

MYRiveR Murray 2008

Engaging, equipping and enabling young people and their communities to care for our rivers, our land and our future.

MYRiveR Murray is a bold concept with the goal of engaging young people and their communities throughout the Murray River basin. MYRiveR is harnessing youth passion, intelligence and commitment to build the capacity of schools and regional communities in the Murray-Darling Basin to find appropriate solutions and pathways to sustainable ways of living and working.

MYRiveR is an initiative of OzGREEN, a national not for profit environmental education group who were winners of the Eureka Prize in 2007. OzGREEN has made a 10-year commitment to the Murray-Darling basin. From 2002 - 2007 OzGREEN has worked with over 1,800 young people from 40 regional communities and 90 schools in "taking the pulse" of the Murrumbidgee, Darling and Murray River catchments by undertaking community surveys, detailed environmental assessments of 400 sites and developing youth voice, vision and action plans to care for their waterways. In 2008 OzGREEN will work with schools from the regions of Murray Bridge, Renmark, Mildura, Swan Hill and Albury.

MYRiveR Murray Aims to

- 1) Engage, equip and enable young people to assess the health of their rivers and develop their own voice, vision and action plans to care for the Murray.
- 2) Build and mobilise a catchment wide network of young people actively working in their own community and beyond to care for the Murray.
- 3) Foster the development of youth leadership and social enterprise skills.
- 4) Enable informed and active youth participation in the democratic process and civil society.

At each regional centre local school students will be involved in conducting detailed assessments of approximately 20 sites. Students will then come together for two days of youth congress in each region. On the afternoon of the final day they will present the results of their investigations and their visions for the future and action plans to the community in a community forum. Following the program students will be supported in carrying out their action plans for the river. Youth leadership skills will be further strengthened through OzGREEN's Youth LEAD program following MYRiveR Murray.



Students Water testing on the Murray 2004



Students water testing at Mildura 2004

MYRiveR Murray 2008

Taking the pulse of the river from the mouth to the mountains

MYRiveR Murray 08 Key Activities

<p>Regional Eco-Snapshots</p> <p>Murray Bridge 12-14 May 08 Renmark 19-21 May 08 Mildura 26-28 May 08 Swan Hill 2-4 June 08 Albury/Wodonga 10-11 June 08</p>	<p>Taking the pulse of the river to check on its health by conducting a 26 point health check (environmental assessments and water quality testing) of approximately 20 sites around each regional centre. Young people undertake surveys of community and family concerns, values and visions. Results will be reported as the project rolls up the river on www.ozgreen.org.au</p>
<p>Regional Youth Congresses</p> <p>Murray Bridge 15-16 May 08 Renmark 22-23 May 08 Mildura 29-30 May 08 Swan Hill 5-6 June 08 Albury/Wodonga 12-13 June 08</p>	<p>Interpreting the results of these investigations to identify threats to river health and the value/ importance of the river. Developing youth voice, vision and action plans for the future of the river during youth congress. Global Case study of River Ganga, India. Develop strategies for youth action and action plans; Decide priorities, responsibilities & timeline for implementation.</p>
<p>Regional Community Forums</p> <p>Murray Bridge 16 May 08 Renmark 23 May 08 Mildura 30 May 08 Swan Hill 6 June 08 Albury 13 June 08</p>	<p>Youth present the results of MYRiveR investigations, youth vision and action plans at regional community forums, garnering community support for their plans. All welcome :-)</p>
<p>Youth LEAD</p> <p>Adelaide 26-28 September 08 Albury October 08</p>	<p>Find your passion! Award winning youth leadership skills training and mentoring program for 15-25 year olds, that is building a national network of young change leaders. (see www.ozgreen.org.au for more information and registration forms)</p>

OzGREEN is an independent, not for profit organisation established in 1992 and conducts award winning environmental education & leadership programs in rural & urban Australia and internationally in India, Papua New Guinea, East Timor and Pakistan. OzGREEN founders, Sue and Colin Lennox have over 30 years experience in designing and implementing award winning programs. **OzGREEN are winners of the 2007 Eureka Prize for Education for Sustainability.**

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