


# BUNYAVILLE ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTRE

	PO address	PO BOX 294 Albany Creek 4035
	Phone	(07) 33534356
	Fax	(07) 33532624
	Email	the.principal@bunyavileec.eq.edu.au
	Website or Contact Person	www.bunyavileec.eq.edu.au

## Principal's foreword

### Introduction

Bunyaville Environmental Education Centre shone in 2008 with the successful completion of projects and recognition and celebration of the centre's strengths and achievements.

Bunyaville EEC began the year with the Statewide Launch of QESSI ENERGYWISE program partnering Albany Creek SHS who hosted the Minister of Department of Training and the Arts and the Minister of Mines and Energy. The EnergyWise program assisted 60 schools in 2008 across the state to successfully reduce their energy consumption by 10% for the year. Bunyaville EEC as the Brisbane North QESSI Hub partnered 12 local schools who easily achieved a 10% energy reduction from simple behavioural change.

The **highlight of 2008** was winning the Minister for Innovation, Sustainability and Climate change **Grand Prize** and the winning the Veolia **Schools Prize** for the centre's Catchment Partnerships Learning Action Youth program. The **Catchment P.L.A.Y** program supports water education from P-12, in schools' own catchment at the local level and programs based in and around the centre. Community engagement is a critical component of the Catchment P.L.A.Y for improving the health of our waterways. The interactive water catchment was officially opened by the local Federal member celebrating the completion of the Community Water Grant. All the centres many partners and local schools participated in this celebration.

The *Learning for Sustainability: The role and impact of Outdoor and Environmental Education Centres* research was published June 2008 by the University of Queensland and was successfully shared with all levels of Education Queensland. This research provided the foundations for the Outdoor and Environmental Education Centre Strategic Plan, Charter and Business Plan and directed the designing of the Learning for sustainability and the 5<sup>th</sup> pedagogy statewide professional development planning for the O&EEC sector. This research identified specific ways of working that deliver enhanced learning for sustainability identifying destination, expert and partnership models as ways of operating for EEC's.

### Future outlook

The challenge for Bunyaville Environmental Education is for the staff to support the interests and genuine needs of schools for enriching students' learning environments. Staff at Bunyaville is highly skilled and talented and can provide specialised educational support for teachers, schools and students both teaching outdoors and in schools. There is a need to balance destination, expert and partnership delivery approaches relevant to adequate resources.

The EnergyWise program is well established and highly valued by schools. Learning for sustainability and the ways of working that support this learning can positively enhance school based learning, value add to school based curriculum design and implementation. And reduce schools' ecological footprint.

Progressing the Statewide Outdoor and Environmental Education agendas is critical as the depth of the skills, expertise and pedagogical talent of this sector is vast. It is this talent that needs to be captured and shared with schools to enhance student learning as documented in the Learning for sustainability research published 2008.

Bunyaville EEC will continue to provide real world experienced based learning for students supporting classroom teachers' curriculum delivery.

# Our school at a glance

## School Profile

Bunyaville EEC is situated in Bunyaville Forest Park 15 km from CBD of Brisbane and is positioned in the middle of the Mountains to Mangrove Corridor. The centre is staffed with a teaching principal, a teacher (shared part-time), part-time administration and part-time unit support.

Total number of students taught by centre for 2008 was 5407. Unmet demand for 2008 was 2182 students.

Bunyaville Environmental Education Centre teaches Prep-Year 12 including all sectors and abilities. Schools come to the centre to experience a forest and to engage in the active learning approaches of centre based programs. Centre staff also work in schools with students and teachers sharing their expertise. The centre is exploring working in partnership with organisations to assist schools to reduce their ecological footprint and to embed learning for sustainability as part of teachers' practice.

In 2008 Bunyaville EEC also provided professional development focussing on learning for sustainability for 250 teachers.

## Curriculum offerings

Our distinctive curriculum offerings support schools from P-12

- P-3 programs are problem solving story based adventures for students, providing first hand experiences for engaging in the forest, water play and experiencing natural materials.
- New water education programs were designed for Year 3 - 5 using the centre's interactive water catchment for students to 'live' the water cycle with opportunities to experience creeks, waterfalls, dams and waterways both at the centre and in the forest following water flow from water shed to gullies, into creeks and dams.
- Catchment Connections Year 5-7 provides school based learning about the catchment in the school and provides coaching for teachers using ICT and understanding their local waterway.
- Model and scaffold understanding of the democratic process supporting students having a voice through *The Parliament of Birds* program. This program directly supports school's governance processes.
- Biodiversity, sustainability, sense of place, endangered species, forest management, wildlife corridors, water testing are concepts offered in various approaches with schools for middle schooling
- Senior School programs focus on management and data collection in the field.
- Reducing school's ecological footprint via EnergyWise programs

