



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

Newsletter No. 7— March 2010

RiverConnect Cow Launched at Twilight Stroll

RiverConnect again participated in the recent Greater Shepparton on the Moove Twilight Stroll. The 'What's out there?' activity was a success with more than 100 new junior ambassadors finding many of the hidden treasures in our Rivers and surrounding bush lands.

John Laing's bug display was a huge hit, as kids and parents were able to get up close and personal with a variety of spiders and other creepy crawlies.

The feature of the night however, was the launch of the new RiverConnect Cow, which saw our 10 finalists awarded certificates for their hard work. The RiverConnect Cow is now part of the Shepparton Mooving Arts herd and can be seen in the foyer of the Greater Shepparton City Council offices. With more than 1250 people attending the Twilight event, RiverConnect was able to promote its message to many.



A big thanks goes to all those who participated in the RiverConnect Cow Design competition and to those who volunteered their time to help out on the night.

For more information please contact:
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Strategic Plan update

During the later months of 2009, RiverConnect consulted with a number of groups, organisations and individuals' asking what they thought was best for the future of our rivers and their surrounding environs. Forums, presentations and response forms were made available and saw more than 15 group responses and over 40 individual responses.

Some common trends have emerged from the results to date; the majority of the survey respondents visit the Goulburn river areas to the north of the Midland Highway. The most popular activities were walking, educational activities and visiting Kids Town. Overall, people thought that 'Connecting the Environment' was the most important action program.

There have been a range of suggestions which include the need for more extensive signage and walking trails, an interpretative/information/cultural centre and the opportunity to develop a tourism event amongst other tourism opportunities. Further comments include the need for better access to the river, for more infrastructure along the rivers and the need for wider communication on all aspects of the rivers.

All the information from the surveys, together with your suggestions and comments will be carefully reviewed by the RiverConnect Community Advisory Committee as part of the next stage in developing the master plan. We aim to have a draft master plan available for review by approximately mid 2010

Feature Species

Common Long-necked Turtle *Chelodina longicollis*

The eastern long necked turtle is common along the eastern part of Australia.

Its upper shell can vary in colour from light reddish-brown to almost black, while the lower shell is usually creamy-yellow, sometimes with dark brown markings. The shell will eventually grow to around 25cm in length, with its neck almost the same length.

Long necks feet have strong claws and are webbed for swimming, while its jaws are made of hard, horn-like material and, if provoked, can deliver a painful bite.

At certain times of the year long-necks often wander in search of new homes, which often brings them in contact with roads and fatalities and injuries from motor vehicles are common. As long as there are no severe internal injuries, a cracked or broken shell may be repaired with artificial materials such as fiberglass before the animal is released back into the wild.

The long necked turtle is also an important animal to the Yorta Yorta people.



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McGuire VCAL students

The Year 11 and 12 McGuire VCAL groups have been participating in the RiverConnect project over the past few weeks, carrying out various environmental activities along the Broken River. These have included removing debris off paths after the recent storm damage, rubbish clean up, chipping weeds and have started to do a general clean up of the re-vegetated area along Broken River Drive. They have also been working on removing weed species such as Ash trees that have seeded from either garden waste being dumped or blowing in from neighboring properties. People can easily see where the students have made significant contributions.

Recently students were visited by Cultural Officers from Parks Victoria. Hilda Stewart and Greta Morgan spoke to the students about the different types of land marks and scarred trees around the area. "It was very interesting to find out about our Culture and Heritage, and why we need to preserve our rivers especially in this time of climate change" commented Melissa Kennett, a VCAL student.



The VCAL group will also be finding out about other aspects of the river and its surrounds throughout the year.

RiverConnect Field Officer Wendy D'Amore and Parks Victoria's Greta Morgan lead students.



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Available for purchase

RiverConnects 'What's out There?' activity poster is now available for purchase. After much demand at recent twilight strolls and various events, RiverConnect has made it's 'Where's Wally' type activity available to the public.

The A1 size poster depicts the RiverConnect project area, which comprises the urban stretches of the Goulburn and Broken Rivers and their surrounding environs in a cartoonist style.

Kids and parents are able to find special species and places along the rivers and will most likely discover something they never knew existed.

The poster is available from Greater Shepparton City Council Offices, the Visitor Information Centre and KidsTown.

If you have any further enquiries, please contact RiverConnect Project Officer, Renee Warren on (03)5832 9714.



Inspiration

*"A river does not just happen; it has a beginning and an end.
It's story is written in rich earth, in ice, and in water-carved stone,
and it's story as the lifeblood of the land is filled with color,
music and thunder."*

— Andy Russell



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, Wod & 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.



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