



RiverConnect: Information for Kinders and Early Learning Centres in Greater Shepparton.

RiverConnect is a partnership program which works with agencies and the community to care for, protect and promote the rivers and wetlands within Greater Shepparton. Part of this project is the Education program, which encourages local schools, kinders and tertiary education facilities to learn about our rivers and their environs, in an outdoor learning framework, through place based education opportunities.

Our work with Kinders and Early Learning Centres has included visits to teach children about the river, environment and its critters, reading the children books about the environment, eco art play. It has also included joining the centres who currently run bush kinder when they visit bush settings, providing interactive learning opportunities and nature play activities.

There are a couple of ways you can stay up to date with what we're up to and what opportunities might suit your children.

- Facebook group called RiverConnect-Greater Shepparton. This is where we share our events/activities, interesting articles or warm fuzzy posts. We have also run the occasional live school holiday activity here, as well as created video 'how to' clips for activities for families during the holidays whilst under COVID restrictions.
- Instagram account simply called RiverConnect. As above.
- Our website www.riverconnect.com.au .
- I send out a semi regular enewsletter to teachers, you can request to be added as a recipient. This is information targeted to teachers, but has to cover all age groups so not everything will suit you. Generally it highlights particular learning opportunities coming up, such as tree planting season and other seasonal activities, new educational opportunities, new technology or citizen science, and some info on what we've been up to.
- I will forward any Kinder/Early Learning specific things to your groups admin email to forward to you (like in this document).

You can contact me directly via the following details:

Email: Allison.trethowan@shepparton.vic.gov.au

Phone: 5832 9493 or 0488 313 152.

So, here's so info that might be useful for you!



This has to be the best most fun PD I've ever done! I've been 2 years in a row, and apart from learning some awesome nature connection activities for kids, you develop a wonderful peer network of other people who have a passion for getting kids outside and learning in nature. If you are keen to get your kids outside, or run a bush kinder, but don't know how, this is a great space to learn! If you're already doing it, your skills and understanding will be extended. And one of the best bits, there's lots that helps build your resilience and well-being as an educator.

<https://nurtureinnature.com.au/campference-2020/>

Friday 23rd October to Sunday 25th October 2020 and we're headed to beautiful, bush immersed, Kinglake, Victoria.

Nature Play / Bush Kinder organisations and links:

Eco Explorers

<https://www.facebook.com/EcoExplorersAustralia>

www.ecoexplorers.com.au

Firekeepers

<https://www.facebook.com/wearethefirekeepers/>

www.firekeepers.com.au

Nurture in Nature

<https://www.facebook.com/NurtureInNatureAustralia/>

www.nurtureinnature.com.au

Natured Kids

<https://www.facebook.com/NaturedKids/>

www.naturedkids.com

For live demonstrations of Australian Wildlife:

Bohollow Wildlife Shelter and Enviro Ed – local wildlife carers and educators

<https://www.facebook.com/Bohollow>

www.bohollowwildlife.com

<https://www.facebook.com/Bohollow-EnviroEd-248919582681602>

www.bohollowenviroed.com

Lower Goulburn Wildlife Shelter – local wildlife carers

<https://www.facebook.com/lowergoulburnwildlifeshelter>

Into the Wild Education – wildlife educators, linked with Lower Goulburn Wildlife Shelter

<https://www.facebook.com/intothewildededucation>

www.intothewildededucation.com.au

As more information and resources come to hand, I'll forward them to you, or you can find them at the places outlined earlier. If you have particular information you would like, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Have fun out there!

Cheers

Allison Trethowan

RiverConnect Education Officer.