

## ORDER OF AUSTRALIA ASSOCIATION (QLD)

### PRIMARY SCHOOLS' CITIZENSHIP AWARDS 2008

**Bald Hills State School-*Family and Friends in the Forest Project*** was re-launched in 2003. Established in 1935, the forest had fallen into disrepair and was infested with exotic weeds. Students, staff and community members re-established the hoop pine plantation of over 500 trees and included a small eucalypt forest, two lagoons, a bird breeding island and an outdoor learning space including an observation deck. Students learnt the importance of regeneration of bushland areas and caring for the environment. Commitment to 'being Australian' and protecting the Australian environment has been fostered within each student and the school community.



#### **Calamvale Community College- *Building Tomorrow's***

*Leaders* is a strong leadership program that develops commitment, passion, persistence and encouragement - essential characteristics for leaders. Initiatives undertaken include Clean-Up Calamvale where all students were encouraged to clean the environment as part of World Environment Day; ANZAC Day Ceremonies and being part of the local community walk. Operation Christmas Child improved the community's appreciation and empathy for others less fortunate. They also participated in the Eight Hour Famine. This Program which starts at the junior school nurtures the leaders of tomorrow.

**Coomera Anglican College** – Through the *Junior Leader Olympics*, Year 6 students examined community groups that help others. Students focused on raising funds for the World Vision Project of freeing children from slavery. They took responsibility for informing younger students about World Vision and what can be done to help those less fortunate. Another project, provided an awareness of Australia's diverse society where students examined how people from countries around the world have chosen to come to Australia and call it home. The students investigated what it means to be Australian. These activities assisted students develop knowledge and gain insights associated with Australia, our democracy and citizenship.



**Geebung Special School** – *Growing and Learning Project* promotes citizenship skills which are being developed by 9 and 10 year olds through their integrated activities including gardening, shopping and cooking. Despite their significant disabilities, students are actively involved in recycling organic materials and using these to grow vegetables for their weekly cooking programs. Students are learning skills of basic recycling, planting, nutrition and gardening as well as applying communication and marketing techniques as their produce is growing. This project develops basic environmental skills, teaches the ethic of hard work achieving great and valued results and develops pride in personal activities.

**Gympie South State School - *The South Seniors Project*** develops the leadership of Year 7 students through their membership in different school committees. Each committee plays an important role and negotiates its goals, plans activities, reviews performance and identifies future projects. Students who have shown strong commitment to their committee are awarded certificates. Included in this project is an excursion to Canberra where students focus on leadership and learning about Australia's government and political history. Through undertaking the South Seniors initiative, students enhance their learning about the school, local, state, national and global community.



**Indooroopilly State School- *We Are One And We Are Many*** involved Year Two students who explored the different cultures of children in their class. As a celebration, they created a show case of arts, crafts and a stage performance from those cultures. They learnt that people from all over the world are similar in many ways. Activities focused around geography, clothing, art, food, celebrations, language and unique animals of the countries. The children compared themselves to a child from another country. Items were presented based on the cultures of China, Korea, India, Mexico and Japan. Young children appreciated the diversity of our culture and the rich contributions made by people from other countries who have moved here.

**St Flannan's Catholic Parish School, Zillmere,** includes students from 39 nationalities. Their Leadership Program involves some Year 6 and Year 7 students who are given the opportunity to participate as leaders in the school through activities as diverse as arranging assembly, delivering morning messages, raising the flags, catering and fundraising. Newsletter writers and photography leaders write a "What's happening in the Classrooms" article for publishing in the newsletter. The project confirms that regardless of ethnicity, creed, or intellectual status leadership skills can be developed if you work at it.



**St Peter Chanel Primary School, The Gap-** In its second year of operation, *Together We Grow* involves Year 7 students actively applying their social, language and citizenship skills through regular visits to school friends at the Glenleighden Special School. Leadership development and citizenship attributes are demonstrated by all students as they use their communication and social skills to interact with Glenleighden students who have severe speech-language disorders. The students enjoy playing musical instruments, writing letters, completing shared school work and encouraging each person to participate as full as possible. Together the students learn from each other.

**Thornlands State School** –*CATS or Children At Thornlands School* are building tomorrow’s citizens today. This whole school program encourages all students to achieve their personal best and to be leaders and effective citizens in the future. By building strong social relationships, children become powerful role models for others, academically and socially. Activities include being reading buddies, peace keepers and big buddies. CATS develop the spirit of community, caring and social responsibility through a culture of volunteering; providing support and service to others. This innovative program is preparing students to be future citizens who are proud of themselves, their community and their heritage.



**Trinity Anglican School, Marlin Coast Campus** - Year 6 students followed the *Tracks of the Bulmba* (homeland) to learn more about the early history of their local area. Students retold Aboriginal stories, made replica shields and bayu (huts), and researched changes in the Cairns area. They explored local rock art, historic sites and the rainforest with a Bulwai elder. Students developed an awareness of the distinctive nature of their local Aboriginal culture and how they can work together through education and shared understanding. The success of the project was evidenced through the enthusiasm, passion and careful consideration for which all activities were undertaken by these outstanding young people.

---000---000---