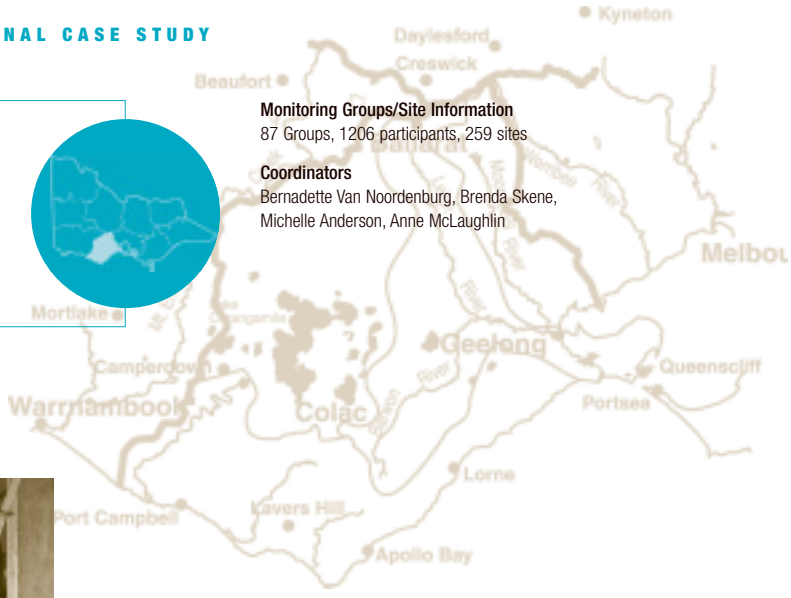
Partners/Sponsors Natural Heritage Trust, Barwon Region Water Authority, Corangamite Catchment Management Authority, City of Greater Geelong, Department of Primary Industries, Department of Sustainability and Environment, Environment Protection Authority, Surf Coast Shire, Golden Plains Shire, Barwon Community Tree Propagation Centre, Marine Discovery Centre, Coast Action-Coastcare, Conservation Volunteers Australia, Parks Victoria, Fishcare, Greencorps, Swan Bay Integrated Catchment Committee of Management, Colac Otway Shire, Indented Heads Resident Group, Kennett River Association.

Monitoring Groups/Site Information
87 Groups, 1206 participants, 259 sites

Coordinators
Bernadette Van Noordenburg, Brenda Skene, Michelle Anderson, Anne McLaughlin



Corangamite

Max Burrell tests salinity as part of the Indented Heads monthly monitoring plan.

One of three sites tested by residents on a monthly basis.

corangamite waterwatch senior citizens tackle stormwater

"Waterwatch has done an outstanding job. As soon as it was known that we were interested in water they were quick to come forward with training and kits that are necessary to carry out the testing"

Max Burrell,
Indented Heads Resident Group.

For retired citizens of Indented Heads, finding a relaxing pursuit in the twilight of their life is a luxury that can wait until the town's stormwater issues are improved!

In 2002, concerned residents of Indented Heads, a small town on the Bellarine Peninsula, convened as a group to discuss the town's inadequate stormwater drainage system.

Max Burrell, a local resident of over twenty years; said "our concern has always been the way in which stormwater is being put into the bay, where people are swimming." The group took action and approached the Greater Geelong City Council to address drainage and flooding at the rear of the Indented Head boat club.

Discussions with the council lead to the creation of a Strategic Drainage Management System and strategy to address current and future stormwater management needs.

The local residents group recognised the need to measure the quality of the stormwater discharging into the Bay. They contacted Corangamite Waterwatch, who helped them to develop a monitoring plan. Waterwatch also provided the group with a monitoring kit appropriate for their monitoring needs and training for the past eighteen months. The group has been testing water quality at three sites on the first Monday of every month.

The Strategic Drainage Management System has become a pilot study for the Victorian Coastal Area. The project has also received EPA grant funding to look at not just stormwater drainage, but at treatment and reuse options. "We wanted as much water to be reused in light of the major problem facing Geelong and the whole country regarding the future maintenance of water quality," said Max.

Continued regular water quality monitoring by the local residents group has been vital to the project. The group acknowledges that an ongoing commitment is needed to monitor and evaluate the success of their program through the Waterwatch program. Future workshops on quality assurance and quality control will further enhance the capacity of the group.

"As long as our legs hold us up, we will keep going," said Max.