Extra curricula activities provided by Bunyaville EEC included:

- Professional development for teachers in learning for sustainability and Spatial Technologies for teachers.
- Senior students gained qualifications in Active Volunteering Certificate 2
- Sustainable fishing program established
- Specialised and personalised programs development focussing on data collection for Senior Phase students
- Designing and developing a real life art project for VET Creative Arts students as part of the centre's *Learnscape*.
- Value adding to school based literacy and numeracy programs in unique and creative ways
- Sustainability support within local clusters including Learning for sustainability through QCAR

## Our school at a glance

Additionally Bunyaville EEC supported:

- In partnership with Nudgee Beach EEC and Aspley SHS *Kids Congress* and brings students from across Brisbane together to share environmental knowledge, skills, actions and projects.
- The Environmental Expo runs annually. This is a partnership event supporting teachers' Professional development and knowledge of approaches and resources available for environmental sustainability.

Computers assist learning at Bunyaville EEC via.

- Real world GPS learning
- Use of dataloggers for data collection and used for in field learning
- The centre models various data collection approaches including using digital cameras and hyper linking data to student access that visiting teachers and students use for inclusion in school based report writing.
- 2008 Bunyaville EEC facilitated Brisbane North, Central and West District Spatial Technology GIS teacher PD

### Social climate

Bunyaville EEC is a positive teaching and learning environment for all.

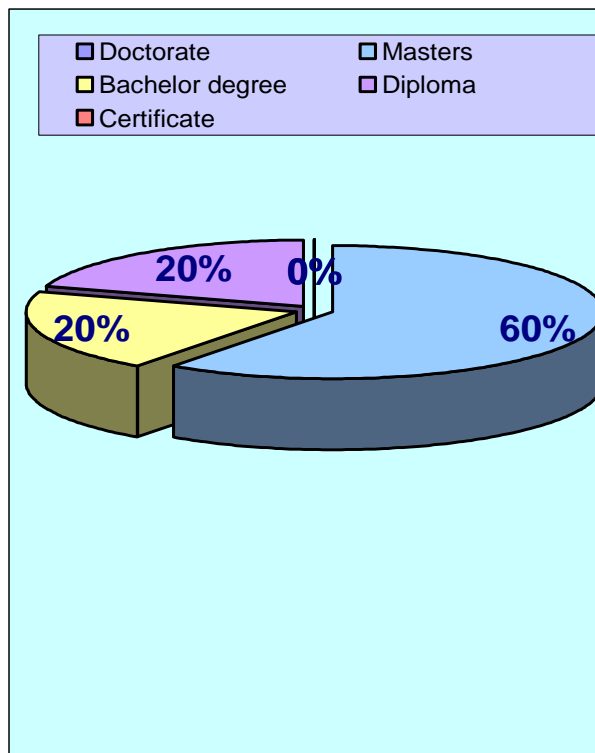
School Opinion survey indicates staff morale well above the state mean. All staff cooperatively plan and deliver programs for schools. Teaching outside of classrooms provides all students with the opportunity 'to shine' in ways that many students can not when inside classrooms. Being outdoors is positive for students.

### Involving parents in their child's education

Bunyaville EEC has an active engagement policy for parent inclusion. 70% of the centre's schools come from the Early Childhood sector that has high parent involvement. The centre actively encourages an open door approach and welcomes all parents to become involved with their child for the time they are at the centre. The centre recognises the interest of visiting parents in their children's learning providing an educational experience for both students and parents.

## Qualifications of all Bunyaville EEC teachers.

Highest level of attainment	Number of classroom teachers and school leaders at the school
Doctorate	0
Masters	3
Bachelor degree	1
Diploma	1
Certificate	0



## Expenditure on and teacher participation in professional development.

The total funds expended on teacher professional development in 2008 were \$3 500.

- The major professional development initiatives are as follows:
- Senior First Aid
- Spatial Technologies – 2 one day workshops and a 3 day field experience
- Biodiversity Forums
- Aus Identities Training
- Water Learn it for Life
- Hidden Histories
- EnergyWise
- Habitat Fragment
- National Australian Association of Environmental Educators Biennial conference
- Eco citizen Online Units
- Climate Change Forum
- QCAR
- The involvement of the teaching staff in professional development during 2008 was 100 %.

Average staff attendance	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For permanent and temporary staff and school leaders the staff attendance rate was 98% in 2008.</li> </ul>	
Proportion of staff retained from the previous school year.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>From the end of the 2007 school year 98% of staff was retained by the school for the entire 2008 school year.</li> </ul>	