



Roger and Linley McGlasham from the Jacksons Creek EcoNetwork at the Nook in Sunbury.

ENVIRONMENT

Bid to protect rivers

Barry Kennedy

Campaign seeks legal protection for waterways networks

CONSERVATIONISTS in Sunbury and the Macedon Ranges are joining a push to legislate for better local waterways protection.

The Rivers of the West campaign has been launched by Environmental Justice Australia.

It seeks greater legal protections for the Maribyrnong and Werribee river networks.

The campaign seeks consistency in management of

rivers across municipalities mirroring a successful campaign leading to legislative protection for the Yarra River network last year.

Community groups working on the ground will roll out the awareness campaign to the public, highlighting issues such as urban development and over clearing, species threats and fragmented governance.

Jacksons Creek EcoNetwork president Christina

Cheers said that in Sunbury and surrounds, the fate of platypus populations was inextricably linked to the health of waterways.

"Platypus are not officially vulnerable but we saw numbers dwindle greatly in the long drought," she said.

"We know they are not fond of disturbances, too much light and activity, and certainly can't coexist with dogs."

Ms Cheers said while land-

care projects around Sunbury had rejuvenated and revegetated delicate riverside environments, fundamental challenges remained.

"One of the biggest problems with doing work beside waterways is the number of authorities you have to work with and at times it seems like they aren't speaking to each other," she said.

Residential growth in Romsey was stressing the Deep Creek environment,

Deep Creek Landcare Group spokesman Ken Allender said.

"With the significant expansion of Romsey and increased development around Deep Creek and its catchment area, a new approach is needed to restore the integrity of our unique local environment, species and landscape," he said.

EJA lawyer Dr Bruce Lindsay said the campaign was intent on raising the profile in importance of rivers to overall eco systems.

SUNBURY



Painting a bright future

THE excitement continues for 2017 Sunbury Downs College dux Natasha Luz who starts a fine arts degree at RMIT later this month.

Ms Luz, 18, achieved 99.1 as her ATAR score, one of the highest state and the best in the northwest Victoria region.

Next Tuesday, she will be presented with \$1000 by the Rotary Club of Sunbury for achieving the school's best result, as will the duxes of Salesian College and Sunbury College.

Ms Luz is still amazed at just how well she went in the ATAR score.

"I'm very proud. I would have been content with 95 and thought I may get 97, but when I got on the website and saw the score I just started giggling," she said.

Her results were achieved thanks to the college's early commencement program. It saw her complete year 11 VCE English in year nine and embark on other studies prior to her age group.

Last year she studied four VCE subjects while also completing an art history course at Melbourne University.

Ms Luz said she enjoyed science subjects as well including physics — much of her art techniques included the exploration of chromatography, a chemistry process as elements separate from a stationary stage to a mobile stage.

She hopes to develop painting and sculpture in the prestigious tertiary art course.

SUNBURY

Touch of beauty and movie magic comes to the Green

RESIDENTS will get a taste of outdoor cinema this Saturday with a screening of the Disney film *Beauty and the Beast*.

The film, part of Hume Council's Summer Sessions

series will be on the Village Green transformed into a community hub.

Food trucks and children's activities will be from 5pm with the screening from 8.30pm.

Sunbury Community Health building healthier communities manager Bernadette Hetherington said the event had quickly become a favourite in Sunbury over three years.

"We are enthusiastic supporters as it is a great community event for Sunbury and terrific for families," she said.

Hume mayor Geoff Porter said the free outdoor movies

were "a relaxed, fun and popular event for people of all ages, and a great way to get to know your neighbours".

Fifty beanbags will be available for those who get in early.

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