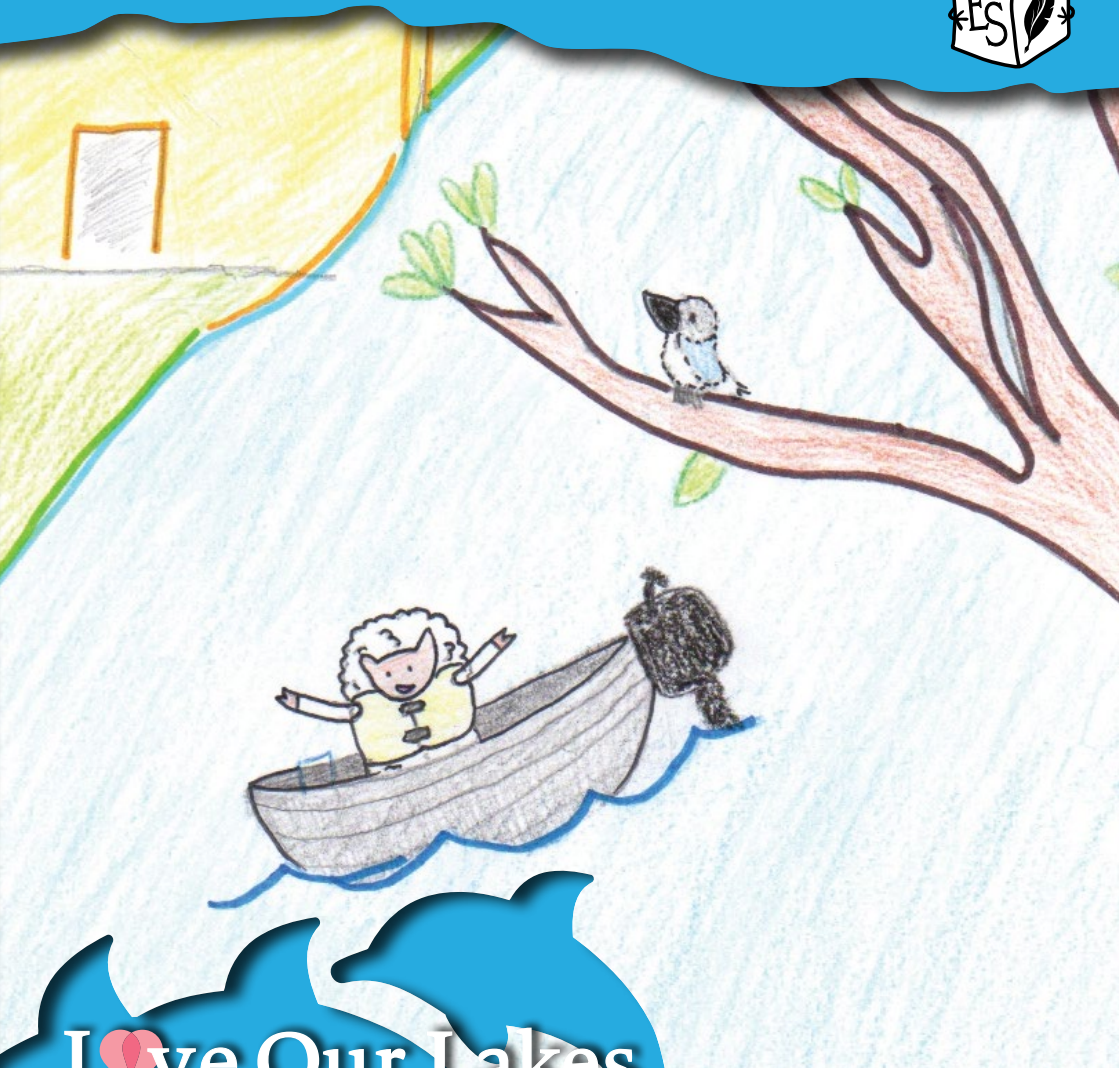


A trip down the Mitchell River

Year 5 and 6

Gippsland Grammar School - Bairnsdale Campus



Love Our Lakes

Gippsland Lakes Ministerial Advisory Committee

The Gippsland Lakes are precious; we need to protect them and pass them on to future generations. 'Love our Lakes' is about a shared responsibility to participate in caring for the Lakes and catchment. The Gippsland Lakes Ministerial Advisory Committee has an important role in assisting the Victorian Government and the community to Love Our Lakes. www.loveourlakes.net.au

