

4 November 2008

## **Brewarrina students care for Barwon River**

Brewarrina school students did some 'hands-on' learning last month, taking part in a tree-planting and Waterwatch day on the banks of the Barwon River.

Organised by the Western Catchment Management Authority (CMA) and the NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI), the activities were part of the Brewarrina to Bourke Demonstration Reach project.

Thirty-three students from St Patrick's Primary School and forty-five students from the Brewarrina Central School took part in the activities downstream of the Ngunnhu Aboriginal Fish Traps on Friday, October 24.

The students planted approximately eighty native trees including River Red Gum, River Cooba and Coolabah trees.

Their planting sites have been identified by a plaque and each student wrote their name on a tag attached to the tree they planted, so they will be able to watch their own tree grow.

The Brewarrina Central School students also took part in Waterwatch activities, which allowed them to see first-hand the condition of waterways and learn how they can contribute to the health of the river.

The students looked at water samples and macro-invertebrates, which are indicators of water health, and learnt about how aquatic ecosystems work.

Western CMA Community Education Officer, Lisa Crisp, said that the activities had both educational and practical elements.

"We planted the trees so that in the future they will create a native canopy and encourage other plant species to grow beneath them.

"As well as making the riverbank more attractive, the trees will stabilise the riverbank and prevent erosion. Ideally, at the end of their lifecycle they may fall into the river, which will create valuable native fish habitat.

"The Western CMA and Department of Primary Industries would like to thank the Brewarrina Shire Council who helped to ensure the day ran smoothly. It was quite a hot day so we all appreciated the marquee and drinks they provided.

"We are also grateful for the support of the Don Harvey, Principal of Brewarrina Central School, and his staff and Sister Jan O'Neill, Principal of St Patrick's Primary School, and her staff," Ms Crisp said.

### **ENDS**

Media Contact: Maree Barnes, Western CMA on 02 6883 3058/0427 256814

Lisa Crisp, Community Education Officer on 02 6836 1575

Damon Cusack, Waterwatch Coordinator on 02 6872 2144

