



Condingup Primary School sampling water macro-invertebrates at the Beaumont Wetland



Grass Patch Primary School sampling water flow rate at the Lort River

## Mallee Schools River and Wetland Health Monitoring Program

A program by South Coast NRM to promote biodiversity education and awareness with primary schools in the Esperance Mallee.

Students from Esperance's seven mallee primary schools have been getting their hands dirty with some real science, taking to their local rivers and wetlands to monitor the environment.

Organised by South Coast Natural Resource Management's (NRM) Biodiversity Officer, students from Scaddan, Cascade, Munglinup, Grass Patch, Salmon Gums, Jerdacuttup and Condingup have participated in the program.

### The aim of the program was to:

- Help students and teachers gain a genuine appreciation of the natural environment in their local region.
- Help students and teachers understand the impact that humans can and are having, and what they can each do to protect their local natural areas.
- Increase students interest in science by applying real science and maths in a local context

Students measured everything from water quality to water macro-invertebrates, foreshore condition, native vegetation, weeds, animal and bird life. Real scientific monitoring equipment was used by all the students with help from real local scientists, which was a great way to get them excited about science and their environment.

Each of the schools discovered unique aspects of their river or wetland - from the 'Mungy fungi' on the Oldfield River, the 'Scadden Shrimp' in the Truslove wetland, the amazing Yates in the freshwater Roberts Swamp, the interesting bush on the Lort River, to the brilliant bird life at the Young River and 'invertebrate soup' in the Beaumont wetland.

Students from each school share monitoring results from their local wetland or river with the other mallee schools when they convene in Esperance for the annual mallee school camp.

This has been a very positive program which South Coast NRM hope to continue into the future.



Munglinup Primary School discovering fungi on the Oldfield River with local ecologist Andy Chapman



Cascade Primary School preparing to sample water quality on the Young River



Scaddan Primary School identifying a eucalyptus mallee at the Truslove Wetland Suite



Grass Patch and Salmon Gums Primary Schools identifying water macro-invertebrates at Roberts Swamp



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Program contact:  
Robyn Cail  
Biodiversity Project Officer East  
South Coast NRM  
Ph: 08 9076 2209 Mob: 0428 717 685