

RiverConnect Annual Report

2011 –2012

For Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority



RIVERCONNECT FINANCIAL REPORT

Greater Shepparton City Council

10879. RiverConnect(Partially Funded) Account

Sub Account	2011-2012 Adopted Budget	2011-2012 Total Actuals
Operating Expense		
301. Salaries	80,846	108,726
302. Salary Oncost	10,187	12,977
362. Consultants	22,000	0
364. General Expenses	119,000	46,929
Total Operating Expense	232,033	168,632
Operating Income		
103. Grants	(80,000)	(80,000)
Total Operating Income	(80,000)	(80,000)
Grand Total	152,033	88,632

GRANTS / AWARDS

- **Vic Fish Grant** - Received the Recreational Fishing Licence grant for track rationalisation within Shepp Regional Parks behind the Shepp Weir - \$27,500.00 (May 2012)

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS / GENERAL

- **RiverConnect Branding** completed (August 2011)



- **RiverConnect Implementation Advisory Committee** Endorsement and formation (Nov 2011)
- **RiverConnect Festival** (29 April) at Victoria Park Lake (see 'Connecting Community')
- **RiverConnect Website and Strategic Plan Launch** at Festival (April)
- **Meetings:**
 - RiverConnect Community Advisory Committee
 - Education Working Group
 - Land Managers Working Group
 - Aboriginal Action Group
 - Communications Working Group

Meetings held 6 weekly in 2011 then bi monthly from Jan 2012.

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

Terms of Reference finalised for each group in 2011.

Staff changes

- Revised the resourcing for the project in 2011 to
 - RiverConnect Project Officer (1.0 EFT)
 - RiverConnect Education Officer (0.8 EFT)
- Project Officer returned from maternity leave October 2011
- Project Officer on Maternity Leave June 2012
- RiverConnect Project moved from Culture and Community Strengthening Department to Sustainability and Environment with manager Greg McKenzie (June 2012 council restructure).

Staff Training

- Flood Plain Ecology Course(DSE) – Education Project Officer Barmah (18 - 22 Sept)
- St John's First Aid Course (26-27 September)
- Native Fish Awareness Week Mini Fish Forum (11 November)
- Minute Taking Workshop (November 2011)
- Localities Embracing and Accepting Diversity (LEAD) training (December 2011)
- Walk and Talk - Barmah (December 2011)
- Managing our Nocturnal Neighbours Forum – 11 April
- Tour Guide Training (1-2 June 2012) See 'Connecting Community'

CONNECTING COMMUNITY

- **Thailand dignitaries walk** at Jordan's Bend with Karen Brisbane from Landcare. Visiting the region to look at salinity and community related project (July 2011)
- **National Tree Day** – (29 July 2011) with GoTafe William Orr Campus. 200 trees, Greencorp and 6 other participants.
- **Art Exhibition** 'Connect with the River' at Mooroopna Hub (Sept 2011) Kate Peachy from the Education working group –Inspired by RiverConnect
- **KidsFest** (24 - 25 Sept 2011) - Activities: Bug Table with John Laing (LandCare), Fishing game (Landcare), Treasure Hunt, and EOI for Spotlight Walks. Nearly 15,000 visitors at KidsFest with many stopping at RC stall.
- **Seniors Festival** (October 2011) – 'Art Classes Along the River' 5 sessions over 2 weeks with 3-6 people attending each session (total of 23 participants)
- **Twilight Stroll** (28 Oct 2011) – Scavenger Hunt (89 entries), 'What's Out There Activity', 9 expresses of interest for Spotlight walks. (30 March 2012) –Scavenger Hunt (50 entries); 'Our Rivers' Survey on back of the Scavenger Hunt (41 responses). John Reid (ANU) attended with Art work.
- **Upgrading of Boat Access** – Kaielthaban Park – Oct /Nov 2011
- **Kialla landfill Open Day** Sunday 13 November. Approximately 300 people attended.
- **Clean Up Australia Day** – Council Offices Fri 2 March (21 staff participated); Sun 22 April at Congupna Fun Run – KidsTown.

