



Waterways Local Update 2016-17

Melbourne Water's work to improve waterways and provide flood protection in the **Shire of Mornington Peninsula**.



62
VOLUNTEERS PROVIDED
US WITH RAINFALL DATA



84.2 km
WEED CONTROL
ALONG WATERWAYS



\$1.208 m
IN COMMUNITY
FUNDING

Melbourne Water makes a vital contribution to the famous Melbourne lifestyle by underpinning human health, enhancing community well-being, supporting economic growth and balancing the natural and man-made environment.

Together with our partners, we look after 8,400 km of rivers and creeks, 428 wetland treatment systems and more than 1,400 km of regional drainage systems in the Port Phillip and Westernport region. This work is funded by the Waterways and Drainage Charge, which is paid by property owners and collected by retail water companies on our behalf.

Melbourne Water cares for many waterways. Some in your local area include:

- Balcombe Creek
- Chinamans Creek
- Stony Creek
- Dunns Creek
- Manton Creek
- Merricks Creek
- Drum Alloc Creek
- Main Creek

Healthy waterways

Maintenance and new projects

Each year we create and maintain healthy waterways by removing litter, debris and excess sediment. We remove and spray weeds, cut grass and plant native trees and shrubs.

What we have done

Why

13.2 km Revegetation

We plant native trees and shrubs along waterways to provide habitat for birds and animals. Revegetating waterways and replacing weeds with native plants prevents erosion and improves water quality.

84.2 km Weed control

Introduced and noxious weeds can choke waterways and take over from plants that provide healthy habitats for birds and animals.

92.5 m³ Sediment, silt, litter, debris removal

Silt, sediment, litter and debris is removed for drainage and flood protection, and to prevent pollution building up in our waterways and wetlands. An excess of these can impact the habitat for platypus, fish and other animals, as well as native plants.

Undertook works along Chinamans Creek at Tootgarook Wetland

These works protect and enhance the condition of the vegetation and aquatic habitat within the highly valued Tootgarook Wetlands.

Stormwater

We work closely with Council and local communities to better manage stormwater to protect the environment, provide alternative water sources and improve the stormwater that flows into local waterways.

What we have done

Why

Through the Clearwater program, we supported Council to take a whole-of-water approach by providing a wide range of tools and resources, and opportunities to participate in a variety of activities

This work helps to improve skills, increase knowledge and foster better networks across councils to change the way we manage water for healthy, connected communities.

Living Rivers provided funding for the design of a bioinfiltration basin in Rye

The bioinfiltration basin will treat stormwater and reduce pollution entering Port Phillip Bay, as well as provide an opportunity to educate the community on the impacts of stormwater on our waterways.

Living Rivers supported the installation of water sensitive urban design features in Flinders as part of road and drainage upgrades

The streetscape swales and raingardens will treat stormwater and reduce the amount of pollution entering Westernport.



Through our Living Rivers program, we worked with Council and contributed \$150,000 to projects that assist waterway health and create sustainable stormwater management solutions in your area.

Find out more at melbournwater.com.au/livingrivers

Monitoring and research

We regularly undertake extensive monitoring, investigations and research to help us better understand how we can improve local waterways.

What we have done

Undertook monthly monitoring of water quality at 10 sites within your area. These tests measure:

- water temperature
- dissolved oxygen
- salinity (conductivity)
- pH level
- nutrients (nitrate, nitrite, ammonia, Kjeldahl nitrogen, soluble reactive phosphorus and total phosphorus)
- indicators of faecal contamination (*E. coli*)
- metals (arsenic, cadmium, chromium, copper, lead, nickel and zinc)

Why

Our water quality monitoring program is designed to assess broad-scale, long-term trends in water quality (typically over 8 -10 years). We use this data to help identify pollution sources and inform the community about local water quality.

Monitored sediment at Balcombe Creek, and Merricks River and Balcombe Creek estuaries

We monitored sediment to improve our knowledge of contaminants and help guide our management of waterways.

