

Can YOU give this newsletter a name?



For more information see inside...

ISSUE No. 1 • AUGUST 2003

Welcome to the Waterwatch Newsletter!

Welcome to the very first edition of the Upper Parramatta River Catchment Trust's Waterwatch Newsletter. We are very excited to be able to bring this quarterly publication to all our Waterwatchers in the catchment.

This newsletter has been created to keep you all informed about what is happening within the catchment. Each edition will feature articles on you, tips and advice for Waterwatch and Waterwatch related projects and updates on other Trust projects.

This newsletter is for you, so if there is anything that you would like to see in here just con-

tact us at the Trust and we will do our best to have it in for the next newsletter.

In this edition we speak to Crestwood High School about solving murders, we jump across to Tara Junior and help them plant a few trees, and then pay a visit to the Sophia Doyle Bushcare Group.

So happy reading and keep Waterwatching!

Mathew Ferguson, Assistant Community Relations Officer



www.uprct.nsw.gov.au

Who are our Waterwatchers in the Catchment?

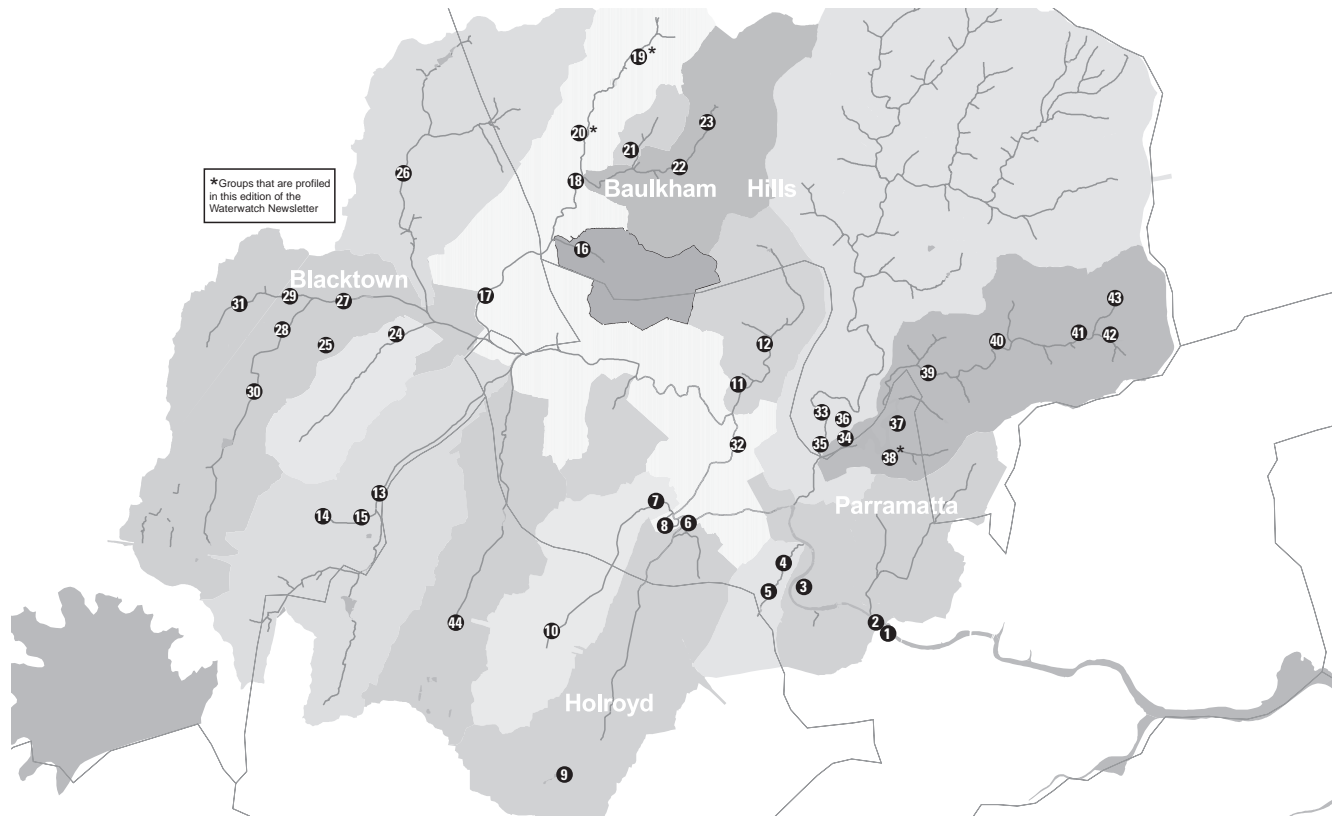
Currently there are 19 secondary schools, 11 primary schools and 4 community groups in the upper Parramatta River catchment participating in Waterwatch. This map shows you the location of each of the schools' testing sites.

Other than collecting water quality data, Waterwatch groups are also actively involved in all kinds of environmental programs such as Murder Under the Microscope, planting native vegetation along creek banks, cleaning up reserves and creeks on Clean-up Australia Day, drain stencilling and more.



