

Capacity building

A place to create, learn and rest your legs

Murrumbidgee Landcare Inc

Delivering nature-based children's activities at community events provides an opportunity to broaden community engagement, and a welcome pause for families.

The issue

Landcare plays an important role in building awareness and capacity of the community to care for nature and minimise impacts on the environment. Real impact can be achieved by engaging large numbers of people, even if each person only makes small changes. The challenge is to continue broadening the influence of Landcare beyond the usual contributors, and those who already have a passion for the natural world.

The solution

Murrumbidgee Landcare Inc attends many community events, both small and large. Large regional events like the Henty farm field days attracts over 50 000 people annually from across Southern NSW. The Landcare shed at the Henty farm field days is a partnership between Holbrook Landcare and Murrumbidgee Landcare, providing a space to showcase what Landcare is about and engage with the community. Through providing nature-based children's activities including leaf art, air dry clay modelling, colouring and drawing, Landcare provides families with children an opportunity to pause, rest their legs and for the children to be busy in one place for a period of time. This pause gives parents a chance to engage with Landcare staff, learn about their local group, a threatened species or simply what Landcare is about.

The impact

Children's activities were set up in the centre of the space which allows parents and grandparents to move around, look at information and engage with Landcare staff to learn about local issues and initiatives, while still supervising children. The children can rest their legs while getting creative and learning about nature. Many children stay at the activity table for an extended period, providing a greater opportunity for conversation and connection with an audience which may otherwise move through the site quickly or not enter at all. The craft table is always busy!

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Key facts

- Nature based children's activities at community events provide an attraction for families and an opportunity to engage a broader audience
- Families at community events value the opportunity for children to do activities and to rest their legs!
- Children's activities are an easy inclusion for a stand at community events

Project Partners