- **RiverConnect Festival** (29 April) - Approx 150 people attended – Tree Planting, River Walk, Traditional Owner Talking Circles, children's activities, live music, Partner agency Stalls, Free BBQ, Guided bus tour of the RiverConnect Area.



- **Spotlight Walks** at Jordan's Bend.
 - **14 walks** from Oct 2011 to June 2012 (10 cancelled due to flooding). **203 participants.** 17 Squirrel Glider sightings.
 - Research new Spotlight sites (August 2011) - Aquamoves to McGuire Reserve; Stuart Reserve; Reedy Swamp; Broken River Drive.
 - Spotlight Training with Keith Ward GB CMA (Oct 2011)
- **Stuarts Reserve** – Community Meetings. Community Consultation received. Decision was made not to progress with project, however the playground will be updated to comply with safety standards.
- **Access map - Walking tour** – Walk in Greater Shepparton Booklet (See Connecting Aboriginal People for further detail)
- **Walking Paths Extension Proposal** - held two meetings (KidsTown to Gemmills proposal - 14 March 2012 and Mooroopna to Botanic Gardens proposal - 16 May 2012)
- **ANU Arts Project** – First field study in January was a success with students and staff speaking with a range of local agency and community members. 'Sixrospective' exhibition at the Butter Factory Precinct saw 171 people view the show. Second trip occurred in March, and final trip in April 2012.
- **Tour Guide Training** – organised by RiverConnect and the Visitor Information Centre. Held at the Business Centre (2-3 June 2012) - 15 participants.



CONNECTING ENVIRONMENT

- **Tassicker block** – Flora and Fauna Survey conducted in June 2012 by Integrated Catchment Services (Sean Guinane). To be followed by a report.
- **Gemmills Wetland** Working Group formed after a public meeting in July 2012. Formal Committee elected in March 2012. Community Members and Agency staff involved - reviewing the Master Plan.
- **Goulburn Broken CMA Goulburn River Information Signs (3)** - November. Installed after consultation with Council staff and RiverConnect Committee/ working groups.
 1. Boat launch at Dainton's bridge
 2. Pedestrian Bridge over river on Tom Collins Drive,
 3. Mooroopna Archer St Boat ramp. Two kept for Stuart Reserve and The Flats.
- **Woodland Birds Book** reprinted with financial contribution from RiverConnect. Logo represented on the back of the book.
- **Assessment of Council Owned Land** – Land Managers Working Group. Sites at Fitzjohn Street Shepparton and Kialla Landfill (Aug/Sept 2011)
- **Path Extension Meetings** Held 3 stakeholder meetings regarding the extension of the existing path network as outlined in the RC Strategic Plan. Focus on KidsTown to Gemmills and Mooroopna to Kialla Landfill.

CONNECTING ABORIGINAL PEOPLE

- **Attended NAIDOC Events** first week in July- Flag raising, Family Day.
- **Traditional Owner Talking circles at RiverConnect Festival** (April 2012)



- **Walk in Greater Shepparton Booklet – Aboriginal Flats walk** –October to December 2011. Development of interpretative and directional signage and booklet content. This booklet, walk and associated signage, captures elements of a range of Action Programs outlined in the RiverConnect Strategic Plan, specifically under the Connecting Aboriginal People Action Area – Develop a historic trail around the Flats area.

CONNECTING EDUCATION

Adopt-a-Reach

Summary Table for student visits to the river in 2011-2012

Schools	VCAL Students	Other Students	Total student hours
8	52	373 *	1105.5 hours

*Incomplete list due to staff changes

Student Visits (not including VCAL):

Semester 2 2011- 230 recorded student visits with RiverConnect Staff (incomplete list)

Semester 1 2012 - 143 student visits to the river with RiverConnect Staff, adding up to 399.5 hours.

School Uptake:

3 Secondary Schools and 5 Primary Schools have undertaken activities in their reach during Semester 2 2011 and/or semester 1 2012 (44.4 % uptake).

