



the regions north east

Partners/Sponsors

North East Catchment Management Authority, Department of Natural Resources and Environment, North East Landcare Groups, Parks Victoria, 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.

Monitoring Groups/Site Information

46 Groups, 1435 participants, 55 sites

Coordinators

Fran Sorensen, Bruce Birrell, Janice Horsefield, Tracey Robinson.

Fish Education program

The North East Waterwatch program have made significant steps at the implementation phase of a Fish Education program. The program started in 2001 aims to build on existing biological monitoring and identification parameters, whilst answering the call of community members to know more about their indigenous fish communities and the issues surrounding their decline in numbers, and research being undertaken to manage the threats. In addition to the program, extension documentation is being developed to help facilitate learning with use of Fish Identification field guide and Regional fish location profile.

Street to Stream

This year the North-East program stepped up it's Stormwater program with town schools and Green Corps groups participating in drain stencilling. Town drains in Wangaratta, Wodonga, Bright, Myrtleford, Rutherglen, Chiltern, Beechworth, Fall's Creek, Mt Beauty, Towonga, Baranduda and Yackandandah all bear the "STREET TO STREAM" or "KEEP THE KIEWA CLEAN" message. In addition to stencilling activities, stormwater education activities in the classroom complemented and reinforced the need to be more diligent with our stormwater pollution and ways we can all minimise the impact. Towns to be completed in early 2003 include, Corryong, Tallangatta, Barnawartha and Porepunkah. It's anticipated that schools and groups in these towns will embrace the program as enthusiastically and successfully as the towns in 2002.

Mini Butt Bin Campaign

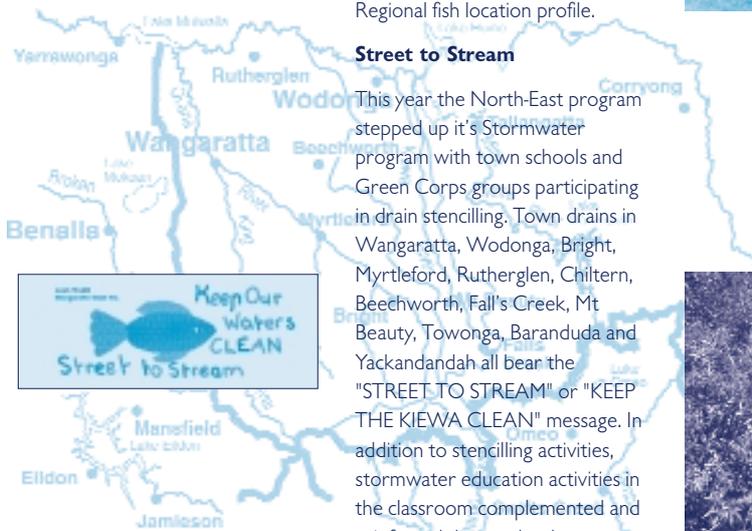
In addition to the comprehensive drain stencilling campaign in 2002, highlighting cigarette butts as a major stormwater pollution threat was added to our Stormwater activity program. Cigarette butts whilst small in size, constitute a significant proportion of the gross



Monitoring at Falls Creek in winter.

Monitoring at Falls Creek in summer.

Students carry out River Health assessments in the North East.



litter products that finds it's way into our systems via the stormwater network. Changing the communities attitudes and behaviour to the casual discarding of cigarette butts are seen as paramount to it's removal from our natural systems. Launched in August 2002 with 45 schools participating, students were engaged in an education program aimed at the distribution of 10,000 mini butt bins throughout the North East using discarded film canisters. Students involved in the program as part of their

classroom work estimated that 8 million butts each year could be prevented from reaching our rivers by strategically distributing "Butt Bins" to parents and friends across the North East region. This program will be ongoing and to be completed with 64 schools participating by end of term 1, 2003. Bin labels, designed by a year six student at Wangaratta West Primary School (Leah Tindall) were chosen from an extensive field of sixty strong applicants from her school.