Dripstone High School students will proudly open a new shade house today, as part of a project encouraging good democracy and active community participation.

Member for Casuarina Kon Vatskalis was invited to attend this morning’s official launch of the rehabilitated shade house, and see first hand what the students had achieved in the last 7 months.

"I understand the theme of this project was to turn something old into something new, and I think the students can proudly say they’ve done exactly that – the result is an absolute credit to them," said Mr Vatskalis

Working under the Federal Government's Discovering Democracy Program, Year 9 students gave the Science Shade-House a complete makeover, and have established an Asian vegetable garden, ornamental garden and started a fish breeding facility.

All work was carried out through fundraising, with the students holding a car wash, cake stalls and lobbying community members for donations.

The teacher overseeing the project, Ms Iolanthe Sutton recently received the Discovering Democracy Secondary Teacher Award for the Northern Territory, with the project nominated for a Keep Australia Beautiful Award.