



A plan to capitalise on the Goulburn - Broken River system in the heart of our city

Letter No. 6 - November 2009

Elders and Students Tour RiverConnect Area

VCAL students and teachers from Wanganui Park Secondary College, Notre Dame Secondary College, Verney Road School and Shepparton High School along with RiverConnect land management representatives, visited Reedy Swamp and Jordan's Bend recently to learn and see the activities the students from Notre Dame and Wanganui had been undertaking at their respective sites. It was impressive to see the habitat restoration work completed by the students and the respect the students showed for the environment.

They were joined later for a BBQ lunch by RiverConnect Elders Reference Group members and RiverConnect Community Advisory Committee members.

Councillor Michael Polan attended the event, thanking the students, staff and other agency members for all their hard work and efforts in restoring our wonderful natural environs.

After lunch, the RiverConnect Elders and other RiverConnect members toured around the RiverConnect area, to receive the latest information about the Victoria Park Lake project, the redevelopment works at the Kialla Landfill site and the new fish ladder at the old Shepparton Weir.



Students, teachers, agency staff and Elders gathered at Jordan's Bend for a BBQ lunch.



Yorta Yorta Elder, Ruben Baksh points out features of the bush to students from Wanganui and Notre Dame.

Professional Development for RiverConnect teachers



A CD with a large amount of information about the RiverConnect area has been produced for local teachers. It includes digital copies of all the papers and PowerPoint presentations given at the recent teacher's Professional Development workshops, as well as other background information about the area. These are being distributed to the RiverConnect Adopt-a-reach teachers and will be a great resource for teachers and students in their studies of the local area. Enquiries are welcome and copies are available from Dianne Hanna , RiverConnect Education Coordinator via email at: dhanna@mcmmedia.com.au,

Spotlight Nights a success

RiverConnect Spotlight nights have been up and running successfully for the last few months. Initially specific community groups or schools have been invited to attend a spotlight night with general community nights planned for later on. Groups who have ventured out in the bush area around Jordan's Bend have been fortunate enough to sight our threatened squirrel glider, amongst other native animals.



Squirrel glider at Jordan's Bend September 2009.
Photo supplied by Keith Ward.



Squirrel glider resting on a spotlighters' back.
Photo supplied by DJ Ahearn.

RiverConnect Cow Design Competition

RiverConnect is holding a Mooving Art cow design competition during the month of November. Applicants are invited to enter a cow design based on "what RiverConnect means to you". Whether it is from the river itself, our native creatures or riding a bike with the family, express what RiverConnect means to you and have the chance to have your design converted onto a ceramic cow as part of the Shepparton Mooving Art project. For more details and an entry form please contact Renee Warren on (03) 5832 9714.

RiverConnect at KidsFest

RiverConnect participated in KidsFest this year as part of Our Greater Village, a project by Greater Shepparton City Council's Community Strengthening Department. We featured biodiversity activities and displays from the Goulburn Murray Landcare network along with our RiverConnect



"What's out there?" activities inspired by the ever popular 'Where's Wally books'. Children had fun finding a range of the important features within the Shepparton and Mooroopna River areas as depicted in the caricature representation of the RiverConnect area. The two days were a huge success, with many kids who are involved with RiverConnect as part of their school's Adopt-a-Reach project participating. It's great to see that as a result we now have many RiverConnect Junior ambassadors. Big thanks to John Laing (GMLN) and those that volunteered their time to help out.

Photo: Kids and parents with RiverConnect Project Officer Renee Warren at Kidsfest finding features in RiverConnect 'What's out there?'

Mooroopna Primary students venture to Chinaman's Gardens

The Grade 2 children at Mooroopna Primary School have been learning about the early history of Mooroopna during term 3. We have visited the local museums, had visiting speakers, interviewed relatives, dressed up in period dress and played "old fashioned games". To finish off the term's work,



Local Yorta Yorta Elder, Alf Turner, speaks to students from Mooroopna Primary School.

we visited our RiverConnect Reach at Chinaman's Gardens to have a picnic and listen to a local Yorta Yorta Elder, Alf Turner, speak about his early life in Mooroopna. He spoke to the children about riding his bike long distances, visiting his mates on "The Flats" and living with them during the fruit picking times. He also spoke about the swagmen that lived under the bridges along the causeway to Shepparton, fishing and swimming in the river and enjoying the feed of Murray Cod. He mentioned in those days you could see the bottom of the river, it was that clear. We had a very enjoyable time, with the sunshine out, sitting under the local gum trees.

Written by: Robyn Grieve.

Goodbye and Thank you

Dani Beischer has accepted a new role with Greater Shepparton City Council as an Aquatic Wetland Officer and has therefore stepped down as RiverConnect Field Officer. She will be greatly missed for the work she has done with many students and for the environment. With her passion for the environment and her ability to connect with students, Dani has contributed significantly to the success of the RiverConnect VCAL programs and made invaluable contributions to many other primary and secondary school programs. We wish her well in her new employment. Processes have started to find a person to continue this work.

Anne McCamish has stepped down as Goulburn Broken Catchment Management board representative and has therefore ceased membership on the RiverConnect Community Advisory Committee. She has made significant contributions in facilitating the development of the RiverConnect Project. Anne will continue to be a part of RiverConnect sitting on the Communications Working Group.

The RiverConnect Community Advisory Committee welcomes John Gray to fill Anne's role.

Vale Ken Sampson

On a sadder note, RiverConnect members regret the passing of Community Advisory Committee member, Ken Sampson. Ken was a well respected friend and colleague who was deeply passionate about natural resource management. Ken was one of the founders of the RiverConnect project who made significant contributions to see RiverConnect to the point where it is widely recognised today within the region. Ken will be greatly missed by many.

Inspiration

"Boundaries don't protect rivers - people do"

Brad Arrowsmith

(Nebraska Landowner)



RiverConnect. A joint Greater Shepparton City Council and Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority Project in partnership with: Department of Sustainability & Environment, Department of Primary Industries, Wood & Mouth, Yorta Yorta Joint Body, Yorta Yorta Nations, Rumbalara Coop, Goulburn Murray Landcare Network, Department of Education and Early Childhood Development Shepparton Network, Parks Victoria and the Sir Andrew & Lady Fairley Foundation.



For more information please contact:
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