VCAL:

Three secondary schools completed VCAL projects during the year. Students visited their reach weekly for habitat understanding and restoration projects.

Semester 1 2012 -52 students, 449 hours at the river.

Activities included: GPS weed and feature mapping; biodiversity audits; site clean-up; plant ID, picnic table restoration, nest box installation, Indigenous Ranger talks.

Bug Blitz:

- Bug Blitz Soil Project conducted at Shepparton High for all Year 8 students Semester 2 2011
- Pest vs. the Rest Field Day for Grade 5/6 at Reedy Swamp 24th May 2012 – 77 students from Bouchier Street, Gowrie Street and Dhurringile Primary School. 4 agency presenters and a rap poet.

Other

Helped out with GV Water River Rangers - Wilmot P.S @ Broken River Drive (13 September)

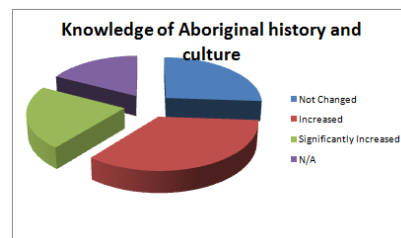
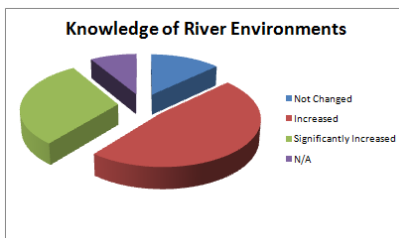
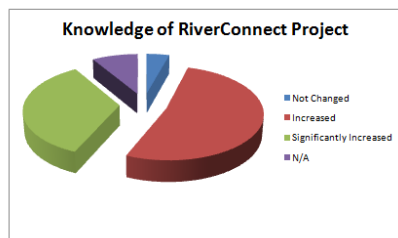
COMMUNICATION AND CONSULTATION

- **RiverConnect Website** – Completed and launched at festival in April 2012.
- Google Analytics 9 June 2012- 9 July 2012:

Pageviews	Unique Pageviews	Avg. Time on Page	Entrances	Bounce Rate	% Exit	Page Value
157	119	00:01:21	50	50.00%	31.85%	\$0.00
% of Total: 100.00% (157)	% of Total: 100.00% (119)	Site Avg: 00:01:21 (0.00%)	% of Total: 100.00% (50)	Site Avg: 50.00% (0.00%)	Site Avg: 31.85% (0.00%)	% of Total: 0.00% (\$0.00)

- **RiverConnect Rebranding** – complete. Horizontal and vertical logos; flyer; media release template; letter head; logo guidelines.
- **Strategic Plan rebranded** (see front page below)
- **New logo Stickers** on the RiverConnect Trailer
- **RiverConnect Newsletter** – Summer Edition 2011/2012 and May 2012 Edition distributed.
- **RiverConnect Merchandise**–
 - Two tear drop banners;
 - Promotional Water Bottles;
 - Promotional reusable Mugs (to use at events)
 - RiverConnect (Logo shaped) Pins for the RiverConnect committee members.
- **Strategic Plan Postcard (Flyer)** designed and distributed at the Festival in April (view at end of report)
- **Photo shoot** with PHOTO 8 -Serana Hunt at key sites along the river for use on the website and in other publications (March 2012)
- **Surveys:**
 - 'Our Rivers' (March 2012 Twilight Stroll) – 41 responses
 - RiverConnect Festival Survey (April 2012) – 23 responses

Example of responses from RiverConnect Festival Survey:



- **Presentations –**
 - Bruce Cummings and Cr Michael Polan spoke at a Fairley Leadership day on 11 May 2012.
 - Bonny spoke at Under Landcare AGM on 13 June 2012.
- **Advertising/ publicity:**
 - **Radio**
 - Our Greater Shepparton 15 July 2011 promoting RiverConnect
 - Our Greater Shepparton 15 June 2012 promoting RiverConnect Spotlight Walks
 - **TV**
 - 'Art on the River' – WIN News – 13 October 2011

