



MEDIA RELEASE

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MERBEIN COMMON IN THE SPOTLIGHT FOR WORLD WETLANDS DAY

MERBEIN'S next generation wetland warriors were treated to a morning of hands-on learning and exploring to celebrate World Wetlands Day.

The event, coordinated by Mallee Catchment Management Authority, was held earlier this week and saw children from Generations Early Learning Centre in Merbein experience an interactive threatened species wildlife demonstration, focusing on floodplain species including frogs, turtles and snakes that can be found at Merbein Common.

World Wetlands Day is celebrated each year on February 2 and aims to raise awareness about the vital role of wetlands for people and the planet.

Participants also got the chance to explore the Merbein Common through photos, learn about the importance of wetlands, what wildlife species live in a wetland, food chains, threatened species and how we can work together to protect our wetlands.

Mallee CMA Board Chair Allison McTaggart said it is important that future generations understand the importance of caring for our wetlands early on in life.

"The theme for this years' World Wetlands Day was "*protecting wetlands for our common future*", so we wanted to have an event that centered around educating and engaging the next generation of people who will ideally care for our wetlands," she said.

"Our region is home to some of the most fascinating and important wetlands and we wanted to really engage our local children through this event and show them the wonderful world of wetlands that exists right in their own backyard.

"Capturing the interest of children at this young age and educating them in a fun and hands-on way now can help ensure they remain connected and engaged with the environment for years to come.

"The hope is that the same children who participated in this event today will become the people protecting local wetlands like the Merbein Common in a few years' time."



Jordan and Sarah from EnviroEDU are all smiles as they get up close to a Maxi the ring-tail possum.



George and Clay the turtle share a book together.



Frankie and Frederick the frog learn about our local wetlands together.



Sarah from EnviroEDU, children from Generations Early Learning and Emma Johnston from Mallee CMA with Fernandina the Murray Darling carpet python.



Zain and George with Clay the turtle.

To stay up to date with Mallee CMA and the work being done to restore Merbein Common, follow Mallee CMA on social media or visit the website at malleecma.com.au.

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MEDIA ENQUIRIES

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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