

STREAMLINES

SUMMER 2011/12



Water Aware

Partnerships between Waterwatch and their sponsors are very important and result in great achievements being made. This years Waterwatch participation in the Water Aware program delivered by South Gippsland Water was very successful.

The Water Aware program encourages selected students to participate in a 2 day workshop of presentation, from professionals in their fields, about the various aspects of water and waterways. The students then take what they have learnt and develop their own presentation to deliver back to their school and the community.

Each school that participated presented on a different aspect of water that was learnt from the workshop. Schools that participated in the workshop included Korumburra SC, Korumburra PS, Loch PS, Nyora PS, Poowong CS and St Joseph's Korumburra.

Around 120 parents and community members attend the presentation making the Water Aware program very successful in its delivery of Water Awareness and all of its facets.



Tarwin River Freshwater Circus

On reaching our destination in Trida we were greeted by constant rain that did not look like easing. A brave 18 participants attend the morning to learn about the Tarwin Catchment Enhancement Project, wet and damp forests and water quality.



After a quick introduction Jill Vella from South Gippsland Landcare started the day discussing the Tarwin Catchment Enhancement Project and showed participants the 25 acres that has high quality remnant wet and damp forest that is being fenced off around Adam's Falls.

Matt Bowler, River and Wetlands Officer from West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority (WGCMA), talked about the various native vegetation that can be found in the wet and damp forest around the upper Tarwin catchment and discussed the changes in the vegetation since European settlement. Those brave enough headed down the hill to get a closer look at the works being done and to catch a glimpse of the falls which had extra water due to the night and morning rains. Matt and two others forged onto the waterfall while the rest of us started to return up the hill.

On returning we were greeted with a BBQ lunch that was catered for by the Mirboo North Rotary Club and just what was required after the long walk down and up the hills on the property.



The partnership event with South Gippsland Landcare, WGCMA and Waterwatch was very successful despite the weather. The event was completed with leeches removed and show bags for those that attended the day.

Agnes River Canoe Tour

On Saturday 26th November a canoe tour on the Lower Agnes was held. There were 20 participants that braved the rain to paddle down the Agnes River. The event was held for local landholders and the community to learn more about the Corner Inlet Connections program that delivers projects across the Corner Inlet catchment.

The day started off with everyone meeting at the Toora Lions Reserve. The participants were bused to the starting point where Amy Love from South Gippsland Water gave an overall view of what South Gippsland Water role in the region. Everyone was then given a demonstration on paddling and safety procedures by First Track Adventures.

Once on the water we all paddle up stream where the WGCMA River and Wetlands Officer, Matt Bowler gave a talk on the native vegetation along the river. Everyone then paddle back down to the initial entry point where Waterwatch Facilitator, Nicole Russell discussed Water quality and the importance of the Waterwatch program in collecting water quality data.

As we paddled further down everyone saw the change in vegetation along the river and this is where West Gippsland Chief Ranger, Roger Fenwick talked about the various ecosystems found in the Corner Inlet Catchment and the discussed issue such as spartina control that are occurring in the area.

The day ended with a welcomed hot BBQ lunch. One participant Susan Poletti said her and her husband learnt a lot about the wonderful local waterways and found it encouraging to know that government organisations are working effectively together to improve and sustain the important resource that is the Corner Inlet Catchment.

For more information on Corner Inlet Connections go to www.wgcma.vic.gov.au



Welcome to New Volunteers

- * Jared Dyson
- * Latrobe Special Development School
- * Friends of Land and Water



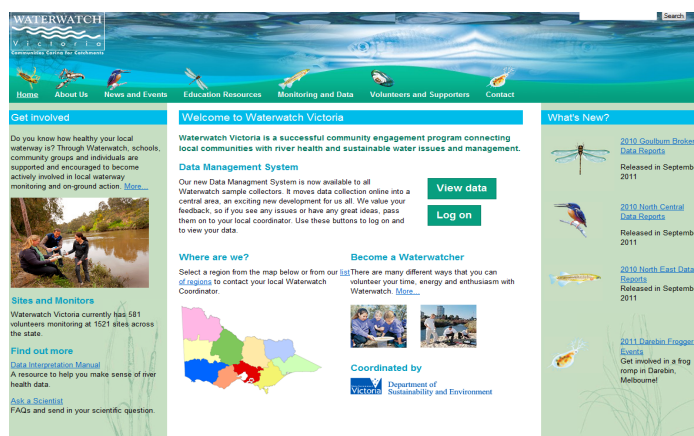
Waterwatch Victoria 'online Database' has public interface

The new Waterwatch database now has a public interface to improve the availability of Waterwatch data. In allowing public access Waterwatch has overcome a barrier to Waterwatch data that previously made it difficult to access.

