

North Central River Detectives Program Summary



River Detectives is an exciting education initiative inspiring teachers and students to understand, appreciate and care for their local waterway through engaging, cross-curricular, citizen-science activities.

River Detectives - what's involved;

- The program is FREE
- Registered schools/groups are supported by a regional River Detectives facilitator
- Participants 'adopt' a site on a local waterway
- A water quality monitoring kit is provided
- Professional development sessions provided to support implementation the program
- Students monitor water quality and enter results and observations online
- Class webinars offered on a range of topics
- Annual incursion for each school with content, date, time, location, audience and delivery method negotiable
- Access to website full of ideas, inspiration and resources; videos, posters, activity & fact sheets, maps and links
- Interactive online blog provided via 'Billabong Banter' on the program website
- Connect and share with River Detectives schools/colleagues in your region or across the state
- Invitations to special events
- Annual online summit for staff statewide

River Detectives - extremely flexible;

- Suitable for primary/secondary, small groups/whole class, one class/many classes
- Can be facilitated by a teacher, parent, Landcare / community member (with Working With Children's check etc)
- Adopted waterway can be a river, stream, wetland, lake, urban/rural, permanent/ephemeral
- Testing can be done onsite or at school with a sample collected from your waterway
- Water quality monitoring can be a springboard for further learning. Explore a variety of waterway-related topics and add meaning to your data by using some of the online resources.
- The program is science/sustainability-based but has many cross-curricular links

River Detectives - many valuable learning opportunities;

- Skills and knowledge in science, maths, literacy, humanities, sustainability, art
- Monthly testing for pH, salinity, turbidity, phosphorus and temperature
- Learn about river health, waterways, catchments, water science, flora, fauna, urban stormwater, litter, erosion, land management, life/water cycles, ecosystems, Aboriginal culture . . .
- Provides real-life contexts for learning using real data from your local environment
- Provides opportunities for your students to become environmental leaders / custodians / changemakers and educate your school / wider community about the importance of waterway health
- Fantastic opportunities to link with community groups and participate in hands-on environmental work
- Lends itself strongly to strengthening community links ie. learn about the history of your waterway, hear stories from older residents about the life and times of your waterway (droughts, floods, recreation), connect with Traditional Owners to learn about Culture
- Ties in with other initiatives such as Clean Up Australia Day, National Tree Day, Science Week, Water Week, ResourceSmart, etc

Take a look at the website www.riverdetectives.net.au to get a feel for the program and if you're interested in finding out more please get in touch with us to chat about how the program could work for you.

The River Detectives program is made possible through funding received from Kirkland Lake Gold's Community Participation Program