



the regions | **mallee**

**Partners/Sponsors**

Mallee Catchment Management Authority, Lower Murray Water, Natural Heritage Trust, First Mildura Irrigation Trust, Mildura Rural City Council, Sunraysia Daily, Harvey Norman.

**Monitoring Groups/Site Information**

38 Groups, 1132 participants, 58 sites

**Coordinator**

Darren Wilson.



Compared most other regions, the Mallee has very few waterways such as rivers, streams, creeks and wetlands. Also, a large number of waterways are presently dry, particularly in this drought year. For this reason, Mallee Waterwatch has predominantly focused on education and awareness. Our education and awareness programme includes water quality issues such as blue-green algae, salinity, stormwater and water conservation.

**Scientists in Schools**

In 2002, Mallee Waterwatch was involved in the "Scientists in schools" program. Mildura West Primary School was successful with this program to receive funding through this program. As a result, Mallee Waterwatch has worked with all age groups. This funding allowed a number of visits to various water bodies in the Mallee in order to take a closer look at the environment and the surrounding issues. It also allowed for regular water quality monitoring of the physical and chemical parameters, as well as habitat assessment and water bug surveys.

**Waterwatch in Nepal**

A great opportunity arose this year to assist the people of Nepal to learn more about water quality issues in their country. Samantha Muller, an Australian working in Nepal, requested a Waterwatch kit in order to conduct water

quality testing as a means of educating the people on water quality issues.

Since receiving a kit from Mallee Waterwatch, Sam has established several monitoring groups with both schools and community groups in Nepal. She is also in the process of translating Waterwatch information into Nepalese.

Mallee Waterwatch and Sam are currently in the process of establishing a sister school relationship with a number of Mallee schools and Nepal schools. This will provide a great opportunity for both countries to learn more about each other's country and the different water issues encountered.

**National Water Week**

National Water Week in the Mallee was a combined effort between Mallee Waterwatch, Mallee Catchment Management Authority, Lower Murray Water, Mildura Rural City Council, Murray Darling Freshwater Research Centre, Natural Resources and Environment, and NSW Department of Land and Water Conservation.

Activities run and supported locally included a Spring Clean-up Day, Poster Competition, Photographic Competition, Dryland Regatta, Spring Water Bug Surveys, Turbidity Snapshot, display at the Mildura Centre Plaza, and the Annual Week Quiz Championship.



Mildura West PS were photographed participating in a mock water bug survey for the local phone book.

Nepalese women's group conducting arsenic testing.

Holy Trinity Lutheran School conducting water bug survey at Kings Billabong.



Nepalese student conducting a nitrogen test.



Mallee CMA craft and team finished fifth out of six teams in the Dryland Regatta.