

Billi Tea Tales
Friends Digital Storytelling
6-8 June 2009
Brief Report

Friends and volunteers from the west crafted personal tales of their favourite waterways during an intense three-day workshop, held on Queen's Birthday weekend.

The weekend was a great success, thanks to the generous support of Footscray City Film & TV School. For a nominal fee, the school provided its extensive facilities, as well as on-site technical support, and 6 third-year film students to assist storytellers.



Waking up – students & storytellers.

Under the direction of filmmaker, Malcolm McKinnon and Andy Lewis (Gozer Media), storytellers developed their narrative into a 2 to 3 minute story using their own photos and voiceover.

7 storytellers participated in the workshop, representing Melton, Sunshine, Williamstown and Maribyrnong. Each had a unique and inspiring story to tell of their experience caring for the environment:



Ian in the recording booth (box?).

- My Kingswood Country*
Ian Wheeler – Maribyrnong River
The World at my Feet
Maria McGuane – Greenwich Bay
The Good, the Bad & the Ugly
Maureen Edwards – Kororoit Creek
Before & After
Colin Dunne – Kororoit Creek
A Corridor at Arnold's Creek
Daryl Akers – Arnolds Creek
Gathering at Big Red
Lyn Holdsworth – Toolern Creek
Wild at Taylor's Creek
Larissa Baglieri – Taylors Creek



Daryl gets hands on.



Larissa & Afrim

Storytellers, students and facilitators mingled and debriefed over dinner at Taj Palace on Sunday night – before the final day of the workshop.

For some, Indian cuisine was the second new experience of the weekend, though by far the least challenging!

Despite the challenges, feedback from the weekend was very positive. All 13 participants were asked to complete an Evaluation Form at the conclusion of the workshop. Included here is a sample of responses:

What did you most enjoy about the workshop?

“Meeting and working with a great group of people.”

“Working together to create something that is going to make a difference.”

What did you least enjoy about the workshop?

“Waking up in the morning.”

“Not going to the ski season opening.”

How has this experience helped you understand your relationship to the environment / community?

“It makes me feel I have to work even harder and that the problems are the same everywhere.”

“Made me see a different kind of people...and realise how important their work is.”

“Makes me miss the days of picking up rubbish and planting at the local river.”

How useful do you think the story you produced will be in promoting your work and/or group?

“The opportunity for hands on experience was appreciated...this should help us produce similar PR material for our community groups.”

“I think it will be extremely useful and I am VERY excited. Thank you SO much for this opportunity.”



The sum of most of us.