

## Gembrook Primary School Students Planting Day at Kurth Kiln - 20 June 2011



The Friends of Kurth Kiln invited the students of Gembrook Primary School to take part in a re-vegetation project at Kurth Kiln Picnic area. The School Principal thought it was a good idea, and it was decided that Grades 3 & 4 A, B and C classes would take part in the project. Although the weatherman forecasted wind, rain and hail for Monday, the day turned out to be a lovely mild winter's day at Kurth Kiln. When I drove up the road to the Kiln, I was so pleased to see the sun reflecting on all the water puddles in the road and there was not a single cloud in the sky. The

teachers arrived at 9:00 and the students were dropped off around 9:30. They were all full of energy and ready for planting. A couple of parents were so kind to take part in the day's activities and they helped supervising when everybody arrived.

We divided the students into two groups. Ursula, some parents and teachers took the first group for a bushwalk, while the second group started with the planting. Ranger Andy Musgrove demonstrated to the group how to dig a hole, plant the tree, put the stakes and protective cover around the plant and water it. He also put great emphases on safety while digging the holes and working with the bamboo stakes. Then the fun started. The students divided into groups of three, dug holes, planted the trees, watered them and soon there was not a clean hand in sight, some of them even had mud on their faces, but they all enjoyed it and did a really good job. Jasper had marked out area to be planted and put all the potted seedling on the right spots so there

**Thank you very much for everyone who took part in the day's activities and made it such a success**

The project was sponsored by the Bendigo Bank

was no confusion as to where to dig the holes for the new plants. When the first group arrived back from the bushwalk they all had morning tea, and Alfred spoke to the students about the history of Kurth Kiln and the charcoal driven motorcars. He let them handle pieces of charcoal and some of them even draw pictures on cardboard. The two groups then changed roles. By 12 o'clock all 200 plants were in the ground and watered. Well done to all the students!

During the week prior to the re-vegetation day, the students had drawn lovely pictures of trees, flowers and slogans on the protective covers, which now made a fantastic display

After a lovely barbeque lunch, prepared by Ursula, Garry and some parents, Katie Drummond from Melbourne Water spoke to the students about the waterways, catchment areas, erosion, pollution and nature conservation amongst other things. The students interacted very well and I guess the paths for some future rangers and nature conservationists were laid. At the end of the talk Certificates of Appreciation for the work done were handed to nominated students for each of the three classes

The last activity for the day was a long bushwalk where all of us took part. It was a lovely walk and Katie spoke again to the students about farming practices and the importance of undergrowth next to the rivers.

The children were picked up by their parents between 2:30 and around 3:00 and all of them said they want to come again.

