



The rafting trip down the Snowy River was an exhilarating ride in some sections. (PS)

Remote rafting an education

Learning more about the legendary Snowy River was the theme for a recent rafting trip along a remote section of the river organised by the East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority.

The 27 paddlers left Bairnsdale by bus at 7am on Saturday, December 14, for the four-hour drive to the launch site on the New South Wales side of the border. Once on the water, they soon crossed the border into Victoria and retrieved the rafts downstream several hours later.

As well as experiencing the beauty of the river and the surrounding landscape in this re-

mote location, the event was an opportunity to find out more about river health and the work of the authority with explanations provided by Ken Judd (manager water programs). The staff from Snowy River Expeditions who conducted the paddle also pointed out local features as the group moved downstream.

“In recent years, a focus for the East Gippsland CMA has been the eradication of willows along the entire length of the Snowy River, from the NSW border to the estuary at Marlo,” Mr Judd said.

“Willows are now under control, but

constant surveillance is undertaken to ensure that this pest plant does not get a foothold in the catch-

ment again.” Controlling willows helps to maintain the natural condition of the river so that the remote

sections can be enjoyed as exciting places for recreational activities such as camping, rafting and fishing.



The rafting trip booked out quickly and all participants had a front seat of the Snowy. (PS)