- **Print Media**

Date	Topic	Title	Media
24-Aug-11	GR Signage	Direction Unclear	The Adviser, Letter to the editor
20-Oct-11	Seniors Week Art	Peaceful Painting Experience	Shepparton News
19-Nov-11	Staff profile	Sharing her love of the River	Shepparton News
20-Jan-12	Spotlights	Nature Walks	SN What's on Weekend
27-Jan-12	Spotlights	RiverConnect Spotlight Walks	Shepparton News
23-Feb-12	Gemmills WG	Sharing Ideas / Swamp Plan Talks	Shepparton News
4-Mar-12	ANU art project	Exhibition Launch- Sixtrospective	SheppARTon Festival Guide
8-Mar-12	RC / ANU	Lush, Brash, Focal Point	Shepparton News
29-Mar-12	GR signage	Decision could be costly	Shepparton News
26-Apr-12	Festival	Areas Rivers to be celebrated	Shepparton News
26-Apr-12	Festival	Connecting with Nature	WOW
30-Apr-12	Festival	Natural Connections	Shepparton News
3-May-12	Festival	Fans flock to Fest	Shepparton News
25-May-12	Pest vs. Rest	Students Day Out	Shepparton News
30-May-12	Pest vs. Rest	River Connects kids with Nature	The Adviser

- Numerous Articles/Letter to the Editor regarding Stuarts Reserve



Strategic Plan

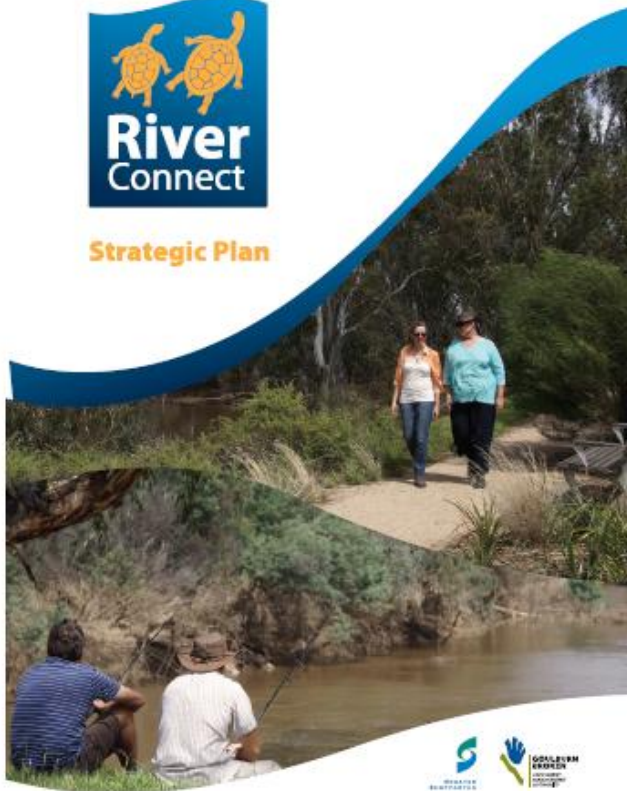
May 2011



RiverConnect Postcard (with crop marks)



Strategic Plan



RiverConnect Vision

Shepparton and Mooroolbawn will be widely recognised as river towns where features of living here include:

A thriving natural environment,

A connection with that environment,

A culture that is enriched by the traditional owners' connection with the area.

People value and respect our rivers and floodplains, whilst using them as part of their daily lives for recreation, relaxation and education. The community, government and land managers, together with the Traditional Owners, work in partnership to protect and enhance the value of our rivers.

Key Objectives

Connecting Community

Connecting Environment

Connecting Aboriginal People

Connecting Education

Communications and Consultation

To find out how you can be part of the RiverConnect journey please call 03 5832 9700 or visit www.riverconnect.com.au