

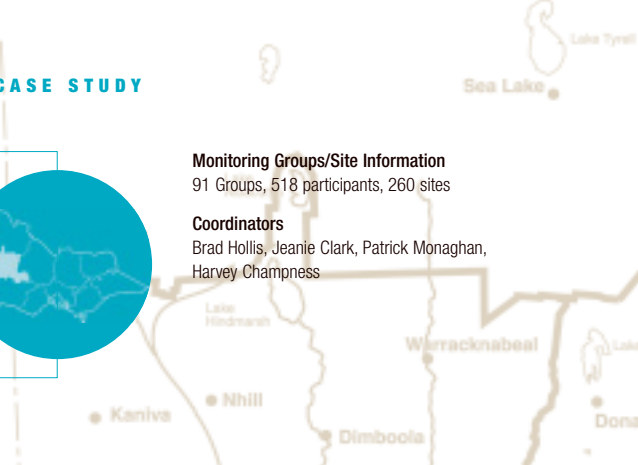
Partners/Sponsors Natural Heritage Trust, Wimmera Catchment Management Authority, Wimmera Mallee Water, Horsham Rural City Council, Yarriambiack Shire, Hindmarsh Shire, West Wimmera Shire, Stawell Gold, Nufarm.

Monitoring Groups/Site Information
91 Groups, 518 participants, 260 sites

Coordinators
Brad Hollis, Jeanie Clark, Patrick Monaghan, Harvey Champness



Wimmera



Top to tail travel, along the Wimmera River

Above: Students from Yaapeet and Elmhurst Primary Schools inspect the Wimmera River from 'Top to Tail'. Below: Students carry out physico-chemical tests.

No stream, creek or river in the town; no lake or wetland either... Does this mean no Waterwatch? Certainly not!

The lack of water in the Wimmera catchment did not discourage schools at either end of the catchment to take up the challenge to travel the length of the Wimmera River in the 'Top to Tail' catchment tour. With the help of Waterwatch Coordinator, Jeanie Clark, the schools were able to link together and explore the similarities and differences along the River.

Yaapeet Primary School crossed the catchment to join Elmhurst Primary School to investigate the upper end of the catchment. The sixteen students, three teachers and two local Waterwatch coordinators then took the journey lasting three days along the River from Elmhurst to Yaapeet.

Prior to the tour, Waterwatch sessions at the two schools allowed students to communicate with each other and develop their knowledge on water quality, water restrictions, macro-invertebrate diversity, water wise behaviours and the similarities and differences in living at two very different ends of a catchment.

"Seeing the river in all its phases was something that absolutely blew them away," Mara I'anson, teacher from Elmhurst Primary school.

Socially the event was an opportunity for students to engage with each other and share their Waterwatch experiences. Students collectively made various observations on the differences in wildlife, plants and water quality - some shocked to find no water at the end of the Wimmera River.

The students of Yaapeet aim check out if this happened and share their knowledge of the diversity of the Wimmera River and catchment with the wider community, while Elmhurst displayed their discoveries at their end of year concert.



"...the camp will be one that we will remember fondly in years to come and one that will stick in the children's minds about our most precious resource; fresh water!"

Sheryl Herben, Principal Yaapeet Primary School.