

Raising Awareness on the Preston River Ramble

April 2013

The Preston River Ramble in Boyanup is a 1.3km walk trail along the top of the river's embankment linking the Boyanup Lions Park and Diggers Reserve. This trail is well used by the community and visitors alike. It was developed through collaborative work by state and local government and the business and local community. There have been several revegetation projects undertaken by the Capel Land Conservation and District Committee under the guidance of Michael Tichbon.

Due to its location and usage, the 2009 Shire of Capel's Trails Master Plan identified improvements to the trail were warranted. Among the improvements recommended was the replacement of and increase in interpretive and promotional signage and trail markers. As there was a sense community ownership for this trail the Shire of Capel has been engaging with the local community so they could be involved in these improvements.

The Shire of Capel and Lottery West are jointly funding twenty five new interpretive signs and Community Development Officer, Lesley Jackes, has been working with several community groups including Child Side and Boyanup Primary School to assist with the design of these signs. Lesley recently visited Child Side School to initiate an arts project during which the school's children assisted in designing five of the new signs. These signs are being themed on the five senses of sight, sound, touch, taste and smell.

With so many children involved it was decided to elect two project managers. Elseya Seewraj (10) and Aaron Shervington (10) were chosen to work with the rest of the school to develop design concepts. They also worked with Lesley and Child Side educator Rachel Wyder, who has a background in community art projects, to develop the concepts designs.

During their first meeting Elseya, Aaron, Lesley and Rachel discussed and agreed on the project objectives and timelines. They also began to brainstorm each theme, which sparked many ideas that were further investigated and developed by the school.

To give the children first hand experience of the environment for which the signs are required they all went on an excursion on Monday 8th April. As part of the excursion they visited sites with existing signage to assess the styles used, information content and also the materials used and how well they are lasting.

The children also visited and walked along the Preston River Ramble. Each child documented what they observed, and then back at school armed with this information they further researched their observations and developed ideas and artwork to be used for the concept designs for the signs.

Contacts:

Rachel Wyder
(Child Side School - Educator)
0 402 562 089, rachelwyder@gmail.com
www.childsideschool.wa.edu.au

Lesley Jackes
(Capel Shire - Community Development Officer)
9727 0222, info@capel.wa.gov.au
www.capel.wa.gov.au



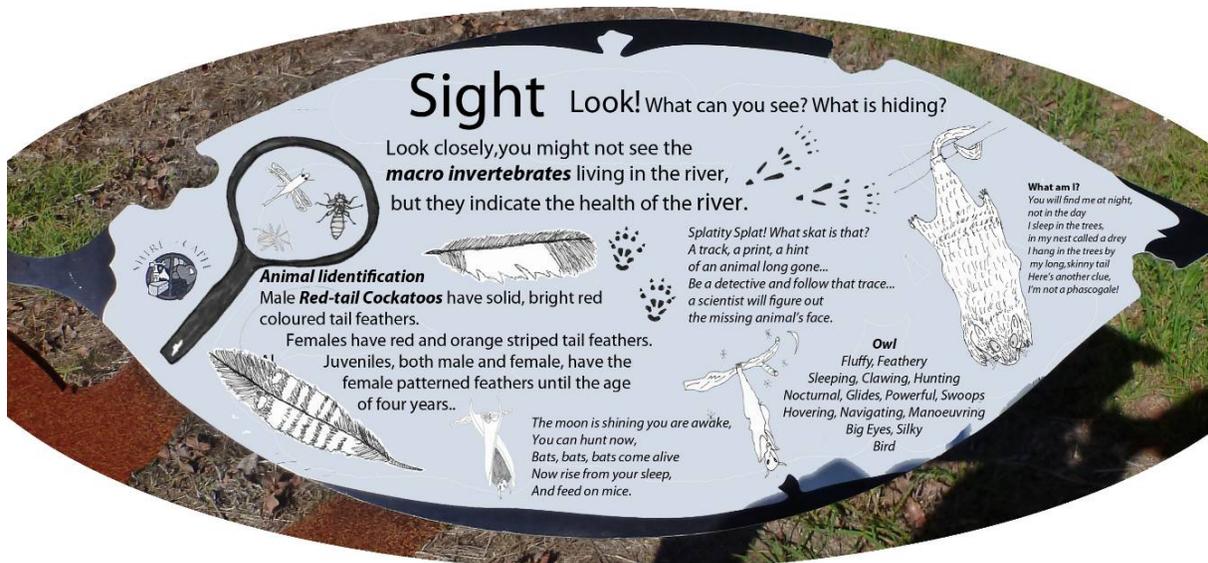
Aaron Shervington and Elseya Seewraj working through project details with Shire of Capel Community Development Officer, Lesley Jackes, and Child Side educator Rachel Wyder



The children on their way out to the Preston River Ramble to observe and record what their five senses tell them about the area



Mia French developing her sight and sound observations she made during the walk along the river by using research material to develop artwork



One of the concept designs that will now be developed by a graphic artist, and is based on ideas and artwork the children have produced from their observations and research