



Thank you to all the Waterwatch participants that participated in Waterwatch Saltwatch this year! This includes Luz Silva, John Wardzynski, Julia Davis, Anna Richtarik, Sue Roberts, Therese Grinter, Katherine Hamilton and David Barr. Saltwatch is an environmental monitoring program that helps communities to understand salinity and the problems it can cause. During Saltwatch Week, (6-12 May 2007) community groups, individuals and schools from all over Australia collect water samples from their local waterways to determine their local salinity levels and learn about the problems of salinity across Australia. To view this year's test result specifically for Melbourne and to participate in next year's Saltwatch program check out the following websites www.vic.waterwatch.org.au and www.saltwatch.org.au.

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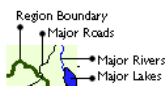
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Salt levels all over Victoria during Saltwatch Week 2007.

www.saltwatch.org.au

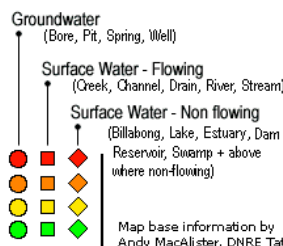


Natural Resources and Environment
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Salinity Level

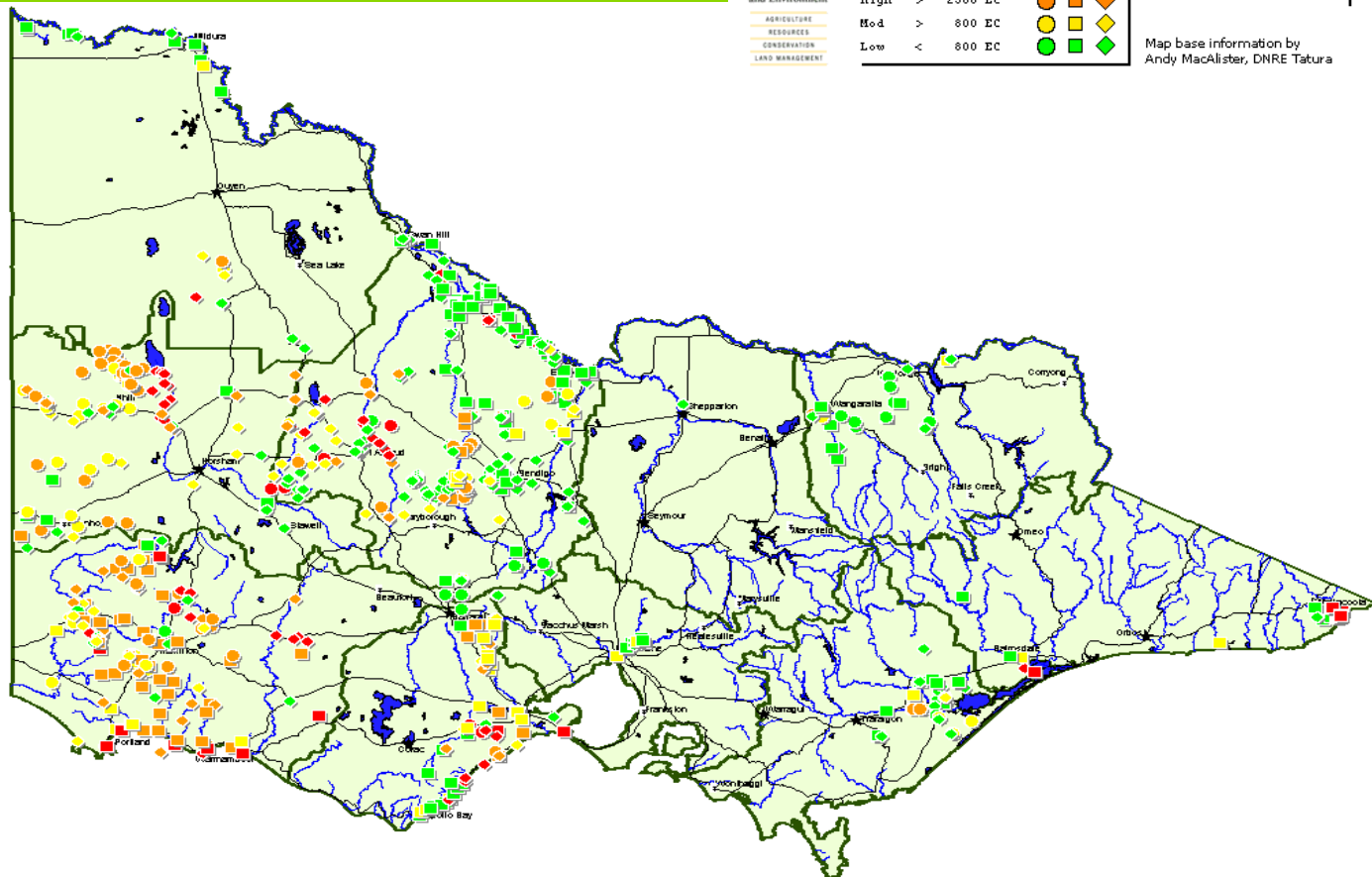
V High > 10000 EC
 High > 2500 EC
 Mod > 800 EC
 Low < 800 EC