To view please go to the web address below

<http://www.vic.waterwatch.org.au>

This will take you to the Waterwatch web page.



Click on 'View Data'. This will take you to a map of Victoria. Select West Gippsland in the drop down menu for 'Region' and click on search. This will show you all the Waterwatch monitoring sites, both active and non active, in the region. You can click on a site and information for the site will be displayed. You can also generate reports from this information.

For more information please contact Nicole Russell, Waterwatch Facilitator, on 1300 094 262 or nicoler@wgcma.vic.gov.au



Baw Baw Sustainability Network Presentation

Waterwatch was invited to present on the topic of water quality to the Baw Baw Sustainability Network. The Waterwatch Facilitator took the attendees through the 'Story of a Catchment'. All participants played a part in the story which follows the rivers journey from the headwaters all the way to where the river flows into either a lake or ocean. The story looks at the different land and water activities that can impact on the water quality of waterways including erosion and nutrient issues. After the story a discussion was led to generate ideas to address these issues. Everyone joined in and added their actions to address catchment issues to improve Water Quality.

If you are a community group that would like to have Waterwatch conduct a similar presentation please contact Nicole Russell on 1300 094 262



Teaching our Future Teachers!

Waterwatch was invited back to Monash University, Churchill campus, to deliver a training day to students completing their Diploma of Education after a successful training session delivered previously in the year.

This was another chance for Waterwatch to 'infiltrate' the student teachers with the Waterwatch message and methods providing them with the knowledge of how the Waterwatch educational program could be used in the classroom in relation to Victorian Essential Learning Standards.

The Waterwatch educational program fits into the majority of domains that are nestled into the three strands of Physical, Personal and Social Learning, Discipline Based Learning and Interdisciplinary Learning.

This session gave teachers the tools to plan their classes involving the environment and hands on learning activities. Waterwatch facilitator Marni Speed has designed a framework to assist teachers with unit planning in relation to Waterwatch.

This session was based on the teacher professional development sessions that are offered by West Gippsland Waterwatch to schools throughout the Gippsland Region.

Work experience

Hi my name is Judy Stephens and I have had the pleasure of doing work placement with West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority, with the majority of my time spent in the Waterwatch program.



I am currently studying Environmental Science at Charles Sturt University as a distant education student. It has been an extremely interesting and informative to come into a work situation and see the interaction of different departments and the positive outcomes for the local area.

I have enjoyed doing the diverse range of work including data entry, adventuring out to the different schools, water quality testing at 4 sites, and community events including a canoe tour. The school program is important for the children as it teaches them the importance of a vital resource, water, which is only going to become more important with time. I would like to thank the WGCMA for giving me this opportunity and I look forward to being a part of an area that is of future importance.

Bug Blitz

This year's Bug Blitz had to be moved from Heart Morass to Heyfield Wetlands. This was due to the incredible amount of rain that was received in the region turning the Heart Morass into a water wonderland for all the flora and fauna that live there.

It was great turn out again this year with over 220 students attending from schools including Sale 545 Primary School, Toongabbie Primary School, Rosedale Primary School.

Students took part in macroinvertebrate sampling to detect water quality, the Swamp Poetry Project, Forest Regeneration, Nature/Birds/Bugs Discovery Walk, compared honey from different plants and looking at bees and soil testing. The students had

a great day and will be presenting their poems at Lake Guthridge on December 15th at 9:30am



West Gippsland Waterwatch Calendar

December 15th 2011 - Natures Poetry Pathway

December 25th 2011 - Christmas

January 20th 2012 - Summer by the Sea



West Gippsland Waterwatch would like to wish all its Volunteers, Sponsors and Stakeholders a Merry Christmas!

West Gippsland Waterwatch Contacts



Nicole Russell

Facilitator
PO Box 1374, Traralgon 3844
Phone: 1300 094 262
Email: nicoler@wgcma.vic.gov.au



Marni Speed

Facilitator
PO Box 1374, Traralgon 3844
Phone: 1300 094 262
Email: marnis@wgcma.vic.gov.au



Michelle Dickson

River Health Team Leader
PO Box 1374, Traralgon 3844
Phone: 1300 094 262
Email: michelled@wgcma.vic.gov.au



Tanya Cowell

Facilitator
PO Box 1374, Traralgon 3844
Phone: 1300 094 262
Email: tanyac@wgcma.vic.gov.au

Key Stakeholders and Sponsors



Department of
Sustainability and Environment

