

**Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries
Queensland Government
Media Release**

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Weedbusting in the Outback

IT WILL be weedbusting in the outback at Longreach in September, when more than 150 students from the district's primary schools take part in Weedbuster Week activities.

Weedbuster Week 2008 coincides with The Outback Advantage's Multi School in Longreach, an inaugural, week-long get-together for primary school students from as far north as Prairie, west as Birdsville and south as Windorah.

Organisers of the two events have coordinated their efforts and the students will be taking part in special Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries weedbusting sessions while in town on Wednesday, September 3.

DPI&F principal land protection officer Garry Pidgeon said he would be turning Weedbuster Week's theme of "Grow Me Instead" into a practical demonstration for the students.

"We'll be showing the students all the weed nasties, such as prickly acacia, parkinsonia and coral cactus – all very prickly weeds – and then presenting some native alternatives, such as boree and coolabahs," Mr Pidgeon said.

"Students are never too young to learn the basics of weedbusting, and might pass on a fact or two to their parents as well!

"Even the littlies from Prep and Grades One and Two, will be able to participate in a special weedbusting game. They are our future land managers, so if we explain the damage done by invasive weeds, they will have a better understanding of why we need to protect the biodiversity and sustainability of the land.

Mr Pidgeon will also be taking his Weedbusters Week show on the road, visiting schools in Longreach, Winton and Aramac.

The Outback Advantage Multi School will be the first time students, from all 14 small schools around western Queensland, meet up in Longreach to undertake the week of specialist activities promoting social and academic growth.

"The theme is Global Warming and the Environment," according to one of the organisers Stacey-Anne Bray, principal of Cameron Downs State School, "and students taking part in Weedbuster Week activities will be a great way to learn about sustainable land management."

Meanwhile, Cloncurry school students won't miss out on the fun of Weedbuster Week.

Cloncurry-based DPI&F land protection officer Tiffany Coffison has arranged Weedbuster displays at both the library and council offices.

"Weedbuster activities will be available as well as information on weed and pest animals," Ms Coffison said.

Further information:

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