

The workshops have been very relevant to the work we have been doing in class. Both artists have planned to fit in with my curriculum. This domino effect cannot be put in monetary value - it is so great! Without these workshops I believe the students would not have done as well in drama this year. Betsy Atkinson, teacher, Mackay Christian College

2010
ABAF
AWARDS

STATE WINNER

QantasLink
Regional Award



Award-winning arts partnership building remote communities

With a shared commitment to building strong, healthy and vibrant communities, Wesfarmers Resources and Queensland Theatre Company have joined forces to create an outstanding partnership to improve the skills and self-esteem of kids in regional communities.

The Wesfarmers Resources Regional Acting Studio gives young people in regional Queensland access to specialised drama training conducted by professional theatre artists. But the initiative is about much more than just acting. Through this program young people

build life skills, collaboration skills, literacy, public speaking proficiency and self-confidence.

The success of the partnership has seen it win the 2010 Australian Business Arts Foundation QantasLink Regional Award (Queensland) for partnerships between businesses and cultural organisations that provide people in regional and rural areas with access to high quality arts and culture.

Over the past two years, the program has offered three to five workshops in theatres, one-day workshops in schools, and three-hour professional development workshops for teachers to further build local capacity. In addition, Queensland Theatre Company has toured its primary school performances *Funny Voices*, *Maxine Mellor's Mystery Project* and *The School of Arts* in Blackwater.

While the Wesfarmers Resources Regional Acting Studio brings the excitement of theatre to young children, it has much broader positive impacts for many stakeholders including:

- Regional communities, by encouraging innovative and diverse communities through the provision of arts and culture
- The arts, by providing access to regional communities who would normally be unable to experience programs of this scale and quality
- The resources industry, by helping to attract and retain employees in regional communities.

In 2010/11 Wesfarmers Resources and Queensland Theatre Company are planning to continue this award winning partnership in its current schools, and expand it into Indigenous and remote communities.