

The Dream River

Rivers of pictures and flows of words

Rivières d'images et fleuves de mots

European Rivers Network

Bulimba Creek Catchment

Southern Gulf Catchments



2009 Calendar

A celebration of rivers, wetlands and marine areas by three regions

The Dream River

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"The best bit was painting and creating"

Paige, Hemmant State School



The Catchment Committees and local schools of the **Bulimba Creek Catchment in Brisbane, Southern Gulf Catchments in far north Queensland** and the **Loire River in France** are collaborating to facilitate the “**Dream River**” project.

Children of primary school age attending the participating schools have been invited to explore their local river, wetland or creek. They investigated its ecological and cultural aspects and expressed these through a work of art.

The scheme encourages all children to participate and produce an original version of their “**Dream River**”. It is emphasized that this is not a contest and the children expressed their ideas and produced a

work of art of their own choosing within the framework of their school's organisation.

We hope to create a water basin concept of a “Sense of Place” – the feeling of belonging to a natural place and it belonging to you. We have much to share with each other— from France to Southern Queensland to the Gulf of Carpentaria.

"I liked giving ideas"

Braxton, Hemmant State School





A catchment in south-east Queensland

Bulimba Creek catchment is 120 square kilometres, in Brisbane city.

It is a fast developing urban area, with small nature reserves linked to its Bulimba Creek corridor. Brisbane is the biodiversity capital of Australia, and has three overlapping climatic zones. There are wallabies and koalas only 8 kilometres from City Hall.

Our schools are involved in environmental projects including tree planting, habitat building, water testing, healthy food gardens and students are interested in fauna protection and native Australian culture. Many schools have open air projects assisted by our Catchment Group.

Retaining our biodiversity status and wildlife is a major objective. Our subtropical climate encourages outdoor activities, which we are adding to with opportunities for nature-based recreation using our wonderful natural assets

and landscapes. The pressures of a fast growing population require a quality response to protecting green space and our natural ecosystems.



We are twinning (partnering) with the Loire Vivante in France and Southern Gulf Catchments (far north Queensland) to **improve the knowledge and lives of our children** by encouraging their natural instincts to be connected to the environment and care for and provide their own resources.



A catchment in north-west Queensland

The southern Gulf of Carpentaria is a unique region covering 195,200km² of Queensland and 20,000km² in the Northern Territory. The defined catchments draining into the Gulf of Carpentaria are the Flinders, Leichhardt, Nicholson, Settlement Creek, Mornington Inlet and the Wellesley Islands. The landscapes range from coastal salt flats and sand islands, box and bloodwood woodlands, huge areas of grasslands including the fertile Mitchell Grass Downs, rugged red hills with snappy gum and spinifex understorey.

The climate is characterised by hot, wet summers and cooler, dry winters with frequent cyclonic activity between December and April. A population of approximately 35,000 consisting of a high percentage of indigenous people is scattered widely across the region. **This low population density and remoteness has bred a self reliant spirit.** Mining, grazing, tourism

and commercial fishing are the regions main economic activities.

There are many sites of aboriginal and non-aboriginal cultural significance including waterholes, Selwyn Ranges Art Site, Boodjamulla (Lawn Hill) National Park and Riversleigh Fossil Site. Threats in the region include weeds and feral animals and overuse of the regions natural resources.





Loire Vivante *A catchment traversing France*

The Loire River is the longest river in France, 1,013 kilometres. It drains more than 20% of land area of France, a catchment of 117, 000 square km. The Upper Loire travels swiftly from its beginning in the south-eastern Cevennes Mountains in a northwestward arc towards its mouth at Saint Nazaire on the Atlantic Ocean. The Loire flows through extensive limestone gorges in Massif Central, opening out at Orléanais. The fertile Loire basin is characterised by pastoral countryside, gardens, historic castles and vineyards. The Loire's chief tributaries are the Allier, Cher and Vienne Rivers.

The multiple civilisations and traditions fostered by the Loire Valley throughout history have created a common heritage to all of France. At different times, and for unique trade, transportation and navigational purposes, it was used by the Romans, Vikings, Phoenicians and Greeks. The river's commercial role in navigation ended with the advent of the railway in the 19th century. Silting, flooding and droughts have also impacted current uses of the Loire. Much of its banks are now lined with dikes because of its susceptibility to heavy flooding.

