

# Fairview Heights journey begins with a bright idea

THE Fairview Heights State School IDEAS journey began in 2003 with support and inspiration from IDEAS Core Team members at the University of Southern Queensland.

A Diagnostic Inventory was conducted to ascertain a clear picture of the school community's backgrounds and needs.

Photographic images assisted teachers to clarify their own personal pedagogy and were a great discussion point for brainstorming words and phrases to encapsulate the unique school identity. Combining these with parent goals and what staff considered to be the perfect attributes of a Fairview Heights State School student, resulted in the formulation of a draft vision.

In concurrence with their IDEAS journey, principal Mark Bolitho was instrumental in providing numerous professional development opportunities.

The school was involved in the Literacy Alliance for the region, a Middle Schooling cluster, the Early Years Curriculum with Fairview becoming a Prep trial school, exploring Productive Pedagogies, an Eric Franzenheim workshop on teaching for thinking, a micro-skilling workshop with Mark Davidson and exploration of the Literate Futures document culminating in a "Multiliteracy Project" with Dr Michele Anstey and Dr Geoff Bull.

The Multiliteracies Project commenced with all teaching staff encouraged to participate. The focus was on their own teaching style and personal pedagogy. The final presentation day was one of great excitement, relief, collegiality, humour, learning and celebration.

The knowledge acquired from this project became a focus for the



Fairview Heights State School's vision is emblazoned on a wall at the school.

school's Literacy program and enabled the writing of a School Wide Pedagogy to be a simple clarification process.

Throughout the development of the final School Wide Pedagogy phase, parent forums were held.

The school's vision "Growing Together – Learning Forever" was finally articulated and accepted. This vision became a guide and assessment filter to ensure that any action within the school was enhancing what they truly believed in as a school community. Students could easily relate to the simplicity of this vision and embraced it and the symbolism associated with it.

2006 has begun with the introduction of an "Actioning" program called "Growing Together – Learning Forever". This is a Values and Guidance for Life program formulated with input from parents, the Guidance Officer, the school's youth worker and teachers, to meet student social and

learning needs.

At the same time Fairview Heights is reviewing its Behaviour Management Plan, mapping its Key Learning Areas and writing a new school Maths program as it continues to align syllabus needs with its vision.

The acting principal at Fairview since the beginning of Term 3, Julie Raitelli sees the IDEAS process as being a filter for any project developed within the school.

"The Vision for Fairview 'Growing Together – Learning Forever' is articulated by parents, students and staff, when they participate in activities within the school and the power of the vision has great effect when behaviour issues are worked through using the underpinning values and schoolwide pedagogy," she said.

This is an exciting period for Fairview Heights as their involvement with IDEAS continues and the "Actioning" phase gains further momentum.



DPI&F entomologist Hugh Brier demonstrates the powerful grip of a butterfly to students at the Barambah Environmental Education Centre.

## Smart Science for Burnett's future researchers

SCIENCE students and their teachers from Proston, Goomeri and Murgon have undertaken workshops in cutting-edge science with staff from the Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries (DPI&F).

Students attended a "Spotlight on Science" workshop at the Barambah Environmental Education Centre in the Wrattens state forest in a partnership between DPI&F and Education Queensland.

Kingaroy DPI&F senior extension officer Mal Matthew said the agricultural science students had taken part

in practical hands-on activities in a range of research areas, including soil science, climatology and integrated pest management through monitoring of beneficial and pest insects.

"Students met scientists and extension staff from DPI&F's Kingaroy research station who are undertaking research that not only impacts on the food we are producing now but studying the adaptability of plants producing new and improved foods we will eat in the future," Mr Matthew said.

"The Spotlight on Science initiative provides secondary school students

with positive exposure to science and career pathways in primary industries.

"It aims to make science more interesting, relevant and exciting for today's students and also build long-term relationships between local high school students, science teachers and DPI&F scientists.

"We believe that by exposing students to the challenging and exciting work undertaken by our researchers, we can help to inspire students to become our leading scientists of the future," he said.

## News in brief

### Teacher wins top VET award

FOREST Lake State High School Head of Department Senior Schooling Leanne Randolph has won the Queensland section of the National VETnetwork Excellence Awards.

The award is in recognition of Mrs Randolph's work at the school in establishing exciting initiatives to encourage high school students to become involved in vocational education while still at school.

