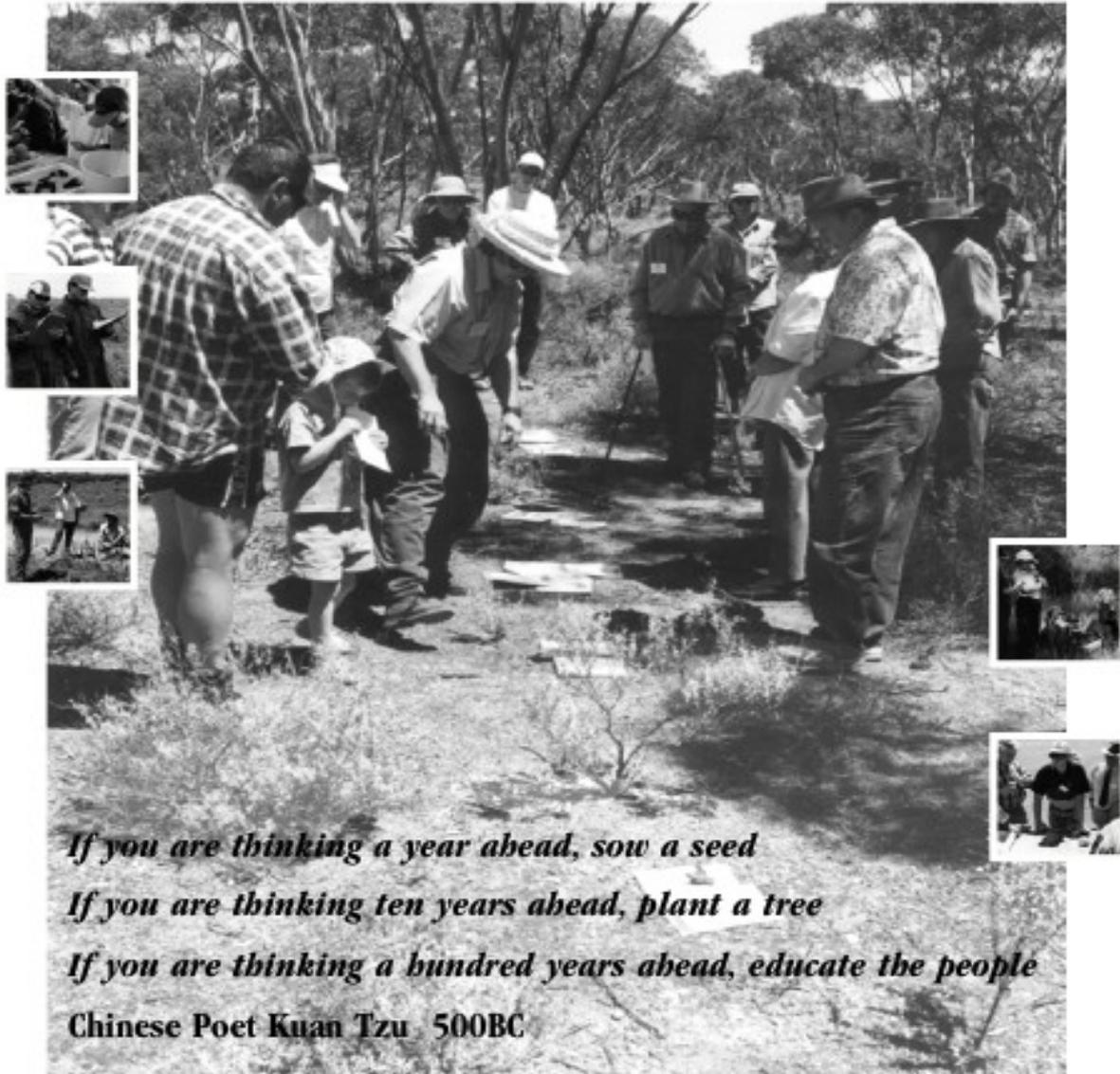


# Education and Awareness

The issue of Education and Awareness underpins all of the strategies developed to address issues of concern in the Mid Murray LAP Region.



## Background

The apt words of the poet Kuan Tzu eloquently reflect the importance of education and awareness as an all encompassing issue in soliciting long term change, and is indicative of the Mid Murray LAP Committee's motivation in embracing it to empower the community to work together for a sustainable future.

Because of its relevance (refer Figure 10), by integrating education and awareness into strategies aimed at tackling other key issues, long term changes in attitudes and practice are assured. For example, RiverCare irrigator courses alert irrigators to the

environmental impacts of inefficient irrigation, and are a catalyst for growers to implement measures to ensure the long term viability of their on farm enterprises. Such transformations can be achieved regardless of age, and often provide a forum for an exchange of ideas, knowledge and experiences, and a focus for finding environmental solutions by learning from one another.

The Mid Murray LAP Association believes that this issue is of fundamental importance, and therefore many of the strategies cited in this document have a strong educative theme.

### **Links to other Issues**

As previously discussed, Education and Awareness is an all encompassing issue. It therefore stands to reason that all other issues will be addressed in part through a well-educated, informed and pro-active community. For example, the impacts of unsustainable agriculture can be minimised substantially through the adoption of best practice techniques showcased at field days, training sessions or seminars.

### **Extent and Severity**

It is difficult to quantify the extent and severity of impacts generated by an uninformed community. Nonetheless, it is not unreasonable to assume that much of the poor land and water management practices of the past were founded largely upon ignorance. For example, water was viewed a limitless resource, trees were seen as fuel, willows were a lovely European addition to the riverine landscape and land was to be cleared for pasture wherever possible.

As the veil of ignorance lifts and communities become better informed, the encumbrance of past unsustainable practices will slowly be dissipate.



All issues will be addressed in part through a well-educated, informed and pro-active community.



RiverCare irrigator courses have proved to be a great way to help irrigators become more efficient. Pictured above are Mid Murray irrigators at a course held last year in Bow Hill.