The Loire Valley is an outstanding cultural landscape of great beauty, containing historic towns and villages, great architectural monuments (the châteaux), and cultivated lands formed by many centuries of interaction between their population and the physical environment, primarily the river Loire itself.



Cloncurry St Joseph's School

January

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
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25	26	27	28	29	30	31

St Joseph's is a mainly indigenous school. Local industries are mining, grazing and government services. Children enjoy exploring the Cloncurry River.



The Royal Australian Flying Doctor Service was started at Cloncurry in 1928, providing much needed medical treatment for people living in remote areas of Australia through doctors and nurses visiting in small aeroplanes.



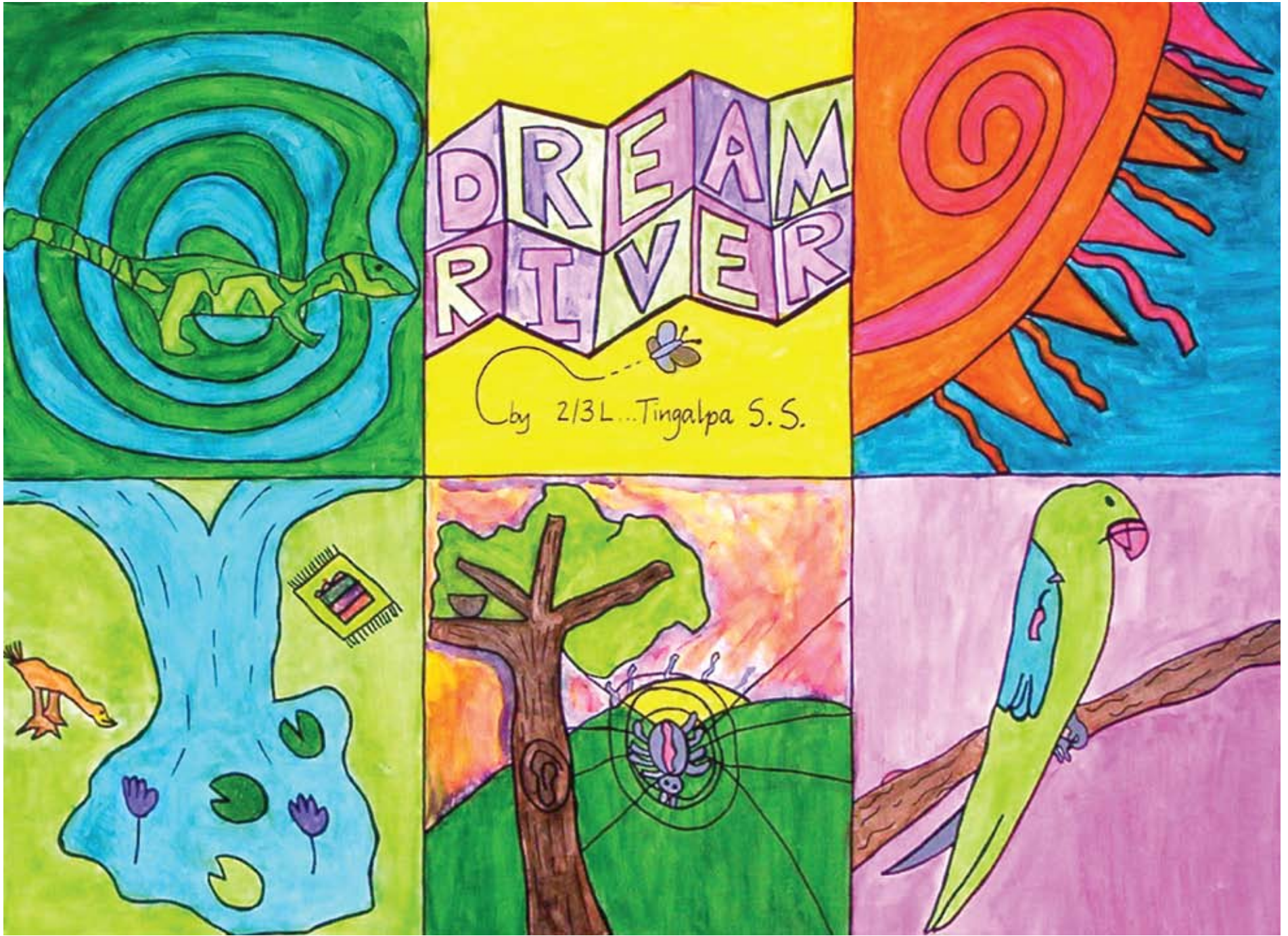
The painting

River of life

The 5/6/7 class of Saint Josephs School Cloncurry painted these rivers to represent the beautiful rivers all over the outback. We painted these murals of our dream rivers.

