



10 Years of RiverConnect



RiverConnect aims to see the Goulburn and Broken Rivers known as the life and soul of the Shepparton and Mooroopna communities. Our rivers bring life to the region and have many untapped secrets and opportunities. RiverConnect began in 2005 and aims to inspire the community to enjoy and protect our rivers, to connect with other people and cultures in the river area, and support agencies to manage the river as partners.

Under the strategic plan 2012-2016, RiverConnect has had success in five key priority areas:



Connecting Community

RiverConnect Paths Masterplan completed; 3 Flood Markers at Shepparton Mooroopna and Murchison; Boulevard Bush Reserve and The Flats interpretative signage; 6,400 participants at 125 community activities.



Connecting Environment

Rubbish collected from 36.3ha by VCAL students; Boulevard Bus Reserve Environmental Management Plan developed; Weed and Hollow GIS mapping and Biodiversity audits along river.



Connecting Aboriginal People

The Flats cultural walks and signage; 3,900 people attended events featuring Aboriginal culture and history.



Connecting Education

65% of RiverConnect schools participating in events and activities annually; 6,300 students visited rivers over 5 years; Regular blogs and updates on RiverConnect website by schools.



Communication and Consultation

65 articles/radio/tv – av 13 per year; 41 presentations to groups; Quarterly e-newsletter sent to 267 subscribers; Facebook group with 200 members.



In partnership with: Department of Education and Training, Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, Goulburn Murray Landcare Network, Goulburn Valley Environment Group, Parks Victoria, Rumbalara Aboriginal Cooperative, Word and Mouth and Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation.

Looking Forward: RiverConnect's Plan for 2017-2022 and beyond

VISION & PURPOSE

Vision

Connected people, rivers and wetlands.

Purpose

To nurture the community's respect for, use and love of the rivers and wetlands.

The vision and purpose will be achieved by realising long-term goals that increase:

- **access to,**
- **awareness of,**
- **participation in, and**
- **care of**

the river environment and its cultural heritage, through seven connection priorities for action.

CONNECTION PRIORITIES

impact on one or more of the above long-term goals



Engage the community



Inspire the education sector



Showcase art and culture



Improve health and wellbeing



Build a more resilient and accessible river environment



Create opportunities for social and private enterprises



Nurture partnerships and good governance



5-YEAR TARGETS

for implementing action

- 25% increase in use of shared pathways
- 25% increased participation in river environment activities
- 75% decrease in volume of illegally dumped rubbish

- 50% of Greater Shepparton schools have at least one class engaging with the river environment annually, involving 1,000 students
- 1 tertiary education project in the RiverConnect area

- 1000 participants annually in traditional owner-led events in the river environment
- Significant whole-of-community events and projects celebrate our shared history

- Shared path network is extended by 9km and 1 river crossing built
- Opportunities and spaces are created that people actively use

- Extent and quality of native vegetation and water quality is improved
- Access for various community sectors, from anglers to the elderly, is increased at 5 locations

- 1 example each of a social and private enterprise associated with RiverConnect aspirations

- Key stakeholders continue to endorse and support the partnership and governance arrangements of RiverConnect
- Funding levels 'won' (and shared), from government and 'non-traditional' sources consistent with RiverConnect aspirations
- RiverConnect is accountable and adaptive

