

National Water Week supplement - Story # 4 from the North East CMA

“Carp or cod” theme for new Fruit Flies performance

Students from the Flying Fruit Fly Circus school were so concerned about the impact of Carp on the Murray River they decided to create a new show about it.

The students will present ‘*You decide...Carp or Cod!*’ at the International River Health Conference in Canberra later this week.

Their interest in the health of the Murray grew from involvement in the Waterwatch program.

The Circus students became involved in the program almost a year ago. The students conduct regular monitoring along the Murray River to observe any changes in water quality.

FFC Circus Teacher, Valerie Ratcliff said the students wanted to present a show about the Murray as ‘it’s our backyard!’.

“The kids learnt that the Murray was once clear instead of muddy and this piqued their interest. That’s when they began investigating the Carp in the system and its effect on the Murray Cod”, explained Valerie.

The students posed their own questions about both fish species, then undertook research to answer them.

Some answers came from Waterwatch, some from interviewing the scientists at Murray Darling Freshwater Research Centre and some from their own research online or in books.

“ From there, the students brainstormed an interesting way to get their information across. Hence, the Carpinator was born!”

The Lions Club of Lavington, Lions Club of Albury and Friends of the Fruit Flies (FOFF) are supporting the attendance of the students at the International River Conference.

The Conference is Australia’s only environment event for kids and by kids and provides hands on, student-centred learning to bring about a cultural change in the way we perceive our natural environment, and to raise awareness of the importance of environment education, and the value of the “Kids Teaching Kids” model of education.

Optional caption:

The **Flying Fruit Fly Circus** started over 20 years ago as a school holiday workshop for country kids and has grown into a nationally significant arts company and circus training institution. Providing a steady stream of highly skilled physical performers to Australia’s entertainment industry, it is one of the largest youth companies in the country, with 100 students from Years 3 to 10 enrolled in its educational offshoot, The **Flying Fruit Fly Circus School** and a core performing and touring ensemble of 60 young artists.