



Ready to go: Jack Argaet, 9, Charliece Maloney, 8, and Sarah Maloney of Shepparton get their canoe ready for their trip.

Pictures: Bianca Milbus

Perfect time for paddle

IDEAL CONDITIONS MEET NOVICE CANOEISTS AS THEY TAKE TRIP ON GOULBURN RIVER

By John Lewis

Novice paddlers took to the water with enthusiasm at the weekend on the second come-and-try day on the Goulburn River.

Organised by Kyabram-based tour company River Country Adventures and Greater Shepparton City Council's RiverConnect program, the free hour-long paddle up the river saw 85 canoes used over two weekends, starting on Australia Day.

River Country Adventures operator Rob Asplin said he was delighted with the response.

"We've had children, backpackers and families — we were really delighted that people are taking an interest in the river," he said.

"We are so lucky here. People from Bendigo and Ballarat would kill to have a river like ours."

Mr Asplin said people on

this Saturday's paddle, from Dainton's Bridge upstream to Stewarts Bend, saw an array of birdlife including a rare Nankeen Night Heron, ducks, swamp fowl, and wrens.

He said the come-and-try day catered for people with no experience of canoeing and involved a brief introduction by qualified canoe instructor Caroline Davis.

He said paddlers were escorted by himself and Ms Davis on the journey up the river.

He said Saturday's weather conditions were perfect.

"Everyone had a great time. They all came and thanked us — we were overwhelmed with delight," he said.

He said another free come-and-try canoe day was being planned for May.

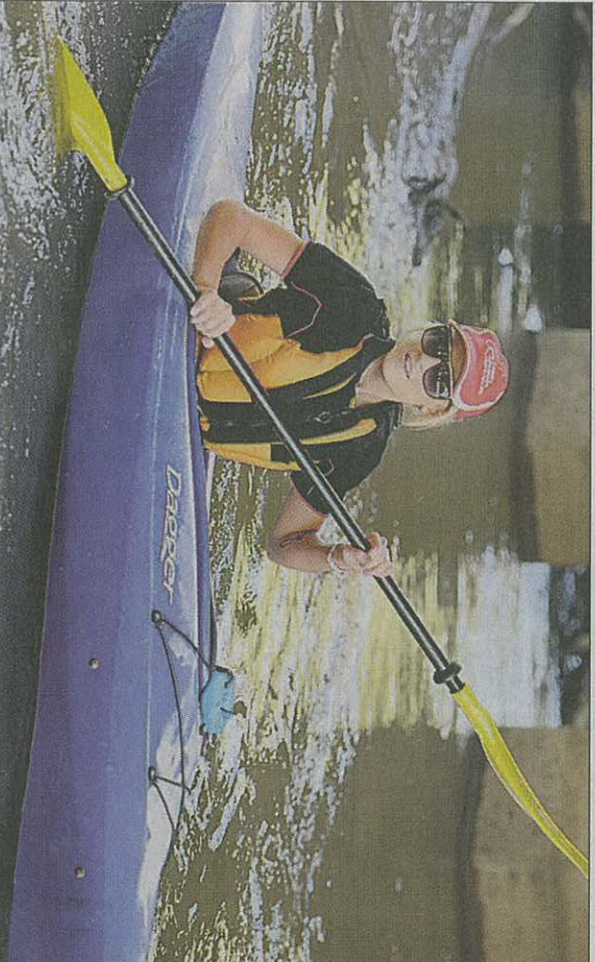
● **For more information, phone RiverConnect on 5832 9493 or Mr Asplin on 0428 585 227.**



Teamwork: Nicolas Zwickel and Thi Hau Nguyen.



Under control: Theophile Bodin and Baptiste D'Houtaud.



Keeping close watch: Instructor Caroline Davis escorted the paddlers up the river.



Tough work: Bill Shattock of Shepparton paddles his way up the Goulburn River.

IN BRIEF

Rubbish dump

Police yesterday seized 14 bags of rubbish all dumped at the front Electrical Substation Verney Rd, Shepparton. Shepparton police Senior Constable Doyle said the bags — with alcohol stubbies and boxes — were left behind a tree.

Leading Sen Const said on closer inspection located police documentation.

He said a common way for dumping rubbish is to avoid paying the Transfer Station fee people were "lazy".

"It doesn't show pride in the community's created a hot messy site, especially the windy weather creates a huge nuisance," Leading Sen Const said.

"It's sad to see someone can't dispose of their rubbish properly."

An 18-year-old Shepparton man was yesterday assisting police with enquiries.

Study grants

Shepparton students being encouraged to apply for a \$5000 scholarship to assist with their study.

State Member for Shepparton Jeanette Powell said there were many students in the region who should apply for The Nationals Scholarship Program for Young Leaders.

"The scholarship has been a great success for the applicants from a country Victoria has a very high calibre," Powell said.

"Year after year our students leave Shepparton and rarely return.

"This scholarship encourages young leaders to complete their studies and return to the region."

The application period will be open until November 15.

● **Application forms can be downloaded from www.vic.nationals.org.au by visiting Mrs Powell's office at 5 Vaughan Street, Shepparton or phoning 5831 6944.**

Free Tai Chi

Tai Chi in the Park will be held at Tatura, Katamatjat and Toolamb coming weeks.

The free sessions are of Greater Shepparton Council's Activities in the Park program.

On Sunday, February 11, Tai Chi will be at Mt. Katamatjat at Tatura on Sunday, February 12, at Katandra West Recreation Reserve; on Sunday, February 13, at Toolamb Recreation Reserve.

All sessions run from 9 am to 10 am and all levels are encouraged to attend.

● **For more information, phone Shepparton Sports Stadium on 5832 9488 or go online to www.onthemoove.com.au**