

# Mini-RIVER

As the RIVER Group got more and more requests to give presentations and facilitate walks & talks, the group decided to collate a hands-on Ross River education package for primary schools. 'Mini-RIVER' seemed the most appropriate name for this schools project, as the package consists of adapted versions of the ongoing monitoring projects of the RIVER subgroups.

Nevertheless, there is one major difference between Mini-RIVER and the RIVER projects: RIVER Group members travel to a range of monitoring sites, school students, however, will monitor the river at just one location, a patch close to school.

The participating schools will monitor monthly or quarterly

- Water quality: pH, Turbidity, Temperature, Flow rate
- Plants: natives and exotics, flowering and fruiting, and photo-monitoring
- Birds: Species diversity (using a local bird check list)
- Water Bugs: insect, crustacean, mollusc and worm species are categorised as either (very) sensitive or tolerant bio-indicators of water quality (using a Water Bug Detective Guide and a Key to Macro-invertebrate Life in the River)
- Mudwhelks A macro-gastropod survey is undertaken instead of the Water Bug study at estuarine sites

The following schools are implementing Mini-RIVER:

1. Aitkenvale State School
2. Annandale State School
3. Bluewater State School
4. Burdekin Catholic High
5. Cathedral School
6. Kelso State School
7. Vincent State School
8. Weir School

The school students will send all data collected to RIVER, by post or e-mail. RIVER will be collating the results and produce a quarterly newsletter summarising the results and input of each school.



After a year, RIVER will evaluate the project, and if necessary improve and/or upgrade the package to develop Mini-RIVER in an environmental monitoring project for a wide range of community groups.

Mini-RIVER's aim is to provide a mechanism for community groups to become actively involved in learning about their local riverine environment. Moreover, the project aims to provide a regional communication network for groups of young people who share an interest in nature and the environment to learn about each other's surroundings, lifestyles and associated facts and feelings.