

## River Detectives Program Summary

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

### River Detectives - what's involved;

- Program is FREE
- Registered schools/groups are supported by a regional River Detectives coordinator
- Participants 'adopt' a site on a local waterway and commit to investigating an issue
- Water quality monitoring kit provided
- Professional development sessions support teachers to implement the program
- Students conduct citizen-science activities and enter results and observations online
- Online learning sessions offered to classes on a range of topics
- Annual 1hr incursion for each school (content, timing, location, audience, delivery method negotiable)
- Access to website full of ideas, inspiration and resources; videos, posters, activity & fact sheets, maps, planning templates, links and more [www.riverdetectives.net.au](http://www.riverdetectives.net.au)
- Interactive online blog provided via 'Billabong Banter' tab 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 (WWC check required)
- Adopted waterway can be a river, creek, wetland, lake, urban/rural, permanent/ephemeral
- Testing can be done onsite or at school with a sample collected from your waterway
- Water quality monitoring is 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 practical 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 catchment 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, National Water Week, ResourceSmart, Great Australian Platypus Search, etc

Take a look at the website [www.riverdetectives.net.au](http://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. [riverdetectives@nccma.vic.gov.au](mailto:riverdetectives@nccma.vic.gov.au)