



NORTH EAST  
CATCHMENT  
MANAGEMENT  
AUTHORITY

## MEDIA RELEASE

2 October 2006

### North East set to celebrate nation's most precious resource

Wetland tours, a fish-a-thon and a short story competition are three different ways that North East residents can get involved in National Water Week this year (15 – 21 October 2006).

The North East Catchment Management Authority (CMA), in partnership with North East Water and other local organisations, has organised a range of events and activities to highlight the importance of water - Australia's most precious resource.

"National Water Week is a great opportunity to get involved and learn more about our Region's streams, creeks, rivers and wetlands," said Jessica Aiken, North East Waterwatch Facilitator with the North East CMA.

"We've put together a calendar of events and devised activities to suit all ages and interests, ranging from guided interpretive walks to wetlands tours, children's activities, a fish-a-thon at Horseshoe Lagoon, an open day at Wonga Wetlands, regional library displays, water quality snapshots for two Rivers and a poster and short story competition."

The theme for National Water Week 2006 is 'Water for Life'.

It brings water into focus, making people more aware of how precious and important water is in our lives.

Jessica Aiken encouraged locals to get involved in National Water Week activities, such as:

- **Water quality testing – Kiewa (Tues 17 Oct) and Ovens River (Wed 18 Oct)**

Primary school students and Waterwatch adult monitors will test water quality at various sites along the Kiewa and Ovens Rivers to gain an indication of the health of the river for that specific day. Students and adult volunteers from Harrierville, Myrtleford, Whorouly, Wangaratta and Boorhaman will test water along the Ovens, while students from Falls Creek, Mount Beauty, Dederang & Wodonga will test the water quality of the Kiewa River

- **Displays and competitions at Wodonga & Wangaratta libraries (all week)**

Both Libraries will showcase National Water Week by displaying water related information and interesting water facts, including Indigenous water related themes. The artwork of primary school students' from across the North East region will also be displayed. Novelty prizes will be given to borrowers throughout the week.

- **Waterwatch monitors BBQ, Merriwa Park, Wangaratta (Friday, 20 October)**

The North East CMA invites all Waterwatch monitors to enjoy a sausage sizzle and meet Waterwatch and CMA staff, other Waterwatch monitors and local Council representatives.

"We're planning a relaxed get-together to celebrate and recognise the contribution that our volunteer monitors make to water quality and water health in our Region," concluded Jessica.

For further information on National Water Week activities please telephone Carolyn Humby at the North East CMA on 02 6043 7622 or 0427 723 320

---

To arrange an interview/photograph please contact:

Mary-Anne Scully, North East CMA Media & Communications Consultant **Tel: 0408 685 225**