Without these rivers our beautiful grass, trees, flowers and wildlife wouldn't live. Without this refreshing water we wouldn't have our life-giving trees that give us oxygen. That is why we painted our dream rivers.

Southern Gulf Catchment



February

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
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Tingalpa State School is situated within 12 kilometres of the city of Brisbane. It has approximately 300 students. Tingalpa School is located within walking distance of a wetland system that is part of a regional wildlife corridor, joining Brisbane Koala Bushlands and Bulimba Creek with Moreton Bay.

Many significant species live in the area. The school has constructed their own wildlife corridor and no-dig veggie garden.



The painting

2/3 L made this painting of our Dream River. We visited creeks around our local area, looking at things we liked about them and the things we thought could be improved. In our painting are lots of animals because we liked seeing all the animals around our local creeks. Some of the animals we saw included birds, lizards, tadpoles and spiders.

We also included a picture of our class pet, Clementine – she is a parrot and we thought she would like to visit our Dream River. The water in our local creek was very muddy and hard to look into, so we decided to add a waterfall so the water could circulate and stay clean for all the animals. Our Dream River would be a sunny, colourful place with no rubbish where animals and people would love to be!

Bulimba Creek Catchment



Gregory Downs Education Facility

March

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
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As a one-teacher school with 18 students, in a small, isolated community, Gregory Downs is committed to achieving a friendly, safe and supportive learning environment in which our students can achieve their learning goals.



A mix of native Australian and European descent children have their own healthy food gardens and orchard and great support from Gregory River Landcare and Southern Gulf Catchments.



The painting

The canvas that the Gregory Gang 2007 painted was inspired by the local surrounds of the Gregory River. Along the river are lots of palm trees, fish and turtles. The little bridge is the original bridge that crosses the river.

The local Aborigines believe that the Rainbow Serpent lives in the Gregory River. Around Gregory many people ride horses. The Pub is near the river. The windmill represents the stations in the local area. The handprints represent the kids who did the painting.



The Primary School of Franc Rosier, France

April

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
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26	27	28	29	30		



The primary school of Franc Rosier is located in the city of Clermont Ferrand in the upper basin of the Loire river where the river is still small and quite wild. The natural environment is well preserved and the wild salmon can swim back to its spawning ground.

It is a small school inside of the city (300 000 inhabitants). Some of the students do not get to go out of town to enjoy the nature. So we organise school trips and have them run into the fields and explore the nature.



The painting

Meeting in the waves of the Tiretaine River

This painting has been made by 5 year old children. They went to discover the Tiretaine River which is a small tributary of the Loire River. It is a beautiful little river next to the school. The children observed the water, the beauty of its waves, the great colors of its bottom.

They talked of what kind of painting they wanted to do. Most of the children felt like swimming in the river when they saw few fishes passing by. "We want to be a fish" said the children "and swim like them"! So they drew themselves as colorful fishes playing into the waves of the river.



Doomadgee State School

May

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
31					1	2
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Doomadgee is an isolated native Australian community on the Nicholson River, 1800 km from Brisbane. The school has 310 students aged 5 – 16.

The school has a rich indigenous culture and children that love active outdoor activities. It has constructed two healthy food gardens and planted a four tree orchard, where students are learning to grow, prepare and eat their own healthy foods.



The painting

Our dream river is a dream about the Nicholson River that runs next to Doomadgee. This dream river will have lots of horses and bullocks around it that we can ride for fun. There are fishes and turtles all through the river that are all different types.

For example bony brim, silver brim and barramundi. In our dream, the river is flooding over the road like during the wet season. The rainbow serpent is also part of our dreaming. There are goannas at the river which are really tasty on the hot coals with salt.



Mansfield State School

June

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
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Mansfield State School is situated in the southern suburbs of Brisbane. It has about 800 students. The multi-cultural diversity of the students has had a significant impact on the school in recent years. Children who speak another language at home account for 24% of the school population.

Mansfield State School backs on to Bulimba Creek. The school is actively involved in environmental issues concerning the local waterways.



