



RiverConnect 2010-2011 Annual Report

For Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority

RiverConnect Financial Report

Period July 2010 to 23 June 2011

Income	Budget	YTD Actuals	
GSCC	\$ 154,481.00	\$ 154,481.00	
GBCMA	\$ 80,000.00	\$ 80,000.00	
Other Grants	\$ -	\$ 2,000.00	Award
Other Income	\$ -	\$ 551.00	Education sales
Total	\$ 234,481.00	\$ 237,032.00	

Expenditure	Budget	YTD Actuals	Budget remaining
Salaries	\$ 80,641.00	\$ 77,787.00	\$ 2,854.00
Salary oncost	\$ 10,484.00	\$ 10,049.00	\$ 435.00
Plant	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Consultant	\$ 95,800.00	\$ 57,269.00	\$ 38,531.00
General Expense	\$ 47,656.00	\$ 13,978.00	\$ 33,678.00
Total	\$ 234,581.00	\$ 159,083.00	\$ 75,498.00

Grants / Awards

- Shepparton Irrigation Region Catchment and Education Grant August 2010 \$900
2 Spotlight kits
Blue light for spotlight
- Regional Achievement and Community Award Nov 2010 \$2000
 - 6 GPS Units
 - 5 binoculars
- Applied for Shepparton Irrigation Region Education and Awareness Grant Application 2010/2011 – RiverConnect Website
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Key Achievements / General

- October 2010 – Winner of Parks Victoria Environment and Sustainability Award in the 2010 Regional Achievement and Community Awards (one of eight category winners) 23 October 2010.
- RiverConnect **Strategic Plan** endorsed – May 2011
Terms of Reference Developed
- **Meetings:**
 - RiverConnect Community Advisory Committee
 - Education Working Group
 - Land Managers Working Group
 - Aboriginal Action Group
 - Communications Working Group

Meetings held 6 weekly.

Representatives from Parks Vic, DPI, Yorta Yorta Nations, Council, GB CMA at most meetings.

Terms of Reference finalised for each group.

Staff changes

Project officer on Maternity Leave March 2011

RiverConnect Education Consultant retires – June 2011

RiverConnect Field Officer retires due to other commitments – June 2011

Connecting Community

- RiverConnect **Scavenger Hunt** at the Twilight Stroll in October 2010 (100 completed forms) & March 2011 (31 Spotlight walks Expressions of interest forms for filled out).
 - **KidsFest** held on 1 & 2 October 2010- John Laing (GMLN) bugs and bird nests. 'What out there' activities, Parks Vic Ranger Roo. 130 RiverConnect Junior Ambassador Certificates given out
 - **Clean Up Australia Day** Reedy Swamp 6 March 2011.25 volunteers,3 cubic meters of rubbish.
 - **Spotlight Walks** at Jordans Bend and Gemmill's Swamp. 5 walks (poor weather limited this) with 62 participants , 30 sightings, 4 squirrel gliders.
 - **150 year Community Event** – 23 October 2010. RiverConnect organised guided walks to the lake from 3 locations. Royce Dickson (SMULG), Hilda Stewart (Parks Vic) and Geoff Dobson guide these walks. Unfortunately numbers were quite low however positive feedback from those that attended.
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Connecting Environment

- **Victoria Park Lake project** - planting project, 9 schools and 11 classes on 5.5 days.
 - **Tassicker's block** - An agricultural style fence installed along the front boundary August 2010
 - Lower Goulburn National Park was launched at Reedy Swamp on 29 June.
 - **Stuart's Reserve** - Councils concept plan with Land Managers Working Group involvement
 - **DPI – Go Fish Project** Five sites have been finalised for upgrading to semi formal boat ramps between Murchison and Loch Gary. Funding will also be used for Stuart Reserve upgrades. An information booklet will also be produced, mapping out the area with fishing locations, baits and camping opportunities - work pushed back due to high water levels. A launch event is currently being investigated.
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Connecting Aboriginal People

- **Meetings with the Elders** on a regular basis. Consulted them on RiverConnect issues.
 - **Attended** Sorry Day Apology Breakfast – 11 February and NAIDOC Week events March 2011
 - Planned an **Evening with the Elders** event for May but postponed until next financial year.
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Connecting Education

- **Adopt-a-Reach** Six Secondary Schools and ten Primary Schools plus Berry St have undertaken activities in their reach during Semester 2 2010 and/or semester 1 2011. (85% uptake). For Semester One 2011 approx. 1683 student visits equating to 3010 student hours in the RiverConnect area.
 - **"Pest verses the rest"** project with Bug Blitz.
125 grade 5/6 students from five schools worked at Reedy Swamp for the day with five agency presenters. They then completed activities which they presented at a sharing day.
 - Thirty **"What's out there?" Curriculum kits** produced and distributed to schools.
 - Shepparton High VCAL nesting boxes have been installed on the island with assistance from Jon Cers of Field & Game Assoc.
 - VCAL – 6 schools participated this year.
 - **Native Fish Awareness Week 18 November 2010** RiverConnect presented at the community day
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organised by the GB CMA. 30 community members and students attending.

- St Mel's Documentary - Oct
Grade 5/6 students at St Mel's Primary School are producing various documentaries, one about RiverConnect. They interviewed RiverConnect Staff and Royce Dickson (Volunteer, SMULG).
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Communication and Consultation

RiverConnect Logo's were fitted to Trailer and Water Cart February 2011

Strategic Plan Consultations

Oct 2010 RiverConnect Aboriginal Action Group
Nov 2010 RiverConnect Land Managers Working Group
Nov 2010 Education Working Group
30 Nov 2010 Community Consultation Forum (8 attendees)
1 Dec 2010 Community Consultation Forum (4 attendees)
8 Dec 2010 Goulburn Murray Landcare Network (GMLN)
9 Dec 2010 Greater Shepparton City Council Environmental Staff
Jan 2011 Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority
Jan 2011 Response Forms and Online Survey completed

RiverConnect Webpage content with the web developer ready for completion. Will be www.riverconnect.com.au



RiverConnect Branding with Graphic Designer. Logo will be similar to this:

RiverConnect E- Newsletters - July '10, November '10, March 2011

Radio: promoted RiverConnect at Our Greater Shepparton radio on 6 May 2011 (Mayor Dobson) and 15 July 2011 (Project Officer)

Newspaper articles:

SN Weekly 2 June 2011 - Pest vs Rest School Day
SN Weekly 9 June 2011 - World Environment Day Morning Tea at Vic Lake
