

River Detectives

Young citizen scientists connecting with their local waterways in Victoria

What is it?

Mallee

Wimmera

Glenelg Hopkins

River Detectives is a Victorian Waterwatch environmental education program for schools and groups working with young people.

Facilitators of the program train educators (teachers and volunteers) to monitor habitat, water sicence and waterbugs at a local waterway.

Through training and involvement in the program, teachers and students develop their knowledge of catchments and waterway health, and participation in the program allows groups to increase their skills base by using water science kits and waterbug monitoring equipment. Data collected by the junior citizen scientists is entered into the River Detectives portal and contributes to the Victorian 矣 Waterwatch database.

Who is involved?

 \bigcirc North Central

Corangam

Four Catchment Management Authorities (CMAs): Corangamite CMA, North Central CMA, North East CMA, Wimmera CMA and Melbourne Water.

Goulburn

Broken

1elbourne

"We have changed the curriculum and are

now meeting the school's

strategic plan. The school

wants more data collected to

share more scientific evidence

with the greater community.

Lisa, Overnewton Anglican

Community College

North

East Gippsland

East

West

Gippsland

Where?

Inspiring our future leaders to be stewards of the environment

junior citizen scientists in Victoria

From 104 schools/groups, both primary and secondary

How many?

207 educators trained

Through 29 water science and waterbug professional learning workshops across the state

Outcomes

- Engaging junior citizen scientists in a project that contributes to Natural **Resource Management**
- Collaboration of ideas, resources and systems across organisations
- Allows flexible engagement for schools from monthly testing, to a term focus and to build it into larger projects
- Links across the community and builds a
- Hands-on, real life science activities that provide an opportunity for students to learn outside the classroom
- 99% of teachers were likely to change their practice after attending workshops
- 79% of teachers increased their knowledge by a reasonable amount after attending

professional learning workshops

Sites monitored across the state

sets of data entered

Coloured fish pop up to help schools rate the quality of their water when entering water quality data into the database

We participated in the program because we wanted the students to be able to help scientists collect data about rivers and learn how important rivers are to our lives".

Michael, Mitta Mitta Primary School

connection to a local waterway

Program partners:

CORANGAMITE CMA

"The students" loved the water quality testing but they really just loved the opportunity to be outdoors and be in the environment."

Sarah, East Loddon P-12

For the future

Proudly supported by:

Environment, Land, Water and Planning

The River Detectives team wants to build on the 2017 pilot program to create more junior citizen scientists. The resources and program will continue to develop to support schools to learn about, and connect to, their local waterway.

At our school

"At our school we want to target real life learning, the River Detectives program

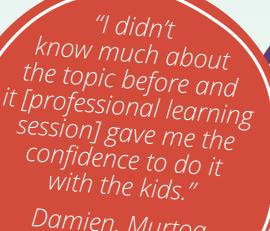
slotted in nicely.

Nick, Little Bendigo Primary School

NORTH CENTRAL

ent Management Authority

necting Rivers, Landscapes, People



Damien, Murtoa Primary School

Melbourne Water

For the school community to be partnered with other organisations is a positive in itself." Michelle, Footscray

City College

 Data portal Interactive map of Victoria

> • Fun and interactive learning resources linked to the Victorian curriculum

• Chat forum (Billabong Banter)

Connecting online across the state by:

• Virtual learning sessions where students can 'Ask the Expert'

CONTACT

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