The painting Mansfield Dreaming

The students in Year 4B at Mansfield State School are dreaming of their preferred vision of the Brisbane River. They want to see the river in all its beautiful hues of blue, free from pollution. They want to see the area around the river returned to a more natural state which is not a 'concrete jungle' but a place where children can play and nature, in all its beauty, can nurture.

The children look out from the river and their eyes are filled with hope, and with the confidence that the future generation will treat our river, our life force, well. The painting symbolises the future and the fractured colours give depth to the children's vision yet instil a unity of thought in its monochromatic depiction. The block colours give a modern expression of their concept of the future.

Bulimba Creek Catchment



*Julia Creek
State School*

July

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
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Home of the threatened Julia Creek dunnart, a small and beautiful marsupial. Children train for the dirt and dust triathlon, enjoy horse riding and exploring this isolated area. Employment centres around farming and mining, at the nearby Cannington Mine. It has a population of less than 1000. Maximum temperature averages 33°C.

Below, one is of the first captive-bred Julia Creek Dunnarts is released into the Julia Creek Dunnart Predator Proof enclosure earlier in 2008.



Photos this page by Scott Malone

The painting

The year 5/6/7 students visited the different sources of water around Julia Creek's waterways, creeks, dams, the water tower and the bore head. They picked the one that was the most significant to them and painted a picture that showed this source of water and how it affected their lives.

In the pictures you can see how water is used around Julia Creek, for watering cattle, swimming, exercise, for our Dirt 'n' Dust triathlon, for drinking, watering animals and keeping our community green and healthy.



The Primary School of Les Barques, France

August

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
30	31					1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29



The primary school of Les Barques is located in a small village (15 000 inhabitants) called Saint Just Saint Rambert by the Loire River. It is the first village after a big dam which is called dam of Grangent.

When the river is flooding, they open the gates of the dam and the water often runs through the streets of the village.



The painting

The Loire river through the porthole

When asked by the teacher what they wanted to paint about the Loire river, the majority of the children said the flood. They started working on the subject to understand what a flood is. "Can we be killed by the water?" asked a little girl. "Is the river so sad that it cries many tears that make up the flood?" wondered another child.

"The river is alive and it needs to breath, to get some fresh air. So it overflows and then goes quiet again." answered the teacher. The students painted the flood they could see through a porthole so that all the children were safe behind the door watching the water passing by.



*Hughenden
State School*

September

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
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20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			



Hughenden is located on the banks of Queensland's longest river, the Flinders. Known for its dinosaur fossil fields, gemstone fossicking, and magnificent gorges, Hughenden has a population of only 1500 people.

It is on Mitchell grasslands, bordering desert uplands. Children explore their river and natural areas.



The painting

The Flinders River, in all its glory. When it is in full flood and when it is not, and the bridge that joins both sides. How it affects the surrounding landscape and how it is perceived by the people who live beside it.

Even though the water may not be on the surface the locals know that it will be coming back to spread a mantle of green over the countryside. Art work completed by Middle School Students.



Mt Isa Spinifex Junior Campus

October

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
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25	26	27	28	29	30	31



Mt Isa is the largest town in the Gulf area, with over 25 000 people. It is a mining dominated town, with some of the largest mining companies in Australia mining silver, lead, zinc and copper.

Children like BMX (bikes), skateboarding and horse riding. Artificial Lake Moondarra, 19km north of the city provides both drinking water and an area for watersports, birdwatching and recreation. Mt Isa Spinifex is one of the largest schools in Mt Isa.



The painting Water - Our Lifeblood

Spinifex State College, Mount Isa students created a collage of their local environment highlighting the importance of water in our often dry district. The seven different scales on the fish depicts the varying cultural, environmental and industrial aspects of our community. All these aspects are interdependent with one another but most importantly dependent on our water for their continued existence.

The use of blue and green colours helps reflect the environmental aspects of our district. The scales on the fish depict images of the outback mining town of Mount Isa to the gulf community of Karumba. This part of Australia is a major water catchment area, an area of significant beauty, and most importantly, our lifeblood.

Southern Gulf Catchment



*Mt Petrie
Primary School*

November

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
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15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					



Mount Petrie State School is known as a country school in the city. The size of the school (90 students) allows all children to interact in a friendly and happy manner.

Situated in spacious grounds with abundant trees and having an inviting natural playscape and nature walk, it presents students with a stimulating learning environment and habitat for wildlife.



