

Inspired by nature

STUDENTS LEARN ENVIRONMENTAL LESSONS

By Lachlan Day

Bugs, the environment and Reedy Swamp were the inspiration behind a group of children's poetry.

Students from Guthrie St and St Luke's primary schools have been working on their poems for the past six months after attending the annual *Pest vs the Rest* field day at Reedy Swamp, north of Shepparton, in May.

The event was an initiative RiverConnect put forward to bring awareness of problems in the environment.

Eighty-nine Year 5 and 6 students spent the day learning about harmful impacts on the environment and how these impacts could be reduced.

During the day, members of Goulburn Valley Writers Group spent time with the children to help them develop poems about Reedy Swamp, the environ-



Environmentally aware: Abby McCurdy, 11.

ment or what they enjoyed about the day.

"Everyone has a different, unique thing that they want to write about," Year 6 student Abby McCurdy said.

RiverConnect education project officer Bonny Schnorrenberg said the day was a success.

"They've done a great

job," she said when asked about the poems.

Several poems were placed on the footpath at St Luke's Primary School and the rest are being displayed at Shepparton Art Museum.

— Lachlan Day is a work experience student from Scots School in Albury.



Unique take: Pavement art at the front of Greater Shepparton City Council offices — created by students as part of a visit to Reedy Swamp.

Pictures: Bianca Mibus