



the regions east gippsland



Partners/Sponsors

Natural Heritage Trust, East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority, Gippsland Coastal Board, East Gippsland Water, Department of Natural Resources & Environment, Environment Protection Authority, Foretech – East Gippsland Institute of TAFE, East Gippsland Shire Council, Watermark Incorporated and Coast and Clean Seas.

Monitoring Groups/Site Information

63 Groups, 321 participants, 131 sites

Regional Coordinator

Russell Broomhall

Coordinators

Joshua Puglisi, Joanne Hand, Lisa Crisp



Tambo Upper students are involved in the Tambo Catchment Schools Waterwatch Snapshot monitoring event.

East Gippsland community's energy and enthusiasm for Waterwatch

In East Gippsland, Waterwatch is strongly focused on helping our community to 'get involved' in Waterwatch. Waterwatch events and opportunities have involved participation from all sectors of the community, including the activities outlined below:

Snowy River Waterwatch Walk

August 2002 signalled the launch of the Snowy River Waterwatch Walk which is located in Orbost. The walk consists of 14 environmental education signs, meandering along the Snowy River at Forest Park.

Waterwatch, the local community and many supporters and sponsors celebrated the launch of the walk. Walk sponsors including local businesses, agencies and a number of organisations from further a field. The success of the walk was made possible by the unity, support and enthusiasm shown by the local community for the Snowy River and Waterwatch. Today, schools, community groups, members of the public and visitors to the region are able to enjoy the walk and learn more about the Snowy River environment.



Stormwater drain stencilling team stencilling 'Drains to the Bays: when you rubbish our streets, you rubbish our waterways' in Bairnsdale.



Summer by the Sea activities 2003, Lisa Netting with some visitors on the Paynesville foreshore.

Waterwatch monitor, Keswick Howden carrying out phosphorus testing at the annual QAQC Day in Orbost.

Linking Catchments and Schools

This year, schools within East Gippsland's major catchments have linked together to undertake quarterly 'snapshot' water quality monitoring of waterways within the catchments. Schools in the Tambo and Snowy catchments have been participating in these activities all year, while schools in the Mitchell catchment began monitoring in the latter part of 2002. This program is set to further expand in 2003 with more schools getting involved. Many of the schools already participating are taking 'ownership' of their sites and monitoring tasks and are looking forward to continuing Waterwatch in 2003.

Long term Waterwatchers

2002's Annual Waterwatch Water Quality data report highlighted the dedication, value and contributions of long term volunteer monitors to Waterwatch. A number of monitors have been monitoring in East Gippsland since the introduction of the Waterwatch Program to the area. Amongst East Gippsland's longest serving monitors is Mr Ron MacKenzie. Ron has been monitoring since 1996 and has tested for water quality over two thousand and fifty times at his two sites that are monitored fortnightly.