

Skull Creek, nature's classroom

Lindenow South Primary School students were out to play their part in the restoration of the upper reaches of Skull Creek recently on an excursion to connect to community and country.

East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority chief executive officer, Graeme Dear, said the project, funded under the State Government's 'Our Catchment, Our Communities' plan, was supporting greater community involvement in managing catchments.

Working alongside members of Greening Australia and the Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation's On Country crew, 19 students planted 500 of the endangered swamp everlasting and woolly waterlily plants, and even found time to investigate the critters that live in the waterholes with the team from Bug Blitz.

"It's great to be able to involve schools and the community to understand the importance of these wetland environments," project manager for Gippsland at Greening Australia, Martin Potts, said.

"It's not just about planting trees but the habitat as a whole. The waterholes along Skull Creek are very significant to this landscape so we need to understand that it's not just about water but what's living in the water, what feeds off that and how it all interacts."

Lindenow South principal, Michael Walker, said "anything that gets the kids out of the classroom is a good idea and met with 100 per cent enthusiasm".

"It was a magical excursion. The kids were all excited and it's just opened up a new chapter of biological sciences at the school."



Lindenow South Primary students recently got their hands dirty with Martin Potts, from Greening Australia, returning endangered plants to Skull Creek. (PS)



Kiyani (11) and Jaylah-Storm (10) investigate larvae living in the waterhole. (PS)



Griffin (12) and Toby (11) return the endangered swamp everlasting to the wetlands. (PS)



Max Solomon, of the Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation On Country team, and Zach talked footy while planting woolly waterlilies. (PS)