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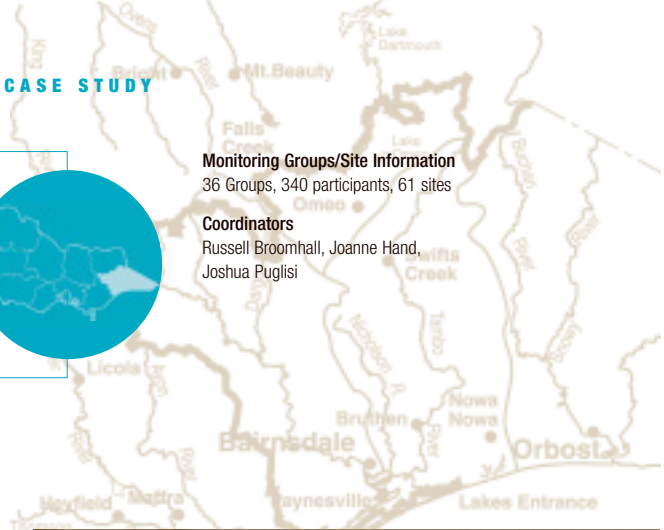


Monitoring Groups/Site Information

36 Groups, 340 participants, 61 sites

Coordinators

Russell Broomhall, Joanne Hand, Joshua Puglisi



East Gippsland

When the Nicholson River Angling Club invited Regional Waterwatch Coordinator Joanne Hand to their family fish and fun day, they didn't know it would be the beginning of a valuable estuarine monitoring program.

For the past 26 years the Nicholson River Angling Club have noticed significant degradation in and along the Nicholson River where members frequently fish. When asked by Joanne whether they would like to participate in water monitoring program, they agreed, hoping to find out more about the health of their river.



Nicholson River Angling Club members.

Estuarine monitoring



The Nicholson River is an important waterway flowing into the internationally significant Gippsland Lakes. The Gippsland Lakes are the largest navigable inland waterway in Australia and is listed under the RAMSAR convention for its unique natural landforms, vegetation and its ability to support thousands of waterbirds.

The EG CMA anticipates new data gathered by the group will supplement existing information and will lead to better understanding of how threatening processes impact on the health of the Gippsland Lakes system.

"...we want to build a data base which gives us an indication of what is actually happening in the river" said Ray.

Every month, members test electrical conductivity at depth profiles to investigate saline intrusion problems encountered in the system. Saline intrusions are thought to be directly linked to the decline in water quality having a profound impact on the living and non-living components of the estuary. Sites selected by the Nicholson River Angling group in conjunction with the East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority (EG CMA) and Waterwatch, include a number of sites at the fresh/marine water interface.

The Nicholson River Angling Club hopes that information collected will improve the understanding and management of local catchments. They are also keen to build awareness among club members and the broader community.



Top: Ray Field (Nicholson River Angling Club). Above: Nicholson River Angling Club member carries out Dissolved Oxygen test.

"We are specifically an angling club but fish (also) swim in the water," said Secretary of the Club Ray Field, recognising the importance and connection between river health and the angling activities undertaken by the club.