Key



Map base information by Andy MacAllister, DNRE Tatura



Waterwatch is a national community based water quality monitoring program aimed at raising community awareness, understanding and ownership of water quality issues. This is achieved through active involvement in monitoring the health of Melbourne's creeks, rivers and wetlands. The program provides a range of structured river health activities, which are hands on, practical, fun and highly educational!

Community Board – Waterwatch Interesting Information

Friends of Plenty River take action on creek litter



The Friends of Plenty River, Briar Hill Primary School and Banyule Council's Mayor Wayne Phillips with the new stencil kit
Photo by J. Vanderoord

The Friends of Plenty River, Waterwatch, and Briar Hill Primary School together with Banyule City Council are bringing the anti-litter message using Melbourne Water's new drain stencils.

Pictured, Banyule City Council Mayor Wayne Phillips, students from Briar Hill Primary School and The Friends of Plenty River are stencilling a stormwater drain in Main Street, Greensborough to raise awareness of the direct link between the stormwater system and local waterways, in this case, the Plenty River.

Melbourne Water General Manager Waterways Chris Chesterfield said drain stencilling was an effective way of reminding the community that litter and pollutants can get washed into stormwater drains when it rains and into rivers and creeks, and eventually the bays.

"Litter and stormwater pollution can have a major impact on the health of our waterways and the native animals and plants that live there," Mr Chesterfield said. "We hope these simple drain stencils will remind people that their litter and other pollutants can have a harmful effect on waterways, if allowed to get into the drains. By doing a simple few things like disposing of our litter correctly, cleaning up after pets, and not allowing paint or chemicals to wash into drains, we can all make a difference.

Melbourne Water invests around \$31 million a year in the Healthy Rivers Program. The Healthy Rivers Program is funded from drainage rates. Melbourne Water also supports over 10,000 volunteers involved in helping protect Melbourne's rivers and creeks.

The kit is now housed at your local Council and can be borrowed to stencil your local drains, once you have had training from your Waterwatch Coordinator.

Waterwatchers on the Darebin Creek! Written by 4MD Mill Park Heights Primary School students



On Tuesday Grade 4MD Mill Parks Heights Primary School went to a Water Project in front of the OSHCARE room. We were learning about wetlands in danger. We had to find different types of bugs in a tray of water from Redleap Reserve Lake. The creatures we found marked how healthy this Lake was. We found a lot of tough insects which told us that this Lake was very unhealthy, but we found a few sensitive creatures that would die soon. It was a fun activity. After Recess we went into the OSHCARE room and learnt about Storm Water. We learnt about all the different frogs and we also heard the different mating calls and we had to match them to the frog's pictures. After, we went for a walk around the school to look at some drains.



Henderson’s Creek Wetlands Waterwatch Group Update. By Waterwatch monitor Derek Fiddler

In February we visited the Plenty River at the Plenty Gorge Parklands near Mernda and after tidying up the area we found that the river is not flowing but just a series of large pools. The water sampling gave 1100 micro siemens which is brackish (very salty!) due to evaporation and the concentration of salts. There was reasonably low oxygen but because of the cessation of river flow many of the freshwater shrimp had eggs. There was a mudeye, water boatmen and thousands of watermites in the fauna sample. Plenty of life in the river.

John Wardinski made a video recording of the WaterWatch sampling procedure, fauna trays and the general proceedings. David Ford played some frog recordings, Andrew told us of some good places to go and discussion, interesting as usual, ranged far and wide covering topics from King Parrots to Yabbies and Sovereignty to Offsetting Global Warming. I look forward to our next expedition on the first Sunday of every month.