The painting

As our Dream River begins its journey from higher ground where the eagles soar, the water bubbles over rocks and as it falls a fine mist fills the air and clings to the fur of the animals as they come to drink at the waters edge. Fish skitter silently through the shimmering water as it passes calmly over the bed of pebbles then collecting speed it races across rapids to meet the deeper cool, calm waters further downstream. The frogs chorus their happy songs while a platypus busily

forages for food among the grasses and reeds along the banks. The odd turtle can be seen sticking its nose just above the surface to take a breath before it submerges itself once again. On the shallow sandy banks opposite the laughter and splashing of young children can be heard as they play.



December

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
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27	28	29	30	31		

Richmond is the heart of dinosaur heaven, the greatest area of fossils in Australia, including prehistoric marine creatures.



It is a major tourist destination 500 km inland to view this geological history. An isolated community of 600 people, children like to explore and swim in Lake Fred Tritton.

It has a smaller indigenous percentage of children in the school compared to other Gulf towns.



The painting

Our Dream River was designed and painted by our year 9/10 Visual Arts class. Water is very scarce in our rivers in Richmond. Our local river the Flinders gets most of its water from the basalt plains and when the Charcoal breaks its banks and flows into the main river.

The river is dry for most of the year and when the wet arrives you can go to our bottom crossing and watch the water arrive that is why the top left hand part of painting is blank. We put dolphins and turtles in our river because we don't get to see them here. The sun is crying tears of water to fill our river. Our river is turning the barren countryside into lush green areas for us to enjoy.

Southern Gulf Catchment



Steve and Mark help students of Gregory install irrigation system



Left and below: Gregory School and Healthy Food Gardens



Our garden is doing wonderfully! We have picked our first crop of lettuce, tomatoes, beans, mini carrots and squash. The eggplants and capsicums are nearly ready. The lemon tree has 3 lemons on it at this stage. The kids have really enjoyed doing the garden!

Meegan Brown, Head of Campus
Gregory Downs Educational Facility



Tingalpa State School, Brisbane – planted a no-dig gardens, 2008.



Wild rivers require 4WD's in the Gulf.

“TWINNING” brings ideas to life in the Gulf of Carpentaria

Healthy Food Gardens and *Dream River* are community initiated ideas and if success is participation sparked by inspiration, both have been successful. They are sponsored by the **Sidney Myer Foundation** and the **Queensland Government**.

When B4C won the National Thies Riverprize in 2005, it was encouraged by the International Riverfoundation to “Twin” with a needy catchment.

We initiated a national twinning project with Southern Gulf Catchments.

Now in its third year, the project has had three visits the the Gregory by **B4C**, **Riverfoundation** and our French partners the **European Rivers Network**. This entailed visits to the Gregory River and its natural and cultural areas, including the towns and schools of Gregory Downs and Doomadgee.



Healthy Food Gardens are something new for the Gulf Schools. Using the no-dig permaculture principles with new innovative horticultural infrastructure. We have trained the children to build the gardens, plant 4 tree orchards and propagate thier own seeds.



Gregory kids learning to propagate seeds with Steve from B4C.

Hi there,

This is Jono Redman from Doomadgee State School. I've attached some photos of our creating a healthy food garden. It is a highschool boys project grades 8-10.

Some pea plants have been grown from seeds and have since germinated and transplanted into the garden shells. They are growing up towards the fence and everyone is waiting to taste the first fruits of their labour.

The students have been interested to learn about the life cycle of a vegetable plant from germination to producing fruit. A number of books have guided students along as they read all about the different varieties of plants. They have also been writing a garden journal to keep track of the changes happening along the way.

Jonathan Redman, Teacher
Doomadgee State School

Indigenous and isolated children in the Gulf needed something new and practical. They needed to connect with their inherent needs and abilities to grow and eat their own foods.

The future is looking bright for the two Twinning projects and we are working hard to make sure they are sustained to provide full benefit to the Gulf communities and children.

Thanks to teachers and pupils, the Landcardcarers of Gregory and Southern Gulf Catchments, and ERN's Roberto Epple. Special appreciation is extended to Mr Mark Van Ryt, who hosted our visits, led the projects and physically set up the Gregory gardens and planted the four fruit trees under the hot northern sun.

Wayne Cameron
Project Manager, Brisbane



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