaping this part of their community. Through the development of the skate-park, they realised they could have a direct impact on local decision-making and relished this opportunity to be involved. This project developed a commitment to and pride in Australian citizenship, where students took real ownership of the project and developed more confidence in their own ideas. They also engaged readily in group discussions about their designs, offering suggestions and seeking feedback.

Students from **Coomera Anglican College** were engaged in a project, **One For Me, One For the Coast** where after they explored the global impact of plastic on our environment, and then developed and implemented an action plan within the school and wider community aimed at reducing litter on beaches. Active citizenship was promoted through encouraging people to pick up their own rubbish (one for me) and also another piece (one for the coast). Postcards, letters and a commercial were made as part of the campaign. Students were actively involved as citizens of the Gold Coast community and took pride in initiating a campaign that was respected by the wider community.



One hundred and fifty, 5-year-old (prep-aged) children from **Eatons Hill State School** are involved in conserving the Glossy Black Cockatoo and its food source, the black she-oak. Through the **Leave that Tree Alone**, these very young children have researched this endangered bird species, hosted visits by experts in bird conservation, planted 100 special trees in the school grounds, and authored the lyrics and publicly performed a special song emphasizing the importance of the Casuarina trees. By participating in this project, students are learning and displaying the importance of core values of being informed and active citizens within a community. This is one of many projects within the school which contributes to environmental sustainability and promotes responsible, community-minded citizenship.

All students at **Everton Park State School** in Year 7 are involved in a unique **Leadership Program**. Roles include school captains, captains in specific interest areas of sport, arts, health committee and student council as well as reporters and environmental and recycling club leaders. Through these roles, students become role models to younger students and ambassadors for their school. They promote community endeavours as well as performing their specific duties. Through the various leadership roles, students develop a sense of teamwork, caring for others, making worthwhile contributions to society and becoming good citizens of the school and community.



Students from **Home Hill State School** have created **H.H.E.L.P** as a 'lifestyle' for their entire school. The Home Hill Environmental Leadership Program (HHELP), enables the Student Council to operate as a mirror of the Australian Westminster system of government, including having its own Parliament House. All school activities operate under this umbrella, including gardening and enviro-council, Bright Sparks energy and recycling awareness, the school radio station, election of captains and their duties, Student Council and fundraising. Each year elections for leaders are held with a hand-over ceremony and induction day. The school has its own constitution, symbolic mace, coat-of-arms, letterhead, logo, and anthem. The project reinforces living in a democracy.

Students from **Park Ridge State School** were involved with **Bushland Revegetation**, by making an area of the school more attractive and providing a safe habitat for wildlife. Students planted 200 native trees, shrubs, vines and grasses under existing mature trees, and moved over 14 cubic metres of mulch. Students from every year level have helped by digging holes, planting, watering, weeding, picking up litter and mulching. Each break, students were engaged in the project. They took immense pride in how their environment looked and worked co-operatively learning at first hand water saving strategies. The project enabled students to work as a team on a common task and demonstrated commitment to finishing a project.



Students from **Rosedale State School** have commenced a **Kitchen Garden Program**. As part of the national Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Projects, the students are involved in planning, growing, harvesting, preparing and sharing delicious and healthy foods. Students from Years 3 to 7 discover at first hand the pleasures of growing food each week and then using these products, prepare exciting menus. The students then prepare and eat the food they have grown as the culminating part of the activity. At a time when childhood obesity and sustainable living are significant community issues, this program promotes healthy and enjoyable eating and prepares students for tomorrow's world.

Students at **Toowong State School** are involved in a **Bilingual-Bicultural program** where they learn two languages and about two cultures - English and Auslan (Australian Sign Language). Deaf and hearing children are co-enrolled and share all class experiences together, simultaneously. This program promotes Deaf students having full access and participation in school life, including sports, school discos, student leadership opportunities and music. It is considered internationally as a best practice. Visitors often comment that they cannot differentiate between hearing and hearing impaired students. This reflects a truly inclusive community where all students are involved and encourage and assist others to aim high and succeed.



**Yeppoon State School** implemented **Developing Citizens for the Future** using a virtues approach to assist students in making choices. This approach reinforces integrity and builds self-esteem. Using a multicultural and interfaith approach, the program has been designed to bring out the best in each student. Three levels of awards are used for students in Years 4 to 7 while a "Good On You" award exists for students in the younger grades. Activities included in the program are selected by individual students and include land care, plant propagation, water conservation, composting, recycling, as well as volunteering with community groups. Students are encouraged to take an active role in their local community.