

Department of Environment, Water, Heritage & the Arts (DEWHA)

Graduate Employees visit to Milang & the Lower Lakes

On the 26th August a contingent of graduate employees from DEWHA arrived in Milang as part of a study tour of the Lower Lakes.

Many of the participants were science graduates and had an obvious interest in all aspects of the current projects occurring around the lower lakes, in particular those run by the SA Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

After an initial welcome at the Milang Old School House Community Centre (MOSHCC) by Karyn Bradford (coordinator) and the viewing of a video which outlined the challenges faced by the communities at the end of the River Murray , the group met with Chris Jackson of the Eastern Fleurieu School – Milang Campus to visit the information Centre where Chris , students at the school and members of the community manage a turtle and native fish recovery program.



Hands on with the turtles



Inspecting tube worm infestations.

From the turtles the group then proceeded down to the Lakes Hub with Lou Mawson (Hub Coordinator) where they were given an introduction to the operations of the Hub over a cuppa along with an information pack for further information.

Gemma Cunningham (DENR community liaison Officer) gave a short introduction regarding the Bioremediation and Revegetation project managed by DENR and Ben Baghurst (Environmental Management – Rural Solutions SA) also enlightened them about the current and future revegetation projects being conducted as contractors to DENR.

After being briefed the students braved the cold and windy weather with Gemma as tour guide to inspect a local community revegetation site where Ben expanded on the community planting program. Next stop was out to Point Sturt to meet with local farmer and conservationist, Anne Hartnett. The Point Sturt Landcare revegetation site was visited along with viewing the lake system from the tip of Point Sturt. From there the bus headed to Clayton regular where Anne was able to explain the current issues associated with the regulator and Carole Richardson (Goolwa to Wellington Local Action Planning Assoc. – monitoring and evaluation project officer) spoke to them of the processes and results of acid sulfate soil testing in the area.

It was then back to Milang for a great lunch at the Port Milang Cafe from where they continued on their study tour to the DENR office at 'Wyngate' on Hindmarsh Island.

The Milang section of the study tour was organized by the Lakes Hub and thanks Karyn Bradford (MOSHCC), Chris Jackson (EFS- Milang Campus), Gemma Cunningham (DENR Adelaide), Ben Baghurst (Rural Solutions SA – Adelaide), Carole Richardson (GWLAP – Lakes Hub) and Anne Hartnett, Point Sturt for sharing their knowledge and expertise with the graduates to ensure a very successful and informative day.



Ben Baghurst and Gemma Cunningham (standing) briefing the students at the Lakes Hub.