UPPER PARRAMATTA RIVER
CATCHMENT TRUST

Waterwatch Groups	Testing Site	Map Ref.	Waterwatch Groups	Testing Site	Map Ref.
Macarthur Girls High School	Upper Parramatta River	1,2	Jasper Road Public School	Quarry Creek	22
Arthur Philip High School	Domain Creek, Upper Parramatta River	3,4,5	Baulkham Hills High School	Quarry Creek	23
Catherine McAuley Girls Westmead	Toongabbie Creek	6,7	Grantham High School	Grantham Creek	24, 25
Parramatta Marist High School	Finlayson Creek	8	Seven Hills High School	Lalor Creek	26
Cerdon College	Finlaysons Creek, Coopers Creek	9,10	Bert Oldfield Primary School	Blacktown Creek	27
Northmead Primary School	Quarry Branch Creek	11	Mitchell High School	Blacktown Creek	28, 29
Quarry Branch South Bushcare Group	Quarry Branch Creek	12	Blacktown South Primary School	Blacktown Creek	30
Girraween High School	Girraween Creek	13	Seven Hills Primary School	Blacktown Creek	31
Tyndale Christian School	Metella Creek	14	St. Monica Primary School	Darling Mills Creek	32
Metella Road Primary School	Girraween Creek	15	Northmead High School	Darling Mills Creek	33, 34, 35
Model Farms High School	Model Farms Creek	16	Tara Anglican School for Girls	Lake Parramatta	36, 37
Winston Hills Girl Guides	Toongabbie Creek	17	Tara Junior School	Lake Parramatta	38
Matthew Pearce Public School	Toongabbie Creek	18	Cumberland High School	Hunts Creek	39
Crestwood High School	Toongabbie Creek	19	Burnside Public School	Hunts Creek	40
Sophia Doyle Reserve Bushcare Group	Quarry Creek	20	The King's School	Hunts Creek	41, 42
Northwest Disabilities Services	Quarry Creek	21	James Ruse Agricultural High School	Hunts Creek	43
			Greystanes High School	Pendle Hill Creek	44



Learning from Lee

Hi, this is Lee Lau and I am the Water Quality Officer and regional Waterwatch Coordinator here at the Upper Parramatta River Catchment Trust. You would have seen me around the place; that's because I coordinate all kinds of Waterwatch activities within the catchment and am very often at your school.

Waterwatch is a great way to get involved in helping the environment.

It can assist you with both science and geography, and is an excellent way to get outdoors. Because of this, I really want to make sure that you all enjoy Waterwatch. In this column every edition I will give you a different tip on either testing or something related to Waterwatch. If there is anything specific that you want to know about, or need a hand with, please let me know. The best way to contact me is through email at llau@uprct.nsw.gov.au or on call me on 9891 4633.

Well that's all from me, I look forward to seeing you all out in the field, helping to Waterwatch!



Sophia Doyle Bushcare Group hard at work.

Sophia Doyle, not you're average Waterwatchers!

Usually Waterwatch groups are filled with sounds of laughter and the noise of school students. But when the Sophia Doyle Reserve Bushcare group in Baulkham Hills tests the water quality in Toongabbie Creek there are no students to be seen at all. This is because most of the group's members are either retired or concerned local residents wanting to do their bit for the environment. The Bushcare group was established in 1994 and has been an active Waterwatch group since January this year.

Every Thursday the Bushcare group meet to remove weeds, plant trees and complete the Waterwatch tests at the Reserve. They have reported two separate spills from upstream of the Reserve into Toongabbie Creek. They are currently working on a plan to remove all weeds from the southern side of Toongabbie Creek within Sophia Doyle Reserve.

Max Wehling, who is a member of the Bushcare group, said, "Many people want to be involved in Bushcare, but don't know where to go. We have so many of our members who are really happy that they can contribute to helping the environment."

The group meets every Saturday at the Sophia Doyle Reserve and they are always looking for more volunteers. If you are interested in joining a bushcare group, contact your local council.

Name this newsletter

By now you will have noticed that this newsletter doesn't actually have a name. That's because we thought, who better to name the newsletter than the people who are going to be reading it. So we are having a competition to see who can come up with the best name for the newsletter. Not only will the winner have their idea used for the name of this newsletter, but they will also receive a great Waterwatch shirt.

All you have to do is email in your idea for a name and contact details to Mathew at mferguson@uprct.nsw.gov.au or you can send them to PO Box 3720 Parramatta NSW 2124 by 27 September 2003. Please note that your contact details will only be used in conjunction with this competition.

Tara Junior winning over the environment

"The Environment is our Passion at Tara Junior". This was the statement made by Ms Vicki Bredin, Science Coordinator at Tara Junior School when Chairman of the Upper Parramatta River Catchment Trust announced the primary school in North Parramatta as the winner of the School/Education category in the 2003 Regional Environment Awards on Friday 6 June 2003. The Upper Parramatta River Catchment Trust sponsors the awards each year.

