

Last Child in the Woods

- Reconnecting children with nature

9 am - 12 noon Sunday 26 September 2010



The Northern United Forestry Group (NUFG) is a not-for-profit community group that has reclaimed 50 hectares of bare salt-affected land at Kamarooka and turned it into an oasis (pictured).

NUFG continues to work to improve understanding about how the environment functions and its importance to human health and well-being.

On Sunday 26 September NUGF will host a children's nature trail activity, guided tours and a sausage sizzle. The focus will be to reconnect children with nature in a fun way.

REQUIREMENTS: Water bottle, sunscreen and hat.

COST: \$5 per adult. \$1 per child.

A free bus will depart at **9am** from the City of Greater Bendigo Council offices in Lyttleton Terrace, Bendigo, and return, departing Kamarooka at 12 noon. **Booking is essential and closes 5pm Wednesday 22 September.**

Self drive participants should look for signs on the Tanderra-Elmore Rd, Kamarooka (30km north of Bendigo)

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Come meet Ben, Jo and Goldie



The City of Greater Bendigo Council's child-friendly city initiative includes a website activity for children featuring Ben, Jo and Goldie. Life-size characters of Ben, Jo and Goldie will help entertain children participating in the 'Last Child in the Woods' event at Kamarooka.

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BACKGROUND TO 'LAST CHILD IN THE WOODS'

Richard Louv is chairman of the Children and Nature Network. He is author of 'Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder', and the inspiration behind NUGF's Kamarooka activity on 26 September. In his book Louv argues that "today, kids are well aware of the global threats to the environment, but their physical contact, their intimacy with nature on a day-to-day basis, is fading. Louv believes our society is teaching young people to avoid direct experience in nature. That unintended message is delivered via schools, families, even organisations devoted to the outdoors, and codified into the legal and regulatory structures of many of our communities – effectively banning much of the kind of play that his generation enjoyed as children.

According to Louv, our institutions, urban/suburban design, and cultural attitudes unconsciously associate nature with doom, while disassociating the outdoors from joy and solitude. Louv says that many parents are aware of the change, and they sense its importance. Parents cite a number of everyday reasons why their children spend less time in nature than they themselves did, including disappearing access to natural areas, competition from television and computers, dangerous traffic, more homework and other time pressures. Psychologists reported in 2003 that nature in or around the home, or simply a room with a view of a natural landscape, helped protect the psychological well-being of the children." (For information visit www.childrenandnature.org)