

North Central Waterwatch Story of Change

Keith Neaves 2022



Our most consistent monitor, except in February

Keith Neaves is a Waterwatch volunteer and regularly monitors water quality at his site on Campbells Creek, near Castlemaine.

Keith said his interest in the site was initially sparked during daily walks crossing the bridge over Campbells Creek near his home.

"The site is just downstream of the Castlemaine Water Reclamation Plant. I used to work at Lower Murray Water as Manager of Environmental Services, so naturally I was interested in the water quality of my local creek," Keith said.

Keith heard about the Waterwatch program and thought being involved could be one way to learn more about the site,

"I contacted staff at the North Central CMA to enquire if I could become a Waterwatch monitor, and they gave me a testing kit to keep an eye on the water quality in the creek."

When asked about the impact the program Keith said volunteering has given him something to do in an area of his interest.

"I retired 11 years ago and found that difficult, with not a lot to do with my time. I like volunteering. It's good for me and for the organisation that I am volunteering for. It's important for me to have a positive contribution to our community," he said.

Keith also volunteers at Castlemaine Health, the local Animal Welfare Shelter and for the Friends of Campbells Creek.

Keith said not a lot has changed since he started monitoring water quality at the site seven years ago.

"The site had already been revegetated by the Friends of Campbells Creek; the only change I really see is in the water quality after a heavy rain event. There is a constant flow from the wastewater treatment plant, so that keeps it fairly consistent. There is a resident platypus population too, although I am yet to see one."

Keith is proud of his consistent record and laughed while recalling why he has only missed one month out of seven years' worth of monthly testing.

"The first time I ever tested it was the 29th day of the month, so I just popped a recurring calendar event in my phone to remind me to do it on the 29th of each month. You can guess which month I missed, so I've changed my phone reminder to the 27th of each month," said Keith.

Well done Keith on being our most consistent Waterwatch monitor. Keep up the great work. We hope you get to see that elusive platypus one day soon!



Keith collecting a water sample at his site on Campbells Creek