

# MEDIA RELEASE



Tuesday, September 06, 2011

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## **Cold weather, but water a hot topic!**

Thirty one students from Poowong, Loch, Nyora, Korumburra, and Saint Josephs Primary schools as well as the Korumburra Secondary Collage have recently taken part in the annual 'Water Aware' forum held at Coal Creek.

While good winter rains have seen all reservoirs across South Gippsland reach 100% this year, climatic patterns are changing and it is important to have an understanding of this vital natural resource.

Supported by South Gippsland Water and the Smart Water Fund, now in its sixth year the program focuses on all aspects of water within the local area.

Students attend the forum for two days and take part in tours to Coalition Creek Reservoir, Korumburra Water Treatment Plant and Korumburra Waste Water Treatment Plant. Speakers included Nicole Russell from WaterWatch who gave the students a hands-on overview of what effects catchment areas. The students also heard from a number of South Gippsland Water staff; Kerry Matthews, Fresh Water Ecologist gave students an idea of the macro and micro organisms found within our waterways. Ros Griggs spoke to students on what they can do to live more sustainably and Graeme Jackson gave the students an overview of water in South Gippsland.

After two days the students now have the whole picture of where water comes from, who uses it in the community, and where it goes.

Now the hard work must begin with students completing a project based around one of the areas they have learnt about. The projects will be presented to the schools and community members at an evening on Monday September 5th 2011.

For all enquiries contact Amy Love, Community Relations Coordinator at South Gippsland Water on 5682 0418.

Photos –

- 1) Water Aware students visit Glenn McLaverty, Plant Operator Korumburra Wastewater Treatment Plant
- 2) Students at Korumburra Water Treatment Plant and 3) Coalition Creek Reservoir
- 4) Kerry Matthews, Fresh Water Ecologist is a guest speaker at Coal Creek Heritage Village