Planning for future development

We plan for future development to ensure growing communities do not threaten local waterways. We provide advice and assist new developments to ensure they do not increase flood risk.

What we have done

Why

226 referrals for land subdivisions reviewed

To ensure proposed land subdivisions meet current standards for drainage and stormwater quality.

419 development applications reviewed

To ensure that growing communities don't contribute to an increase in flood risk.

355 flood information requests reviewed

To provide flood information to property owners and people interested in purchasing or redeveloping property.

17 applications for works near Melbourne Water assets and works such as bridges, shared pathways and jetties reviewed

To ensure waterways, and the plants and animals that live there, are protected from the potential impacts of building works.

15 stormwater connection applications reviewed

To ensure waterways and the plants and animals that live there, are protected from the potential impacts of construction works.

Flood protection

While floods are natural and we can't stop them all from occurring, we aim to minimise the damage they cause to people, places and communities.

We manage the regional drainage system and work with Council, the Victorian State Emergency Service, the Bureau of Meteorology, property owners and developers to make sure flood information is up to date. We provide flood warning services, prepare flood response plans, and identify and construct new flood protection projects in areas with the greatest need.

What we have done

Why

Undertook work to investigate and design a flood barrier at Chinamans Creek, near Muir Court

The work helps reduce flooding to homes in Muir Court, Rosebud West.

Completed the mapping of floods in the Manton Creek area

Mapping updates our knowledge of flooding and helps us better manage drains, assess flood risk in catchments and assist in planning scheme overlays.

Continued collecting hydrological data

Data is used to analyse flood warning during emergency situations, as well as for such things as development referrals and projects to reduce the risk of flood.



62 volunteers in your area provide us with rainfall data by recording information from a rain gauge in their backyard. These figures and the data from our automated gauges provides us with valuable rainfall information.

Find out more at melbournewater.com.au/communityrainreaders

Working with the community

The involvement of community groups, volunteers, land managers and farmers supports our management of local waterways and regional drainage systems. If you'd like more information about funding opportunities, please call 131 722 or email river.health@melbournewater.com.au

Funding provided

Grant

For

\$575,701

Stream Frontage Management

Private land owners and managers for works that protect or enhance riverbanks, such as weed control, fencing and planting native trees.

\$101,608

Community Grants

Volunteer and community groups for works that protect or enhance riverbanks on public land, raise awareness, and provide training and education to protect local waterways.

\$381,044

Corridors of Green

Councils and public land managers for projects such as weed control, fencing and creating management plans.

We also worked with the local community on several events and initiatives throughout the year.

Who we worked with

Balcombe Estuary Reserves Group
Friends of Daangean
Friends of Endeavour Fern Gully
Friends of Warringine Creek
Main Creek Landcare
Manton and Stony Creek Landcare
Sunshine Reserve Conservation and Fireguard
Tanti Creek Friends
Merricks Estuary Watch Group

What we did

Provided water quality monitoring support to all groups through the Water Quality Monitoring program.

Community

Presented at Science in the Park: Wildlife Counts on the local frogs and actions the community can take to protect them, and hosted Waterbug Census monitoring sessions at Tuerong Creek and Balcombe Creek.

Mornington Peninsula Landcare Network

Held a frog display at the Red Hill Show.

Balnarring Scouts

Presented a session on the Frog Census, local frog species and actions the community can take to assist with conservation.



Our Space Your Space is an app that helps you find land managed by Melbourne Water that you can use for community projects, such as community gardens. We encourage communities to apply to use the land.

Find out more at melbournewater.com.au/ourspaceyourplace or call 131 722.



Waterwatch is a citizen science program that encourages communities to monitor platypus, frogs, waterbugs and water quality in their local river or creeks. We empower our volunteers to collect data, protect the waterways environment and share their knowledge.

Find out more at melbournewater.com.au/waterwatch or call 131 722.