Victorian Association of Environmental Education

The Victorian Association for Environmental Education (VAEE) is an independent professional association whose purpose has energised educators from all sectors to contribute their time and expertise to ensuring that environmental education and education for sustainability continue to be valued. www.vaae.vic.edu.au

James Yeates Printing

James Yeates Printing are a family company and produce commercial printing from simple flyers, business stationery and cards, to books and full color promotional brochures. James Yeates Printing have kindly supported this Enviro-Stories program. www.jamesyeatesprinting.com.au



Enviro-Stories is an innovative literacy education program that inspires learning about natural resource and catchment management issues. Developed by PeeKdesigns, this program provides students with an opportunity to publish their own stories that have been written for other kids to support learning about their local area. www.envirostories.com.au

A trip down the Mitchell River

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Hello, my name is Willy the Woolly Sheep! I live way up in the mountains of the Great Diving Range in Gippsland. As I am grazing I often watch the water drain into the many little creeks that make up the Dargo River. I have heard that this river becomes the mighty Mitchell River.

Today, I have decided to go for a spin in my tinny to find out where the river goes.

“Baaaa! It’s time to go.”



Here I am in Dargo, the closest town to where the Mitchell River actually starts. The Mitchell begins at the junction of the Wonnangatta and the Dargo rivers.

“Hello, I’m Doug the Dargo dingo,” a voice called. “Let’s go to the bakery and help you stock up for the big trip,” said Doug.

“Thanks Doug,” Willy exclaimed. “Now I am ready to continue my journey.”

“Baaaa! It’s time to go.”



After my snack from Dargo, I pass the start of the Mitchell River and also the spot where the Wentworth River joins the Mitchell. Eventually I arrive at the Mitchell River National Park.

I decide to follow a bushwalking track to a nearby waterfall. I have a quick swim with a friendly yabby who tells me about this special national park.

“Bye yabby!”

“Baaaa! It’s time to go.”





I arrive at a place called the Den of Nargun. Whilst on another bushwalk I meet a duck called Freckle. He tells me that Gippsland is the traditional country of the Gunaikurnai people. Freckle said they have a story of a half human and half stone creature called the Nargun who lived here.

Whoa! I think I better escape before the Nargun gets me.

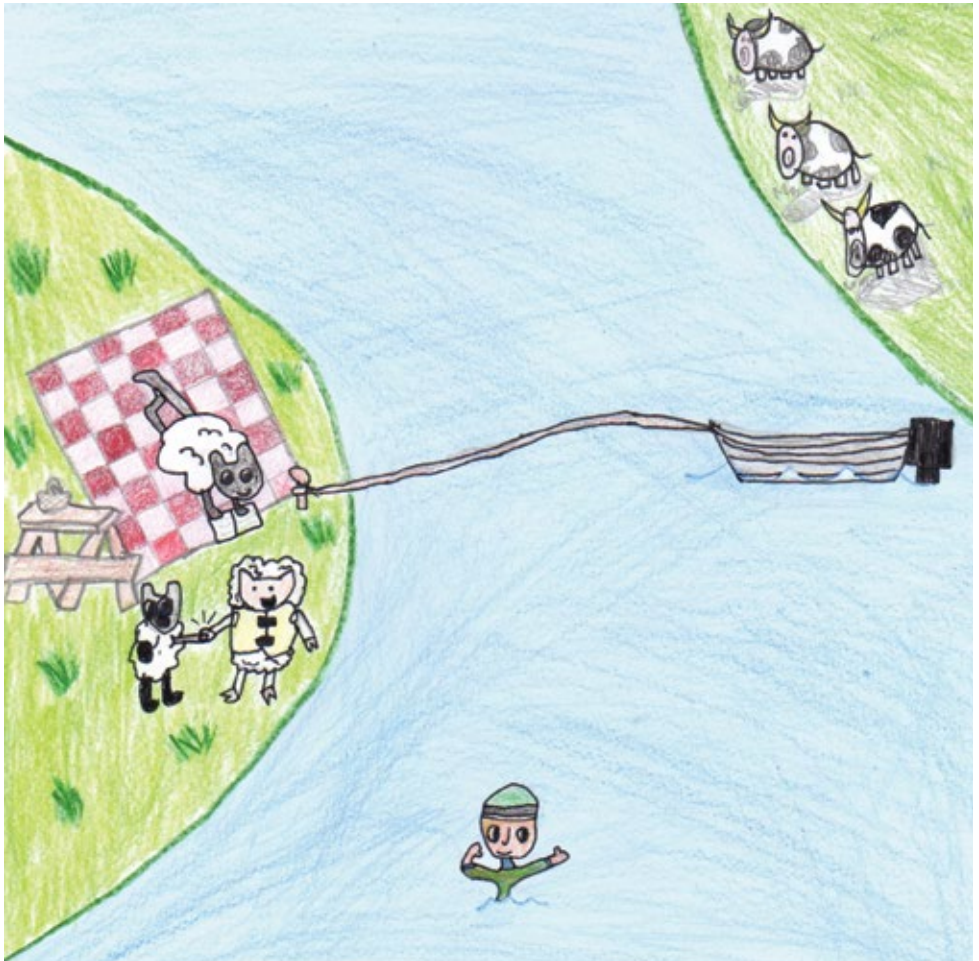
“Baaaa! It’s time to go.”



