



**Partners/Sponsors**

Natural Heritage Trust, West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority, Gippsland Water, South Gippsland Water, Southern Rural Water, Parks Victoria, Department of Natural Resources & Environment, Coast and Clean Seas, Coastcare, Environment Protection Authority, Baw Baw Shire Council, Latrobe City and Wellington Shire Council, Grand Ridge Plantations, Esso-BHP, Loy Yang Power, Bonlac Foods, Australian Environmental Laboratories, Greencorp.

**Monitoring Groups/Site Information**

141 Groups, 763 participants, 366 sites

**Coordinators**

Jodie Halliwell, Greg Gilbert, David Meikle, Cath Harris, Ruth Boast.



**Macro Invertebrate Workshop**

Macro invertebrates were high on West Gippsland Waterwatch's QA/QC agenda in September. Local facilitators and school teachers were engaged in a macro invertebrate training day in South Gippsland's Tarra Bulga National park. An expert in aquatic ecosystems from Australian Environmental Laboratories offered guidance on sampling procedures and identification. Although the day was quite wet it was very successful and enhanced volunteers understanding of macro invertebrate biology.



Morwell River Wetlands, Macro Day with Science in Schools program.

**Science in Schools**

A Science in Schools program involved 4 local schools in the Latrobe region. The program kicked off activities at the Morwell



River Wetlands in March and worked through to December. Throughout the year students from all 4 schools undertook a comprehensive waterway assessment which encompassed, physico-chemical assessments, macro invertebrate surveys, frog census training/recordings and tree planting activities.

**The Nooramunga Corner Inlet (NCI) Water Monitoring Project**

The NCI project has now been running for five consecutive years. At the beginning of this year the project completed its first full year of weekly estuarine testing. This estuarine testing is the continuation of the freshwater streams as they flow out into Corner Inlet and the Nooramunga

Marine Park. The NCI project this year organised a boat trip in and around Corner Inlet, the boat trip was for volunteers and sponsors to say "congratulations for the past five years and good luck for the future", however, due to dangerous conditions, all boats were forced to stay in the ports. Despite this setback, special edition NCI sun hats were sent to each of the volunteers and sponsors as a small token of our appreciation.

**Waterwatch Sale Conference**

River Health assessments, Stormwater pollution and Waterway rehabilitation were taken up as key topics by several local Secondary and Primary Schools at the Waterwatch Sale Conference during National Water Week. Local experts in the aquatic ecology fields were present to provide students valuable information on waterway health assessments, whilst students shared their own experiences on the role of community monitors. A total of 175 students and 45 adults gathered at the Sale Memorial Hall. Student delegates from each school provided the audience with high quality talks on their adopted waterways and strategies being undertaken to assess waterway health and rehabilitation. In addition to presentations, theatre and musical performances, song and dance gave the audience a memorable experience.

Year 8 students from Carey Grammar, Latrobe River.