

## Waterwatcher profiles

**Name – Helen Suter**

**Waterwatch program or group – Moonee Ponds Creek Water Monitoring Group  
Victorian Region – Port Phillip**

### When did you become involved in Waterwatch?

Oct 2003

### What motivated you to join the program?

To get involved in a project related to creek health, to gain experience in water monitoring activities and to do an activity that was scientifically interesting.

### What Waterwatch activities are you involved in?

Monthly water monitoring at 4 sites long the MPC doing chemical and physical parameters and macroinvertebrate analysis. I am trying to compare differences in water quality and macroinvertebrate populations along the creek as related to creek form and improvement works, and the extent to which the creek has passed through the urban environment.

### Which parts of Waterwatch do you find rewarding?

All of it. The macroinvertebrates are particularly interesting because I am learning a lot and it is an aspect of the creek that I hadn't really considered in great depth before. I love finding new bugs and especially when they are in the more degraded sites of the creek. I'm also trying to compare the results we get with the EPA SEPP(State Environment Protection Policy) Water of Victoria Guidelines and so have started doing SIGNAL Score analysis which is proving a rewarding challenge.

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

Beautiful. Without concrete, less drain-like and with the sound of water running over rocky creek beds or from wetlands to creek sections. Also a healthy riparian zone that would encourage birds and other species, make the creek a place that people would want to walk along and relax beside. Somewhere that people are proud of, and where they're less likely to dump their rubbish.

