



## Camel in the Catchment Launch

The 'Camel in the Catchment' launch was held on Sunday 16 October at Lake Eildon. This event officially launched National Water Week and included activities for the kids, a talk from G-MW, and a free sausage sizzle thanks to the Eildon Lions Club. Water from the Pondage was collected for Matilda the camel to take on her week long catchment journey. Around **60** people enjoyed lunch while learning more about our most precious resource, water.

## Matilda's Trek - Marysville and Yea

On Monday 17 October Matilda made her way to Marysville Primary School in the morning and then trekked to Yea in the afternoon. Students from Marysville Primary School, Yea Primary School and Sacred Heart School in Yea not only met Matilda, they were also introduced to superhero, 'Water Man'. Water Man talked to students about the importance of water and how we rely on it in our everyday lives. Overall **150** students participated in the days' activities.



## Matilda's Trek - Seymour and Nagambie

On Tuesday 18 October Matilda headed north to Seymour P-12 College and Nagambie Primary School. Water Man was once again a hit with the **180** students who participated in the days' activities. Steve Curnow, Matilda's handler talked about just how little water camels need to survive and the 'Water Use Sports' proved popular with students, so much so that some even continued the games as extra curricular activities!



## Matilda's Trek - Benalla

Benalla 31 Primary School was next on Matilda's itinerary on Wednesday 19 October. Not only did the **80** Grade 5/6 students get to meet Matilda, the **200** Grades Prep-4 were also lucky enough to be able to meet Steve and his camel.



## Awards Night

The Awards Night was also held on Wednesday 19 October in Shepparton. A huge crowd of **400** people were greeted by Matilda and Water Man as they arrived for the ceremony. The winners of all the Water Week Competitions were announced and guests were treated to a wonderful display of artwork, which included 4000 water bottles decorated by students from across the catchment, and entertainment by Pirate Bubble Sword and Lady Aqua from Cirque Mystique.



## Water for Breakfast

**80** suppliers and community members took the opportunity to have breakfast and a casual chat with operators at the Shepparton Water Treatment Plant on Thursday 20 October. Shepparton Lions Club cooked up bacon and eggs and after breakfast participants were guided through the plant on one of three tours where they learnt more about where our water comes from and how it is treated to World Health Organisation Standards. Matilda and Water Man also put in an appearance at the breakfast.



## Matilda's Trek - Shepparton

After breakfast Matilda visited Shepparton schools, St Brendan's in the morning and Guthrie Street Primary School in the afternoon. Around **650** students at the schools told Water Man how they use and save water, learnt about Matilda and her water saving ways and finished off their sessions with Water Use Sports.





### Matilda's Trek - Numurkah and Yarrawonga

On the last day of her trek Matilda called into two more schools, St Josephs Numurkah and Sacred Heart School in Yarrawonga. Water Man and Matilda taught another huge crowd of students, around **400** in total, about using water wisely in our catchment and finished off the day with Water Use Sports.



### Camels and Cruises - Yarrawonga

The Paradise Queen hosted 2 boat cruises on Lake Mulwala in Yarrawonga to finish off the week. **80** participants enjoyed expert commentary and spectacular views whilst cruising Lake Mulwala. Yarrawonga Lions Club cooked up a storm and Water Man and Matilda enjoyed a well earned rest!

### Bike Ride - Kanyapella Basin

On Sunday 23 October **15** people enjoyed a leisurely bike ride in the Kanyapella Basin. Participants were also treated to a guided tour of the wetland before lunch.



### 'Message on a Bottle' Competition

This exciting competition invited primary school students to decorate water bottles with the theme 'Water is precious because...'. **3500** entries were received from schools right across the catchment in all 3 age group categories, Prep-2, Grade 3/4 and Grade 5/6. Overall winners in each of the categories were announced at the awards night and all of the water bottles received in the competition were on display at the Awards Night.

### Create a Critter Competition

**10** model critters were received in this years Create a Critter Competition. Prizes were awarded in both primary and secondary categories, all entries were of a very high standard and included dragonflies, a damsel fly, giant water bugs and a diving beetle.



### 'Waterway Biodiversity' Textiles Project

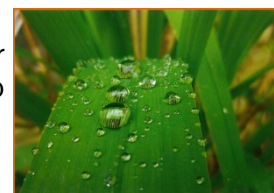
The theme for the textiles project this year was 'Waterway Biodiversity'. Outstanding class entries were received from 3 schools, Grahamvale Primary, Bradford Secondary and St Mary's College in Seymour. Altogether around **50** students participated in this project.

### River Yarns Writing Competition

The writing competition was popular again with school students and the community writing short stories and poems with the theme 'River Reflections'. **58** entries were received in the competition.

### Amateur Photographic Competition

**75** photographs were entered in the Primary, Secondary and Open categories. The theme this year was 'What does water mean to me?' Entries submitted in this competition were also asked to write a short paragraph about their photo.



### Water Week Sponsor Organisation Awards

Sponsors of National Water Week presented awards to community people for their commitment to protecting and conserving our precious water resources. This year Awards included:

Waterwise Award - Goulburn Valley Water

Water Use Efficiency: Irrigation Award – Goulburn-Murray Water

Commitment to Natural Resource Management on a Goulburn Broken Waterway – Goulburn Broken CMA

Building Industry Award: Stormwater Management – Greater Shepparton City Council & Moira Shire Council



### National Water Week 2011

The committee was very pleased with attendance and participation this year, with over **5850** school and community members taking part in organised competitions, activities and events.

