

Waterwatcher profiles

Name – Sue Leavold

**Waterwatch program or group – Mid Ovens Landcare Groups
Victorian Region – North East**

When did you become involved in Waterwatch?

In 2001, at a field session held at the Ovens Billabongs outside Wangaratta

What motivated you to join the program?

The field day was part of a river health initiative. Present were many passionate speakers who gave electro fishing demonstrations and spoke about their involvement in a Murray Cod research program. Working back through the food web, the presenters went to lengths to describe the impact of water quality issues on the macroinvertebrate populations that support our native fish. Soon afterwards, an opportunity became available to support our local Landcare community in forming Adult Volunteer Waterwatch groups.



Collection of data is also important in providing a snapshot in time so that in ten to twenty years we can look back at information collated to determine the outcomes of Landcare/NRM projects in gully stabilisation, salinity recharge and riparian revegetation programs on water quality leaving our catchments.

What Waterwatch activities are you involved in?

I work with four Landcare groups in supporting landholders to access monitoring equipment exchange information, I help to promote Waterwatch training and refresher days, and I GPS and photograph sites for our Waterwatchers.

Which parts of Waterwatch do you find rewarding?

Getting feedback from Waterwatcher's about the bugs they have collected, and watching their awareness and enthusiasm grow as they learn more about their local water quality issues.

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

Fenced, stock excluded, in stream vegetation re- established and banks and verges stabilised.

