



MEDIA RELEASE

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TALKING TURTLES AT KINGS BILLABONG

FUZZBALL the endangered broad-shelled turtle was the star of the show when more than 40 people turned out to learn more about turtles at Kings Billabong Park, east of Mildura.

The family-friendly event was hosted by Mallee Catchment Management Authority (CMA) and attracted children of all ages who were keen to make the most of their school holiday adventures by getting to know Fuzzball.

“It was fabulous to see so many young people curious about this amazing native species,” Mallee Catchment Management Authority (CMA) Chair Allison McTaggart said.

“This event booked out almost immediately, even after we made more places available, which shows just how much local people care about protecting turtles in our area.”

Fuzzball belongs to local environmental education company EnviroEDU, which provided participants with a hands-on opportunity to learn more about her, as well as how to look after the places in our region where turtles like to live.

The event began at the Psyche Pumps Pavilion, where participants were introduced to Fuzzball and her companion broad-shelled turtle, Clay. Under the watchful gaze of Fuzzball and Clay, participants learnt more about where turtles live and what they need to thrive.

A short walk around the nearby area showed participants how to identify turtle nests and the importance of protecting these sites from predators, such as foxes and pigs.

“Unfortunately, turtles like Fuzzball and Clay are having a difficult time surviving in our wetlands and rivers, due to the impact of introduced predators,” EnviroEDU’s Sarah Holmes explained.

“One of the best ways we can continue to look after turtles is make sure community members understand where turtles live and nest.”

Participants were also encouraged to record turtle sightings and turtle nests on the TurtleSAT app. This app collects evidence of where turtles can be found and this can help organisations such as the Mallee CMA put safeguards in place.

For more information on TurtleSAT, visit www.turtlesat.org.au

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Left: EnviroEDU's Sarah Holmes holds Clay the broad-shelled turtle while talking to participants at a recent event held to help people learn more about how to protect native turtles.

Below: Fuzzball gets a good look at participants.



Background information:

The Mallee Catchment Management Authority (CMA) is a statutory authority established to ensure that natural resources in the region are managed in an integrated and ecologically sustainable way. Its work is based on science and delivered through meaningful partnerships with local organisations such as Landcare, community groups, and government agencies in the Victorian Mallee.

For more information visit www.malleecma.com.au