

Waterwatcher profiles

Name – Adrian Walker

**Waterwatch program or group – West Gippsland
Region – Middle Creek Yinnar South**

When did you become involved in Waterwatch?

Mr Noel Morgan started me off testing turbidity in 1992, using a meter made from a plastic bottle. We finally got a better testing flask called a turbidity tube. I joined Waterwatch in 1996.

What motivated you to join the program?

My Grandfather bought this property in 1887 because he was looking for a well-sheltered farm with good water supply. Middle Creek has provided us admirably since the last century with water for our stock and garden, a firebreak in summer, a shady tree and peace when it is hot, and a place to swim. It must be treasured with Waterwatch and guarded for future generations.

What Waterwatch activities are you involved in?

I test for turbidity, reactive phosphorus, conductivity, pH, rainfall, and temperature.

Which parts of Waterwatch do you find rewarding?

Testing for turbidity was very interesting as I had not considered turbidity before joining Waterwatch. It was interesting to test the different streams around here on the same day when they were in flood – some readings were a lot higher than others were. I still enjoy it today.

What would you like your local waterway to look like in 20 years time?

I would like the creek to remain a great creek for fishing for Trout, Blackfish, Eels and Crayfish. Platypus have also been seen here.

In 2002 with the assistance of the West Gippsland CMA the basket willows were cleared from the banks of the creek. With the help of my family we fenced off a couple of sections and planted 400 trees. It was a lot of manual work for the first couple of years with spraying willow regrowth and weeds but it is rewarding to see how well the trees are growing.