Tara Junior won the award for its innovative and comprehensive 'whole of school' approach to environmental education.

Tara students are able to get involved in creating environmental commercials, devel-

oping a vegetable garden, Waterwatch activities and tree planting around the schools grounds. Rhiannon Sier, a student at Tara Junior School, explained, "I love the tree planting because it means we can help the environment. It also makes our school look really nice too"

Other winners in the School Education category in the 2003 Regional Environment Awards for each local government area were: Girraween Public School in the Holroyd Council area; Granville East Public School in the Parramatta Council area and Parklea Public School in the Blacktown Council area.



Students at Tara Junior love the tree planting at their school.

So, what does the Upper Parramatta River Catchment Trust do?

The Trust was established in 1989. It works closely with local councils and the community to prevent flooding, re-establish riparian vegetation, improve water quality, promote sustainable water practices and educate the community about local environmental issues.



UPPER PARRAMATTA RIVER
CATCHMENT TRUST

Some of its projects have included constructing flood detention basins to reduce flooding, promoting innovative ways to store and re-use rainwater providing financial assistance to local councils and schools for bushland regeneration and, of course, coordinating Waterwatch in the catchment.

As well, the Trust has developed and given to all schools within the catchment copies of the catchment Environmental Education Kit. This has direct links to your class work so it can be used in both geography and science. For a copy, go to your school library, local library or visit the Trust's website www.uprct.nsw.gov.au and follow the links.


While on-line, see if you can create your own aerial map of your house or school using our GIS programs and heaps more.




Waterwatchers looking for bugs.



Junior Waterwatch students at a Waterwatch Open Day doing their part to help monitor our waterways.



Green Cash for Local Environmental Projects



UPPER PARRAMATTA RIVER
CATCHMENT TRUST

The Upper Parramatta River Catchment Trust is offering small cash grants – from a few hundred to several thousand dollars – to schools and community groups in the catchment for environmental projects that protect and improve native vegetation, bushland and habitat for native birds and animals.

If interested, please contact Jaki Edwards or Peter Morison at the Trust on (02) 9891 4633 or uprct@uprct.nsw.gov.au for an application form and further information. Applications are due by 29 August 2003.

A total of \$30,000 is available in the current financial year, with grants provided from October 2003.

Waterwatch, the new name for Streamwatch!

Streamwatch has taken on a new persona recently with the Upper Parramatta River Catchment Trust deciding to adopt the name Waterwatch. The program stays exactly the same, just the name changes. Waterwatch is the name that is used right around Australia through the national program. We will join school and community groups throughout the nation and regional NSW as Waterwatchers. So happy Waterwatching!



Murder Solved by Crestwood High

Students at Crestwood High School in Baulkham Hills could never have imagined that they would solve a murder in just 4 weeks, but they did, and they beat over 2,000 other schools from right across Australia too. The school recently participated, and won, the 2003 science-based Murder Under the Microscope competition.

This virtual eco-mystery competition has been run every year in June since 1995. Every week the schools receive a TV or internet broadcast, which provides them with clues and information about a fictitious environmental crime that has occurred. The schools then need to compile all the information they receive and submit their answers, along with a report online.

The Upper Parramatta River Catchment Trust congratulates Crestwood High School for its outstanding effort in winning this year's Murder Under the Microscope competition. Well done!



Crestwood High School, "We are the champions, Yeah!"

Ask Lee

Each edition we will feature **FAQ** that you may have about Waterwatch or the Trust. Considering that this is the first edition we thought that we would ask them for you. We interviewed **Lee Lau**, the Trust's **Water Quality Officer** and **Waterwatch Coordinator**.

Name: **Lee Lau**

Job: **Water Quality Officer and Waterwatch Coordinator at the Upper Parramatta River Catchment Trust**

How long have you been involved with Waterwatch? About five years, I started with the Trust shortly after I have finished my Masters Degree in Environmental Biology at the University of Technology, Sydney.

Favourite Waterwatch memory: The day that I trained the young people from the Northwest Disabilities Centre at Baulkham Hills earlier this year. I found that everybody was trying to do their best for the community and environment, and that's all we can ask for.

Anything else you want to say? In 2003 the Waterwatch program has moved even closer to the community. Waterwatch members now range from Year 2 primary School Students to Seventy-year-old bushcare members. It's a great success story for the residents in Upper Parramatta River Catchment.

Contact Us

For more information about Waterwatch or water testing please contact:

Lee Lau
Water Quality Officer
Upper Parramatta River Catchment Trust
Email: llau@uprct.nsw.gov.au
Tel: 9891 4633
Fax: 9689 2537
or visit our website at uprct.nsw.gov.au

If you need a hand in promoting your Waterwatch group, have an idea for a story or a question for the newsletter, or if you would like to receive this newsletter via email please contact:

Mathew Ferguson
Assistant Community Relations Officer
Upper Parramatta River Catchment Trust
Email: mferguson@uprct.nsw.gov.au
Tel: 9891 4633
Fax: 9689 2537

PO Box 3720
Parramatta NSW 2124

