

Location

If your interested in monitoring a local waterway, choose one close to home, such as a creek or river, pond, dam or wetland to monitor. This will save you travelling long distances and allows you to keep a close eye on your waterway.

When can I volunteer?

Waterwatch is a flexible program that allows volunteers to monitor their local waterway when it suits them. Waterwatch staff provide ongoing support and training when needed.

North East Waterwatch

North East Waterwatch is part of a national program that aims to raise general community awareness about the relationship between water quality and the health of the whole catchment. It encourages participation by schools, land users, individuals, community groups, industry, local authorities and government in action to improve the water quality of the North East catchment.



Yes, I want to volunteer

If you are keen to become a Waterwatch Volunteer simply fill out this form and post to:

Waterwatch
c/o North East CMA
P.O. Box 616
Wodonga, VIC 3689

Name: _____

Surname: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Contact us

Carolyn Humby
P.O. Box 616
Wodonga, VIC 3689
Ph: 02 6043 7622
Mob: 0427 235 861
Email: waterwatch@necma.vic.gov.au
Website: www.necma.vic.gov.au

Volunteering



Help improve our local water quality by becoming a...

Waterwatch Volunteer!





Welcome

North East Waterwatch welcomes everyone with a love for our local environment and interest in the health of our local waterways.

As a Waterwatch Volunteer you can do something practical to help us gain a better picture of the health of our local waterways, to ensure they are managed effectively. You will enjoy:

- Training on water quality monitoring techniques.
- Practical experience in testing water quality.
- Being part of a team.
- Helping make a difference to the natural environment.

Opportunities

We have volunteer opportunities to suit your availability and interest, and you don't need any prior skills or experience. Some of the opportunities include:

- Physical, Chemical and Biological testing of your local waterway.
- Involvement in regional events.
- Habitat surveys.
- GIS and mapping.
- Database assistance and data entry.

Let us know what your interests are and we'll try and find something to suit you.

Water Quality Testing

You can't judge a book by its cover, and you can't judge a waterway just by looking at it. Through Waterwatch we train you to be able to make a judgment on water quality based on evidence rather than feeling. There are many ways to rate the health of your waterway, such as measuring the following parameters:

- pH
- Phosphorus
- Temperature
- Turbidity
- Salinity
- Dissolved Oxygen
- Macroinvertebrates (water bugs)

These above parameters give you a general measure of the health of your waterway and are easy and fast to measure, and don't require any sophisticated equipment—and its also lots of fun!

The water quality information that you collect is stored on a regional database and can be accessed by anyone.



What is involved?

Once you have made the decision to become a Waterwatch Volunteer we will offer you a place in a full-day training program along with other new volunteers to ensure that you are fully competent in water quality monitoring, OH&S and risk management before you start volunteering with us.

You will be trained in testing water quality parameters such as pH, phosphorus, temperature, turbidity, salinity, and dissolved oxygen. You will also be trained to conduct habitat surveys and macroinvertebrate sampling.

As a volunteer you will receive our quarterly newsletter, updates on training and events, ongoing support from our friendly Waterwatch staff and social opportunities to interact with other Waterwatch volunteers.

All we ask from you is that you monitor a site (or many sites—its up to you) once a month and send, fax or email your results to our Waterwatch Coordinator each month. Each site takes approximately 1 hour to monitor.

Waterwatch Data?

All data that is collected by our volunteer monitors, school groups and Waterwatch staff is stored on a regional database that has already over three thousand sets of data from over 160 rural and urban sites across the region. Data over a period of time indicates change in water quality. This information is helpful in locating potential problem sites that may require specific action to address a water quality issue.