SPRINGFIELD Lakes State School pupils were given a lesson about weeds by a University of Queensland student scientist last month.

UQ PhD science student Nikki Sims visited the school on August 11 as part of the Commonwealth-funded Scientists in Schools program.

Ms Sims is undertaking a PhD in biological control of weeds at the St Lucia campus.

“I introduced the students to the concept of controlling weeds with insects rather than poisoning and pulling them out,” Ms Sims said.

“The students learned about weeds and how they not only grow in the garden but also threaten our native plants and animals.

“I showed the students plantana and milkweed and they were also excited to see a display of cat’s claw creeper being attacked by two of the biological control insects reared by scientists at the Alan Fletcher Research Station (at Sherwood).”

Year 3 teacher Katie Dreis said the day was a great way for pupils to learn about plants, insects and the environment.

“It is great for children to learn how to solve environmental issues using natural solutions. They loved the hands-on experience of identifying weeds and seeing the insects at work.”