

Murray Darling Association Inc
Phone 02 6021 3655 Fax 02 6021 2025

MEDIA RELEASE

24 February 2010

LAUNCH OF DARLING DISCOVERY WEBSITE

A new website to improve community and student knowledge, understanding and awareness about the Darling catchment will have its first launch at Wentworth on Wednesday 3 March 2010.

An initiative of the Murray Darling Environmental Foundation and the Murray Darling Association, the website will generate interest amongst students and the broader community about the richness and diversity of an inland river that does not get the profile and interest that it deserves.

The website has taken two years to develop and includes material on native fish; cultural heritage; water; industry; agriculture; irrigation; tourism; wetlands; vegetation; managing natural resources; history and heritage.

Chair of the Murray Darling Environmental Foundation, Mr Brian Grogan OAM of Mildura, said today that at workshops run by the Murray Darling Association along the Darling River in recent years, students, teachers and community members had commented on the lack of easily-accessible material on the Darling River, similar to that available along the Murray River.

“The lack of this concise and accessible material was also raised by some of the Association’s member councils and visitor information centres along the Darling,” Mr Grogan said

“Two years ago, the Association’s Environmental Foundation started to develop a website to improve community and student knowledge, understanding and awareness about the Darling catchment,” Mr Grogan said.

Mr Grogan said that the website aimed to provide high quality material about the Darling catchment and its natural resources to complement the current material about the Murray River.

“The Environment Foundation Committee wants the website to help broaden understanding of Darling catchment issues by the wider Australian community and encourage greater involvement in managing the Darling River’s natural resources,” Mr Grogan said

“The Environment Foundation Committee also believes the website will contribute to community pride in the Darling River, its communities and good natural resource management.

Mr Grogan said that to get the website underway, the Murray Darling Environmental Foundation had sourced interest and much-appreciated financial and in-kind support for this project.

“Supporters include the Wentworth Branch of the Bendigo Bank; the Lower Murray Darling Catchment Management Authority; the Broken Hill Community Credit Union; Country Energy Water; the Western Catchment Management Authority, and Web Partners,” Mr Grogan said.

“This support is highly valued and much appreciated,” Mr Grogan said.

Wentworth Shire and other shire councils along the Darling have contributed valuable ideas, contacts, material and photographs while the Murray-Darling Basin Authority provided access to maps and a key written resource, *The Darling River*.

“Communities, farmers, irrigators, organisations, government agencies, artists, Local Government and individuals along this great river also contributed material, ideas and encouragement,” Mr Grogan said.

Mr Grogan said that all of the supporters should feel part of a significant on-going project and hopefully maintain interest and involvement in this project that supports natural resources and communities of the Darling catchment.

In 2010, plan to visit www.discoveringthedarling.com.au and discover an undiscovered treasure.

The launch will take place at 5.30pm on Wednesday 3 March 2010 at Art Outback, Darling Street, Wentworth, NSW.

For more information, please contact:

Mr Adrian Wells – 0407 903 195
Mr Brian Grogan – 0419 352 617
Ms Jo Haw – 0427 376 157