Acting principal Sharyn Donald said, "As a new school with our first cohort of Year 12 students exiting last year, it is exciting that our provision of pathways through the senior phase of learning and Leanne's outstanding work has been recognised. Leanne's initiatives provide real-world opportunities for students at Forest Lake."

Mrs Randolph said it was a great honour to be selected as the recipient of this award in Queensland.

"In reality, the award recognises the efforts of the whole Forest Lake school community in providing pathways for our students."

Mrs Randolph has led the development of a range of vocational programs for students including links with TAFE Colleges, school based traineeships, industry links and recently was responsible for initiating the adoption of the Beacon program, where Year 10 students make a public declaration to say no to the dole.

All state awards will be presented in Cairns at the National VET Conference on October 11 2006, where the national award winner will be announced.

### Schools urged to don shades

ROYAL Blind Foundation is calling on schools throughout Queensland to register for the Shades Day fundraising and community education initiative to be held on World Sight Day, Thursday October 12.

This will be the fourth annual Shades Day, again supported by major sponsor Bright Eyes Sunglasses Stores, which urges Queenslanders to wear UV protection sunglasses to their school or workplace on October 12 and make a gold coin donation to help blind and vision impaired people.

"Crazy Shades" will also be available from the Royal Blind Foundation or Bright Eyes stores at just \$5 a pair as part of the Shades Day fundraising initiative.

The school that raises the most from donations and the sale of Crazy Shades will win a 3m x 3m Pro Quikshade Portable Shelter to protect students and teachers from UV rays at school events and outdoor classes.

A range of resources, including posters, newsletters and postcards, are also available for schools and businesses that register to participate in Shades Day. Teacher resource material is also available.

Funds raised from Shades Day will help the Royal Blind Foundation continue its specialist support services for blind and vision impaired people throughout Queensland.

To register, or for further information, contact Shades Day coordinator Georgia Poulton at the Royal Blind Foundation on (07) 3391 9191 or visit [www.rbf.org.au](http://www.rbf.org.au)

### Handsome visitor to Greenbank State School

ON the first day of Term 2 the children at Greenbank State School were greeted by a handsome visitor, one who has decided to make Greenbank his home.

The students at Greenbank have made many positive steps towards encouraging "Handsome", the peacock to feel safe. Handsome visits the Year 6 students every morning to roost in their courtyard whilst he waits to be hand fed.

Once he has been acknowledged by staff and students he then commences to walk around the school and will even casually walk through classrooms taking everything in his stride. Some classes have planted sunflower seeds to produce food for him.

Handsome was not in very good condition when he arrived but now he has his beautiful tail feathers which he proudly displays. Last week the students voted unanimously to adopt and care for a peahen (which is being donated by a local resident) hoping to make Handsome even happier in his new home at Greenbank.

Caring for Handsome has complemented the strong environmental focus which the school is already known for and, although the school adjoins an environmental park, it is obvious that Handsome prefers the company at Greenbank State School.



### Lexmark Indy 300 Anaconda Students Day launched

THE Lexmark Indy 300 Anaconda Students Day was launched by WPS Racing V8 Supercar star Max Wilson and Rugby League legends Scott Sattler and John Cartwright from the Gold Coast Titans at Merrimac State School earlier this month.

Wilson, Sattler and Cartwright led an education session at the school about the importance of a healthy and active lifestyle through sport.

Merrimac State School hosted the educational exercise as a reward for being one of the first schools to sign up for Anaconda Students Day.

Anaconda Students Day, this year to be held on Thursday October 19, is offered to all primary and secondary students throughout Queensland and Northern NSW.

School classes and teachers can attend the day for free and experience the many educational elements of the Lexmark Indy 300 across diverse subject areas including maths, science, physical education, engineering, music, tourism, event management and art.

The day also provides students with an opportunity to get up close and personal with the drivers and personalities involved in the event, attend autograph sessions, get involved in hands-on demonstrations and win prizes.

Schools interested in attending Anaconda Students Day can contact the Lexmark Indy 300 Marketing Department on phone (07) 5588 6800. Registrations close at the end of August.

All participating students are given an activity pack which includes information, questions and activities relating to the Lexmark Indy 300 and presentations they will experience.