

# MEDIA RELEASE

## Murrumbidgee Irrigation



9th April 2008

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### DOORS SUPPORTS STUDENTS' KOKODA TREK

Murrumbidgee Irrigation's DOORS program is proud to be providing support to the upcoming Kokoda Track Expedition by 11 local Year 11 students.

"MI through its DOORS program is extremely proud to provide financial support to this group of motivated young people as they commence the first stage of their leadership program – a stage which no doubt will be incredibly challenging both physically and mentally as well as extremely rewarding. We wish them every success in this lifetime opportunity," said Brett Tucker, Managing Director of MI.

The DOORS program has been running since 2003 and is an initiative of Murrumbidgee Irrigation (MI) with the support of the Southern Riverina Youth Support Services (SRYSS). Each year MI provides \$30,000 in funding to the program in addition to donations by shareholders and staff. MI commenced the program as a result of recognising that investing in the MIA's future means investing in its young people. It provides financial support for young people from the MIA as they pursue their personal potential through educational, vocational, social and cultural endeavours. To-date the program has provided over \$160,000 in funding, assisting over 40 young individuals in our region who would have been denied the opportunity to strive for their dreams and goals purely due to financial limitations.

The expedition is the first stage in the Griffith Young Leaders Initiative (GYLI) Program in which students learn to develop their own leadership skills and qualities as well as working together as a team. Upon their return, the students will work within local schools on leadership and values programs to enhance and promote leadership within schools and pride in our rural communities.

The students will be leaving Griffith this Monday evening 14<sup>th</sup> April, returning on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> April. They will spend ANZAC Day attending the Dawn Service at Bomana War Cemetery followed by breakfast at the Australian High Commission before leaving Papua New Guinea for home.

DOORS participants are selected because of their personal drive and determination to succeed in their chosen endeavour and the 11 students participating in the GYLI certainly meet these criteria.

Ends

For further information regarding this media release, please contact Matt Linnegar Corporate Affairs Manager, Murrumbidgee Irrigation on 02 6962 0200.

