

MEDIA RELEASE



Murrumbidgee Irrigation

1 October 2009

ZOO ON THE MOVE!

To celebrate National Threatened Species Day (September 7) and National Water Week (October 18-24), Murrumbidgee Irrigation (MI) has organised two fantastic activities in October for primary students in the MIA.

The Taronga Zoomobile is zooming its way to Griffith for three days from October 20-22. During its stay, over three hundred students will have the opportunity to get up close to some native animals including a snake, possum, frog, echidna, lizard, young crocodile, cockatoo and Tawny Frogmouth. Six schools from the MIA will be spending a whole day at the MI Business Centre in Hanwood where they will participate in a series of activities focused on caring for native habitat, including why we need conserve water for the survival of many of our native aquatic animals. The activities on have been organised to heighten the awareness of the importance of taking care of the environment so the number of animals and plants facing extinction can be reduced.

The second event that's been organised by the MIA EnviroWise Education Team is the celebration of National Water. A lift-out feature in the Area News and the Irrigator week commencing October 26 will contain a huge amount of information to encourage protection, rehabilitation and improvement of water environments such as channels, creeks, wetlands and waterways. It will be supported by classroom activities that can be downloaded by teachers. The objectives of this newspaper feature include:

- To increase awareness and knowledge of water in the Australian community (food production) especially MIA. Without the water there would be no community in the MIA;
- To promote school and community involvement in water education ;
- To increase awareness of the importance of different flora and fauna in the area, including endangered species in the area; and
- To educate the community on the history and the aboriginal cultural heritage of the MIA.

Educating the next generation is a key strategy of the MIA EnviroWise Education program. By engaging young students now when their fascination and curiosity with animals and their surrounding environment is high, they will carry this knowledge and appreciation into their adult-life when they become our region's community leaders.

Ends

For further information regarding this media release please contact Kerri-Anne Keely, at Murrumbidgee Irrigation on 6962 0200.



"The MIA EnviroWise program has been made possible thanks to funding from the National Action plan for Salinity and Water Quality (NAP)."