

Shane Howard has recorded a cd with students from the Port Elliot Primary School in South Australia known as the **'Port Elliot Flyers'** The song was written by Shane Howard and Anne Todd and is a remix of Shane's song 'Let the Franklin Flow' of 1983. The Flyers are made up of 41 students aged 5 to 13 years with 7 playing guitar and one the violin. Three Aboriginal students were involved, including Ngarrindjeri student, Eleanor, as soloist. The road to the recording studio was long.

Firstly we gained approval from Shane Howard. Anne Todd met Shane because of the song. Shane was enthusiastic, and recorded backing and vocal tracks at 'The Shed', his home recording studio in Victoria. Anne and the Flyers then went into professional recording studio 'Mixmasters Productions' in the Adelaide Hills in Nov. 2004. Financial support for the project was gained from – Alexandrina Council, Workskil, South Australian Youth Arts Board, and the Port Elliot Committee for Australia's First Public Railway Celebrations. We also had support from – Beachhouse Graphics, Goanna Arts, Mixmasters Productions Studios, Port Elliot Primary School Governing Council, staff and parents of the school and many people in our Community.

Port Elliot is situated near the Mouth of the River Murray and the CD was launched on the 6th May 2005 at Freeman's Nob, overlooking Encounter Bay which the Murray flows into. Shane Howard attended this and performed a concert at Goolwa, including the Flyers in a performance of 'Let the Murray Flow'. Channel 9 Postcards recorded the launch and also filmed our Year 2/3 class who have studied the health of the River Murray through testing the water for living organisms and then comparing it to the water from storm water drains. The footage showed students testing the water in their classroom and being interviewed.

The Port Elliot Flyers have performed at many community events since then including the Queens Baton Relay Concert and the 'Duyfken' visit at Victor Harbor, the Celtic Festival at Strathalbyn, Rural Women's Gathering and 'Goolwa Alive' at Goolwa and the 50th Anniversary of the 1956 floods travelling Exhibition at Murray Bridge and Goolwa. The CD was for sale at these events and the Flyers performed 'Let the Murray Flow' and other songs written by Anne Todd that directly reflect the issues of the Murray, giving the River a voice through our songs. Our students tell it best with comments like – "I hope the CD will have a big impact on saving the Murray and hope I can be involved in helping to keep the Murray River flowing." -

'Out of the mouths of babes!'

On 27th Oct. 2006 the Port Elliot Primary School Flyers/Choir received a Minister for Education and Children's Services Award for Children's Week 2006 for their significant contribution to raising awareness of the the plight of the Murray River through water testing and especially through the efforts of teachers, songwriter, instrumentalists and choristers in producing and publicising their CD 'Let the Murray Flow'.

The 'Flyers' with Anne Todd will perform at the 'Wooden Boat Festival' at Goolwa on March 11th & 12th 2007 where the CD & DVD will be for sale.

Our project is ongoing and we believe that music is a great medium to communicate issues of importance, especially our Murray. A DVD filmed at the Murray Mouth, the Barrages and on the Oscar W (a paddle steamer) at Goolwa will soon be released.

The CD is available for \$7 plus postage & handling from the-

Port Elliot Primary School, North Tce. Port Elliot 5212 Ph. 08 85543399

The Whale Centre, 2 Railway Tce. Victor Harbor 5211 Ph. 08 85525644

Signal Point River Murray Centre, The Wharf, Goolwa 5214 Ph. 08 85553488

\$1 of the sale of this will go to a 'Save the Murray Project' with any profit to support the education of our students on our Environment.