I arrive at the ruins of the old dam. It got flooded back in 1893 just after it was built. The flood was huge and tore the dam down.

It's such an old ... Dam ... I've run out of fuel. Now I better get rowing down to the farms at Glenaladale to see if I can get more fuel. Hopefully I've got some bucks to pay for it.

"Baaaa! It's time to go."



As I float down the river near Iguana Creek I hear a call from the bank.

“Hi Willy!”

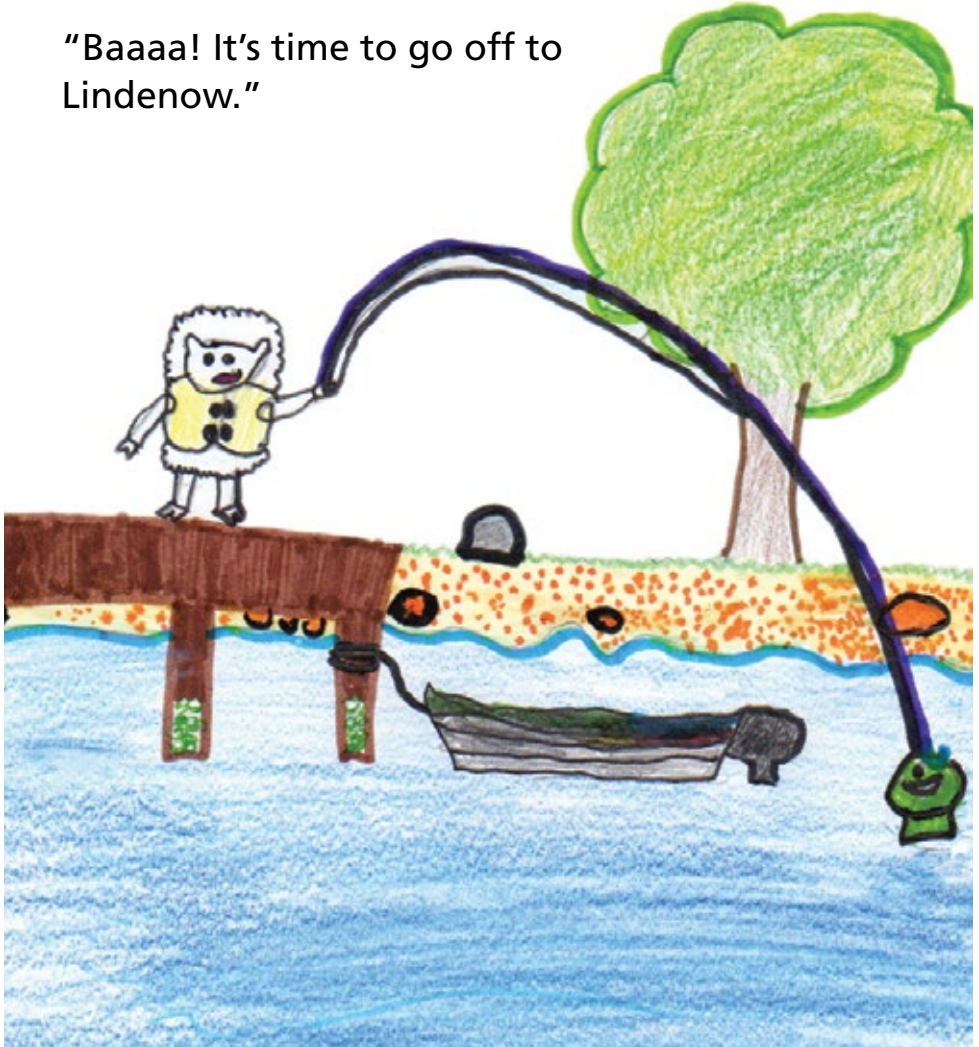
I look around and see my cousins Grady and Emily. I stop the boat to quickly say “hi”. They give me a fist bump when they hear of the journey I am attempting.