*The group in action and results taken on the day.
Photo by J. Milkins*

Parameter tested	Result & Unit of measure	Health meter
pH	7.7	Good
Salinity	1100 us/cm	Degraded
Turbidity (Cloudiness)	14 NTUs	Excellent
Dissolved Oxygen	55 % saturation	Fair
Water temperature	21 °C	Fair
Air temperature	22 °C	Normal for time of year

Welcome to our new Waterwatch Education Officer—Tobey Henry

Hi all. I have joined the Environment Planning team at Banyule as the new Waterwatch Education Officer. I will be working with schools across the north-east region, facilitating the monitoring of their local waterways. The Waterwatch program involves conducting various tests (salt, turbidity, pH, and nutrients) and sampling cute little water bugs (macro-invertebrates) to determine the health of the waterway.

I was introduced to Waterwatch at a young age growing up close to the Yarra River and I actually used it as Science teacher with my year 9 students. I am very excited about the Waterwatch program and I think it is a great way to connect students to the natural world. I enjoy generating students’ enthusiasm about the environment and I believe the hands-on approach to teaching is a great way to achieve this.

I have completed a Bachelor of Science at Melbourne University with majors in Zoology and Botany (marine and terrestrial) followed by a Diploma of Education. Before moving to Banyule City Council I taught Science at Eumemmerring (Secondary) College in the Dandenong region.

I look forward to implementing the program into schools, both secondary and primary. If you have any queries please feel free to contact me.



North East Melbourne Waterwatch
Coordinator

Julia Vanderoord
Tues-Fri
Phone: 03) 9457 9885



North East Melbourne Waterwatch
Education Officer

Tobey Henry
Mon-Thurs
Phone: 03) 9457 9868



Julia.Vanderoord@banyule.vic.gov.au

Tobey.Henry@banyule.vic.gov.au

Waterwatch Events and Training Program June-August 2007

Merri Creek Moonee Ponds
Waterwatch Coordinator

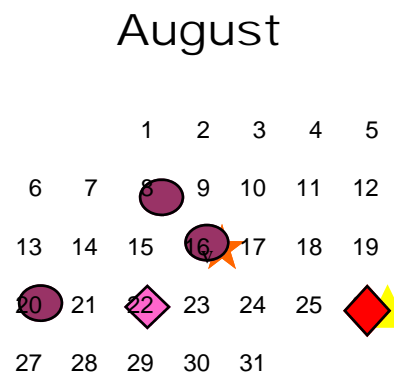
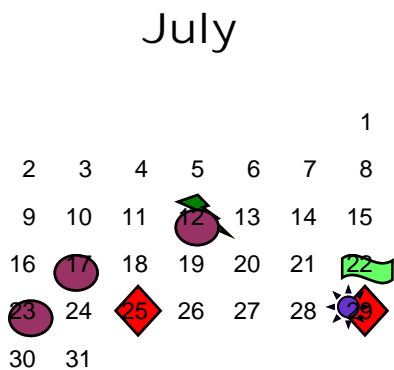
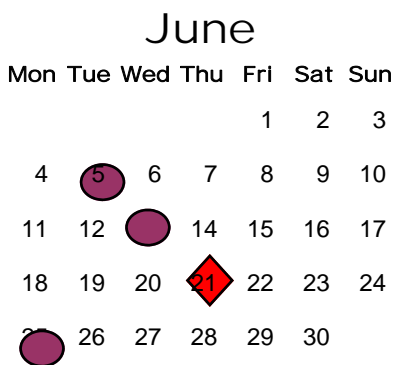
Greg Woodward
Mon-Fri
Phone 03) 9380 8199

Greg@mcmc.org.au www.mcmc.org.au



Waterwatch Training for new monitors/ groups and refreshers

Sustainable Homes Program. To register for these FREE workshops and for more information go to www.sustainablehomes.vic.gov.au



Come along to participate in these watery events! Mostly FREE!

Nillumbik Being Waste Wise and buying green

Planting Day on the Darebin Creek —Friends Darebin Creek

Nillumbik National Tree Day Event

Nillumbik Going places green travel

Nillumbik introduction to indigenous garden design

Nillumbik Sustainable gardening course

Please note: Bookings essential for most of these events. Contact Julia for more information



Drawing of *Daphnia* sp. by S.Crinall



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