

Partners/Sponsors Natural Heritage Trust, Goulburn Valley Water, Goulburn Murray Water, Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority, Goulburn Murray Landcare Network, Shepparton Science and Technology Centre, Department of Primary Industries, City of Greater Shepparton, Moira Shire, Murrindindi Shire, Mitchel Shire, Campaspe Shire, Strathbogie Shire, Mansfield Shire, Benalla Shire.



Monitoring Groups/Site Information

108 Groups, 471 participants, 341 sites

Coordinators

David Hodgkins, Jill Breadon, Glenda Woods, Jacinta Burke, Melanie Browne



Goulburn Broken

“The Little Steavenson River flows primarily through farm land. Very few of us actually have a river flowing through their backyard. It is very special and we feel very privileged.” Margaret Daniel -

Local resident.



Margaret Daniel.

Acheron Waterwatch members ponder the origins of murky water

Margaret Daniel, a local resident was keen to become involved with Waterwatch to understand her local waterway, learn more about what effected it and to do something to help improve it.

Margaret is one of 23 monitors in the Acheron River sub-catchment network, who got involved in the Goulburn Broken Waterwatch monitoring program after noticing the dramatic changes in the turbidity of the Little Steavenson River. This river is a tributary of the Acheron River which in turn flows into the Goulburn River.

Early in the project it became clear that the understanding about who or what was responsible for the sources of turbidity was based on long standing assumptions. Through the process of monitoring, the network has discovered some of the possible causes of the river’s sediment loads. The network has shared this information with their community, the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority and local industries reliant on the water.

To keep the group functioning like a well oiled machine, group Waterwatch coordinator Glenda Woods holds a network meeting twice a year. Meetings provide the group with a forum to share experiences with other members in the network and refine their turbidity sampling techniques against Glenda’s more sophisticated turbidity meter.

At their last meeting in September, members went on a sub-catchment tour visiting logging coupes in the upper part of the Acheron sub-catchment. The group spent time looking at the impact of forest roads on turbidity and had the opportunity to speak to employees from the Department of Sustainability and Environment, who have joined the network as partners involved in the monitoring program.

Increased monitoring in heavy rainfall events will complement existing data and assist in gaining a better understanding of possible turbidity sources. In the future Margaret hopes that people will continue working together to improve long term river health.



Acheron Group testing.