

REGIONAL CASE STUDY

**Partners/Sponsors** Natural Heritage Trust, North East Catchment Management Authority, Department of Sustainability and Environment, North East Landcare Groups, City of Wodonga, Rural City of Wangaratta, La Trobe University (Wodonga Campus), Earth Tech, Alpine Shire, North East Region Water, Indigo Shire, Falls Creek Management Committee, Greencorp, Newwaste.



**Monitoring Groups/Site Information**  
57 Groups, 1421 participants, 56 sites

**Coordinators**  
Fran Sorensen, Bruce Birrell, Janica Horsefield, Tracey Robinson, Shay Simpson



North East



for the Rural City of Wangaratta, the four-year program will be combined with a series of projects, including the enhancement of wetlands in the district. Information gathered from the monitoring will ease the current situation faced by the Rural City of Wangaratta suffering a lack of information on River Health in the region.

“We are hoping that this partnership with the Catchment Management Authority and Waterwatch will give us information on the current state of all the urban creeks in Wangaratta as we commence our stormwater program,” Bronwyn Chapman, Wangaratta’s Council Manager of Environment and Buildings.



**A** recent stormwater initiative has provided the North East Waterwatch program with a new focus. Traditionally, the North East Waterwatch program has concentrated on their school based activities, but new partnerships with the Rural City of Wangaratta suggest that adults can have just as much fun testing the waters as kids.

North East Waterwatch’s adult volunteer program is made up of a network of volunteers from the Wangaratta district. This group named the “Urban Stream Waterwatch Team”, have committed themselves to monitoring waterways every month, including the One Mile Creek which runs through the towns centre.

Playing a key role in implementing the Stormwater Management Plan

All the data gained from the monitoring program will be stored on the North East regional database prior to the loading on the State’s (Department of Sustainability and Environment) Data Warehouse in 2004 where the public can gain greater access.

Bronwyn is hoping that over time improvements will be seen in waterways if stormwater projects continue. The Wangaratta “Urban Stream Waterwatch Team” is just the beginning of the adult Waterwatch monitoring programs that will be extended to other councils in the North East as more stormwater plans are developed.

Top: Adult ‘Urban Stream Waterwatch Team’ gathering. Above: ‘Team’ members carry out a phosphate analysis. Below: ‘Urban Stream Waterwatch Team’ carry out comprehensive macroinvertebrate surveys.

