

Catchment Capers

About the Project

The Catchment Capers Project is a comprehensive water education unit that runs for eight consecutive months during the school year and is designed for upper primary and lower secondary students.

The Project has two main components:

1. Water Quality Monitoring Program

Schools are provided with a Waterwatch Monitoring Kit to monitor a nearby waterway for salinity, dissolved oxygen, temperature and turbidity on a monthly basis. A Waterwatch co-ordinator is available to train teachers and students in using the equipment correctly and interpret the data. Each month you will be required to submit the Water Tests Results Sheet to the Waterwatch Team to be entered onto the results section of the website.

2. Monthly Activities

To complement the Water Quality Monitoring Program, a different topic will be featured each month as follows:

March	Habitat Survey
April	Water Beastie Hunt
May	Saltwatch
June	Great Goulburn Broken Plant-out
July	Website Review
August	Stormwater
September	Feathery Friends
October	Water Conservation

Classes are encouraged to complete at least 5 of the 8 topics during the year. Each topic will be introduced by WACCA and will provide the students with some background information, an activity and student results sheets. Some activities can be done at school while others require going to your monitoring site. Your Waterwatch co-ordinator is available to assist you with these activities as required. After completing the activity submit the 'Class Results' sheet to the Waterwatch Team along with your water monitoring data for inclusion onto the website.

Project Materials

On commencement of the project you will be supplied with a Water Monitoring Kit, Data Interpretation Poster, Catchment Capers Calendar and Resource Booklet.

In your Kit

At the start of the year your school will be issued with a Catchment Capers Water Quality Monitoring Kit. The kit will be yours to use for the 8 months and then needs to be returned to Waterwatch for calibration and maintenance of the equipment.

Your kit will contain:

- Turbidity tube
- Dissolved Oxygen kit
- Conductivity Meter and standard solution for calibration
- Thermometer
- Rain gauge
- Safety glasses & gloves

Interpreting your Data

You will be supplied with a 'Data Interpretation Poster' this will allow students to allocate a rating of excellent, good, okay or not so good to each of the parameters they have tested each month. A rating system like this will assist in making the results more meaningful and fun.

Calendar and Timelines

The Catchment Capers Calendar can be hung in your classroom and indicates events during the year, timelines and the 'water monitoring weeks' each month. It is preferable that water monitoring is completed during the allocated week each month to maintain continuity in the results throughout the catchment.

What to do with the results

Water Quality Monitoring Results

Each month the water quality data you have collected can be recorded on the 'Water Tests Results Sheet' provided and submitted to the Waterwatch Team.

Monthly Activity Results

For each monthly activity there are also student results sheets that can be completed by students during the activity. When you have completed the activity you can compile the results onto the class result sheet and submit it to the Waterwatch Team.

To ensure the results on the website are up to date, both the water quality and monthly activity record sheets should be submitted by the last Wednesday of the month, as indicated on the calendar.

On the Internet

All water quality monitoring results will be presented on the website under the 'Our Results' page and on a catchment map using a colour coded key each month. Each school will have their own page on the website that will include photos, students project work and their monitoring results. Students will be encouraged to contact students at other schools to discuss their project. Web address of the Catchment Capers website is www.catchmentcapers.org.au

Waterwatch Contacts

On commencement of the project you will be allocated a Waterwatch contact who is available to teach you and your students how to use the equipment and interpret the results, as well as deliver any activities you need assistance with. Your Waterwatch contact will assist your class with the aquatic invertebrate sampling activities, as these will require additional equipment.

For general information, please contact:

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