

Irrigation handball during the Goulburn Broken's Water Olympics.



Left Riding the waves during the Goulburn Broken's Water Olympics.



Boat cruises were a popular activity during National water Week in the Goulburn Broken region.



Port Phillip Waterwatch and Waterwatch Victoria staff undertake a turbidity snapshot on the banks of the Jarra River.

Below Local students get active with water during National Water Week.

National Water Week 2004

National Water Week 2004 was again a major event on the Waterwatch calendar. The theme 'Water for Life' encouraged everyone to get involved in river health activities, and to conserve precious water. The Waterwatch team organised a plethora of diverse activities during the week-long event to engage Victorian communities and celebrate our waterways.

Port Phillip & Westernport

It was a 'Water Week Frenzy' across the entire Port Phillip and Westernport region, with a staggering 46 different events held over the week. The launch of the Stony Creek Neighbourhood Environment Improvement Plan with Minister Thwaites and coordinator Leigh Mitchell set the tone. Half a dozen festivals, expos, program launches for recently joined councils, catchment tours, and a series of advanced (all-day) training sessions for teachers followed. Special highlights included the launch of the Index of Stream Condition 4-day training program. A successful 'catch a carp day' organised by coordinator Ben Scullin saw a six-year-old girl nearly dragged into the Darebin Creek by Colonel Sherman – a 14lb monster – who lived to fight another day.

North East

A fish-a-thon, walks in wetlands, an interactive display and a bug search were among the many and varied activities offered to North East residents for National Water Week. North East Waterwatch and the North East CMA developed a 'Calendar of Events', which featured 14 activities and events that 10 different groups and organisations offered 'free' to the community for the week. A water bug search, interactive displays, colouring and poster competitions, school snapshot of the Kiewa River, interpretive river and wetland walks along with free water testing were among the popular activities on offer.

Wimmera

Local primary school students kicked off National Water Week in 2004 in the Wimmera by launching the new Waterwatch Trailer and the Strategic Plan (2004-07). In the western Wimmera, local students were treated to an environmental smorgasbord of diverse activities, including macro-invertebrate monitoring and bird watching. At the Brambuk Indigenous Cultural Centre in the upper catchment, champion marathon swimmer Tammy Van Wisse capped off the week by facilitating the symbolic joining of pipes painted in the theme 'Water For Life' by people in different schools, catchments, service clubs, and indigenous groups. This symbolic pipe structure was designed to reaffirm the importance of all groups in western Victoria to continue to care for shared water.



Glenelg Hopkins

School-based activities formed the basis of National Water Week activities in the Glenelg Hopkins region. Events were conducted in partnership with water authorities, state government departments, Fishcare, Coastcare and Alcoa Frogwatch. Local musician Barry Peters and 'The Connies' spread the message on the importance of our waterways through song and dance. In Port Fairy, 'Thorn' the Little Falcon stole the attention of many students as he feasted on quail wings, while at the same time highlighting the importance of soil and water health to all levels of the food chain. The take home message, that anything that happens in a catchment can have downstream effects on others, was heard loud and strong.

Corangamite

The Corangamite Waterwatch program had its hands full during National Water Week, with the Balyang Bonanza and official launch of the Corangamite Waterwatch Stormwater trail, TWO catch-a-carp days, turbidity and macroinvertebrate snapshots, and other Waterwatch celebrations. Tammy Van Wisse, the official ambassador for National Water Week, officially launched the 500m, self-guided stormwater trail in Balyang Sanctuary, Geelong, in front of 250 local students. The trail has 5 interpretive signs identifying stormwater pollutants and is linked to the Victorian Stormwater Education Manual.

Central Highlands

Central Highlands Region Waterwatch held two major events; the celebration of its 10-year anniversary and the opening of a newly created wetlands during the 2004 National Water Week. Central Highlands Water's Deputy Chairperson, Ms Judith Coull, officially opened the new wetland at Gong Gong Reservoir Park. The ten-year anniversary of the CHR Waterwatch Program was also marked by the launch of an environmental poster series, focusing on major river systems in the Central Highlands catchment areas.



Corangamite Waterwatch launched its interpretive Stormwater Trail during National Water Week.



Students present a community announcement during the Ricky D Rainman show.



Right This father and daughter caught a carp during a Corangamite Catch-a-Carp day.



Above East Gippsland Waterwatch unveiled its new Waterwatch trailer during National Water Week.

Below 'Water for Life' pipes joined together in the Wimmera to reaffirm the importance of sharing and caring for our water resources.

Mallee

In the Mallee, several environmental programs, including Waterwatch, formed a National Water Week committee. This committee launched a calendar poster, that included an aggregation of local students' posters under the 'Water for Life' theme. One local budding artist later won the Victorian National Water Week poster competition in the Year 1-2 category.

During the Mildura Show, the Waterwatch team showcased the ACE stormwater model from Melbourne, and demonstrated how houses, roads, and drains are all linked to local waterways. Colourful 'Create A Critter' artwork was also on display at the show.

North Central

A free workshop, free film nights and free theatre performances were popular events for all ages during North Central Waterwatch's National Water Week. The Living Streams workshop in Daylesford attracted participants from Bendigo, Charlton and Ballarat, who heard guest speakers discuss platypus, macro invertebrates, birds and water quality issues. 'The Day After Tomorrow' was shown at one of the free film nights to highlight climate change and water resource issues. Over 350 students from local schools involved in the North Central Waterwatch River Detectives program caught Vox Bandicoot's midweek performance called 'The Last Shower', an interactive show about water quality and conservation.

Goulburn Broken

Over 5300 people attended events and entered competitions during National water Week's 'Water for Life' festival in the Goulburn Broken region. 'Water Olympics', the 'Ricky D Rainman Show', and poster competitions captivated primary and secondary school students. The broader community was engaged during the week through a boat cruise along the Goulburn and Murray Rivers, river and wetland walks, a community writing and photography competition, and movie nights featuring 'Finding Nemo', 'Whale Rider' and 'Storm Boy'. Local garden nurseries got on board during National Water Week to showcase native and drought tolerant garden displays.



West Gippsland

In West Gippsland, Waterwatch was involved in a range of National Water Week activities. In the Sale region, 6 schools and 250 students were involved in a student bus tour highlighting irrigation issues with Southern Rural Water, macroinvertebrate monitoring and tree plantings at the Heyfield Wetlands. Waterwatch coordinator Tanya Cowell presented a poster display at the National Stream Management Conference in Tasmania, highlighting the community water quality monitoring achievements of the Nooramunga Corner Inlet Project. The 'Water for Life' writing and poster competition was a success in the Latrobe region, with Traralgon Secondary College student Ebony Hardy winning the Yr 7 & 8 section in the state judging with an excellent poem titled 'Drought'.

East Gippsland

Involving all local primary schools in the monitoring of all major rivers was an impressive feat in East Gippsland for National Water Week. Training casual staff, teachers and students months ahead of time meant that forty-two schools were prepared to undertake turbidity, salinity, temperature and macroinvertebrate snapshots. Schools used the data they collected to prepare presentations for display during 'Water Science' shows, including an elaborate 'river rap' with drums, plays and PowerPoint presentations. The week was also the perfect occasion for the East Gippsland Waterwatch program to unveil its new Waterwatch Education Trailer.