



Port Phillip

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Monitoring Information 202 groups, 7 407 participants, 312 sites. **Education Participation** 24 981 participants.

Coordinators Keir Jarvis, Jessica Miller, Kate Rhook, Leigh Mitchell, Ben Scullin, Trish Grant, Anja Steiner, Amy Paraman, Melanie Smith, Julia Vanderrood, Sarah Crinal.

From little things, big things flow



Monitoring river health in Port Phillip's urban south-east has plenty of challenges, but isolation isn't one of them for groups receiving coordination and support through the Frankston Mornington Peninsula Waterwatch Network.

Fifteen Waterwatch groups, monitoring 13 different waterways across Frankston City and Mornington Peninsula Shires, connect at Network meetings four times a year. Waterwatchers eagerly anticipate these meetings, which provide opportunities to meet like-minded people, discuss local successes and challenges, hear from experts on topics including native fish and frogs, and participate in skill refresher activities. Such activities ensure that monitors feel supported and motivated to sustain their monitoring efforts.



"The quarterly Network meetings are the best thing!" says Thelma Christensen, a member of Action Sweetwater Creek Inc. This group formed in 1974 out of concern for capital works along their creek. They first began monitoring the health of Sweetwater Creek in 2004 to gain a better picture of waterway health, and to engage students in local environmental management. Before quarterly Network meetings, they struggled to connect with other groups in the area, and weren't always confident about their monitoring. Thelma says the meetings have provided them with a regular opportunity to refresh their skills and to discuss issues and triumphs.

Waterwatch Coordinator Amy Paraman believes, **"The formation of this network has empowered the Waterwatchers to examine river health issues collectively, and the monitors learn a great deal about monitoring and their local environment from each other."**

Frankston City Council Environment Manager, Libby Anthony, said when groups in the Frankston area first began monitoring, their efforts were fragmented and there were questions about the reliability of the results. By establishing the Network, monitors are now getting to see how their efforts contribute to the bigger picture. **"Council can now use their information for prioritising actions which may be required to address water quality issues within our catchment area. By participating in Waterwatch, community groups appreciate that they are also assisting with the development of environmental performance indicators for Frankston City."**

Melbourne Waterwatch would like to thank both the Frankston City Council and Mornington Peninsula Shire Council for supporting the Waterwatch program and their local communities.



Top Network meetings are an opportunity to share knowledge and experiences with other monitors. **Centre left** The Friends of Chinaman's Creek have monitored two sites in Rosebud West since 2005 and regularly attend Network meetings. **Centre right** Lee and Alexander (father and son) are active Friends of Sunshine Creek Reserve. "It's great to see the community interest in the environment," says Lee. **Above** Thelma Christensen and Ole Peterson, members of Action Sweetwater Creek, regularly monitor their Frankston waterway.