



Grass Patch & Salmon Gums Primary Schools sampling water macro-invertebrates at Roberts Swamp as part of the Mallee Schools River and Wetland Health Monitoring program



Esperance Primary School sampling water quality at Lake Wheatfield as part of the Lake Warden Wetlands Health Monitoring program

Educating The Next Generation

A program by South Coast NRM to promote bio-diversity education and awareness with schools in the eastern South Coast region.

Program Aims

- Help students and teachers to understand the impacts of human activity and climate change on biodiversity, wetlands and rivers.
- Engage students and teachers in a participative learning model that increases their understanding and interest in the local natural environment.
- Use student activities to seed community-wide interest in the local natural environment.
- To increase student interest in science by applying real science and maths in a local context.

Program Background

The eastern South Coast region has outstanding natural areas that make it a place of significance on a state, national and international scale. South Coast Natural Resource Managements' (NRM) Biodiversity Officer is working with school teachers and principles to develop programs specific for their school or class. The focus is to encourage students to scientifically investigate their local natural environment, and to set up long term monitoring projects for these areas.

In addition to South Coast NRM's Biodiversity Officer, students also receive guidance and practical tuition from local volunteer experts, local scientists, and other local NRM professionals. This helps to inspire students by learning from real people who use science in their everyday lives and are passionate about local natural environments.

Program Achievements

Since the program started in March 2008, more than 90% (15 schools) in the eastern South Coast region have become involved. Students have gained a genuine appreciation of the natural environment in their local area and a passion for science. Teachers have expressed outstanding benefits to their students and strong appreciation at having access to outside expertise to help in the delivery of the school science curriculum.

An Esperance Primary School PEAC class won a national Young Scientists Award and \$6000 of science equipment for their school. This award was in recognition for the scientific investigation the class carried out on the RAMSAR listed Lake Warden Wetlands as part of this program.



Esperance Primary School identifying water macro-invertebrates at Lake Windabout as part of the Lake Warden Wetlands Health Monitoring program



Esperance Primary School measuring native plant growth as part of the Biodiversity Climate Change Monitoring program



Esperance Senior High School Bush Rangers planting trees as part of the Lake Warden Recovery Catchment revegetation program



Our Lady Star of the Sea Primary School conducting a wetland health assessment at Lake Monjigup



CARING FOR OUR COUNTRY



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