“Baaaa! It’s time to go.”

Here I am at Woodglen. I decide to go fishing and swimming for a bit of a break. I even jump off a jetty.

A man from East Gippsland Water tells me all about the water storage system. I learn that water is taken from the Mitchell River, cleansed and redispersed to neighbouring townships.

“Baaaa! It’s time to go off to Lindenow.”



I love the Lindenow area because the farmers use the water from the Mitchell to grow their veggies, like at Bulmer's Farm Fresh Vegetables.

Mmmm! Look at all those delicious vegetables. They look so good I could stay and eat them all day but now it is time to head to Bairnsdale.

"Baaaa! It's time to go."





Here I come, Willy the Woolly sheep cruisin' down the Mitchell River. I arrive at Picnic Point Farm where I have heard you can buy some delicious apples. Wow! There are so many types of apples - Royal Gala, Jonagold, Red Fuji, Pink Lady and many more. There are enough apples here to keep the doctor away forever!

"Baaaa! It's time to go."

Suddenly, I'm at the Lind Bridge!

That's Gippsland Grammar over there. I have heard that they are very kind people who care for animals. One legend tells us that they saved Yabbie the fish when she broke a fin. They took care of her and now she's as good as new. I love watching the people walking and running along the river here. But...

"Baaaa! It's time to go."





I arrive at the spot where Clifton Creek joins the Mitchell River, otherwise known as the backwater. I go for a motor down the creek to see the great scenery. I spot some dairy cows being milked near the side of the creek. Oh well I better head back to the river.

“Baaaa! It’s time to go.”



I take my tinny down the river to Howitt Park. I hear a shout of 'Go!' as a starters gun went off and soon realise I was in a race. It is the rowing championships. I sped off in my boat leaving everybody far behind in rowboats. "Ha! Ha!" I say to myself as I realise that I won the race.

"Baaaa! It's time to go."

Finally I reach the world famous Silt Jetties near the mouth of the Mitchell River. The long banks stretch over 7 kilometres out into the lake.

Pippa the pelican and Bert the kingfisher fly over the boat and say hello.

“Look Willy you’ve come to the end of the river and now you’re at Lake King.”

“Baaaa! It’s time to go.”





I head out into Lake King. I can see my friend Lilly the sheep fishing near the shore. She grew up with me in Dargo years ago. I head over to say hello to Lilly. She tells me all about the Gippsland Lakes.

“Willy did you know that, like the Mitchell River, the Tambo, Nicholson, Avon and Latrobe Rivers all flow into the Gippsland Lakes?” Lilly said. “And over there you can see the ferry crossing Macmillan’s Strait to Raymond Island.”

I have to say goodbye to Lilly but feel better knowing a bit more about the Lakes.

“Baaaa! It’s time to go.”





My next stop is the end of the Gippsland Lakes and the end of my trip. I arrive at Lakes Entrance and can see the entrance to the Lakes in the distance. It looks cool! I turn my tinny towards the bank as I don't want to be washed out into Bass Strait.

I have had a lovely adventure, seeing some wonderful places and making many friends. The Mitchell River is amazing!

But now...

"Baaaa! It's time to go...home."



2014 Year 5 and 6

Gippsland Grammar School - Bairnsdale Campus

Love Our Lakes

www.loveourlakes.net.au



Gippsland
Lakes
Ministerial
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Committee

