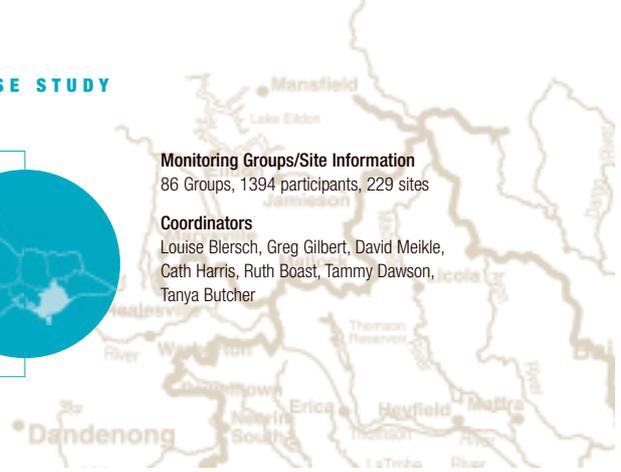


Partners/Sponsors Natural Heritage Trust, West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority, Gippsland Water, South Gippsland Water, Southern Rural Water, Department of Sustainability and Environment, Department of Primary Industries, Environment Protection Authority, Grand Ridge Plantations, Esso-BHP, Loy Yang Power, SGS Australia, Yallourn Energy.



Monitoring Groups/Site Information
86 Groups, 1394 participants, 229 sites

Coordinators
Louise Blersch, Greg Gilbert, David Meikle, Cath Harris, Ruth Boast, Tammy Dawson, Tanya Butcher



West Gippsland

“Community engagement programs like Waterwatch will demonstrate that anyone can pick up River Health assessment techniques to determine the effectiveness of remedial works on their Waterways” Michelle Jones, DPI Ellinbank.



The concept of ‘Ecologically Sustainable Agriculture’ in a project is a challenge for most natural resource managers, but with the right combination of stakeholders and community engagement programs like Waterwatch, finding that winning formula is all in the partnership preparation.

The Gippsland Dairy Riparian Project (GDRP) is a 4 year research project which aims to establish a number of best practice sites whereby educators can showcase improvements in riparian zones in conjunction with productive agriculture.

Financial partners like Dairy Australia, Gippsland Dairy, West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority, Department of Primary Industries, Land and Water Australia and community programs like Landcare and Waterwatch make the research project possible through a good balance of community and government ownership.

Integral to the success of the research project is the monitoring and evaluation component of restoration works. Before and after impact assessments techniques

Waterwatch takes part in the Gippsland Dairy Riparian Project

have been designed to monitor the improvements of nine riparian sites in two sub catchments, the Sandy Creek and Toora Creek following the removal of pest plants and animals, fencing to protect native remnants and enhancing floral assets through revegetation.

Extensive River Health assessment techniques are being used to monitor the effectiveness of riparian management, with Waterwatch coordinators and volunteers playing a key role in community monitoring.

Upon conclusion of the project a number of extension documents will be produced ensuring the knowledge is disseminated to other landholders through DPI extension officers and future Waterwatch workshops.



Clockwise from top: Workshop attendants inspect one of several water testing stations setup by the Gippsland Dairy Riparian Project. Workshop attendants focus on riparian zones.