



# Litter Trackers

## Reducing litter through education

Dr. Jackie Myers & Monica Tewman (RMIT)

2022 State-wide River Detectives On line Summit 13 September 2022





# The Litter Trackers





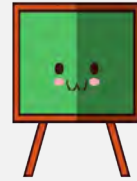
# Achievements for Litter trackers

Raise  
Community  
Awareness



**>30,000** on social media  
**20** press and web articles  
**~600** participants

Educational  
Program



**23** participating schools  
CCMA River Detectives activities  
BCN Litter education activities  
Melbourne Water litter education resources on line

Engagement



**13** councils  
**22** community groups

Improve  
understanding



**20** maps  
**4** animation videos

# How do the litter trackers work?

## GPS device



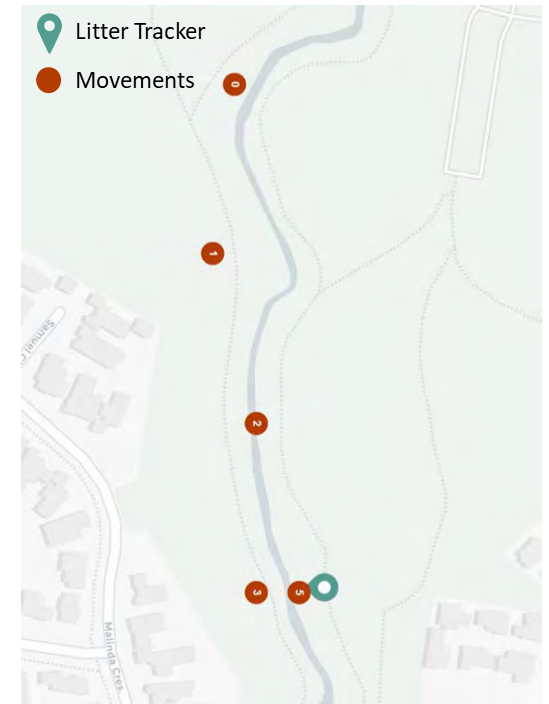
## Launched into Waterway



## GPS Satellites



## Daily tracking



**Litter Trackers webpage**  
[www.rmit.edu.au/littertrackers](http://www.rmit.edu.au/littertrackers)



Follow our Litter Trackers and their journeys

Click the button below to follow the journey of litter.

Track litter

[www.rmit.edu.au/littertrackers](http://www.rmit.edu.au/littertrackers)

Litter Trackers

Search...

Follow our Litter Trackers

- Barwon River GHS 1
- Barwon River GHS 2
- Barwon River GHS 3
- Distance: 1.27 km  
Launch Date: 25/08/2022 07:57:32
- Barwon River NBC 1
- Barwon River NBC 2
- Barwon River NBC 3
- Barwon River St Josephs 1
- Barwon River St Josephs 2
- Barwon River St Josephs 3
- Barwon River St Josephs 4
- Barwon River St Josephs 5
- Cowies Creek 1
- Cowies Creek 2
- Cowies Creek 3
- Cowies Creek 4
- Cowies Creek 5



Instructions:

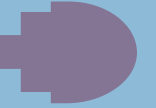
Click on a tracker to see its journey. Red numbered circles show the starting point (0) and







[www.rmit.edu.au/littertrackers](http://www.rmit.edu.au/littertrackers)



## Litter Education Page

<https://www.rmit.edu.au/about/schools-colleges/science/research/research-centres-groups/aquatic-environmental-stress/litter-trackers>

### Litter Education Materials for Schools



Puddles the platypus

Foundation – Year 2

[Download >](#)



Stormwater story

Years 3 – 4

[Download >](#)



Melbourne Water Litter  
Education

Years 3 - 6

[Download >](#)



Melbourne Water Litter  
Education

Years 7 - 10

[Download >](#)

# What can the litter trackers tell us?



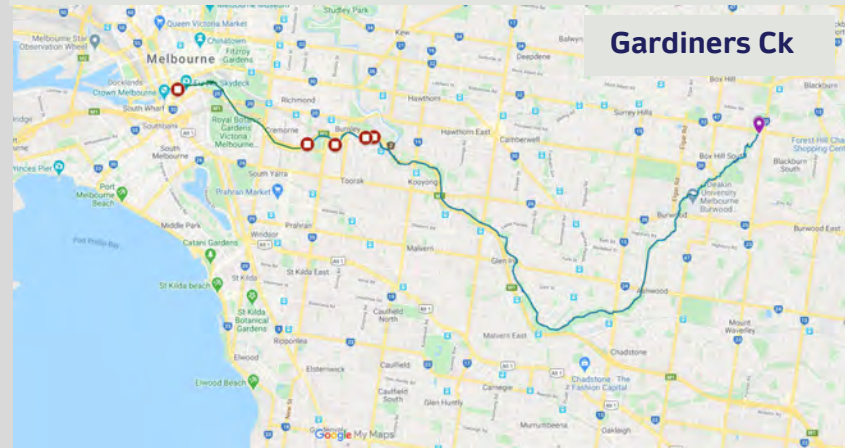
## Distance travelled



Longest **68 km** to Safety Beach

Shortest **0.23km** in Balcombe Creek

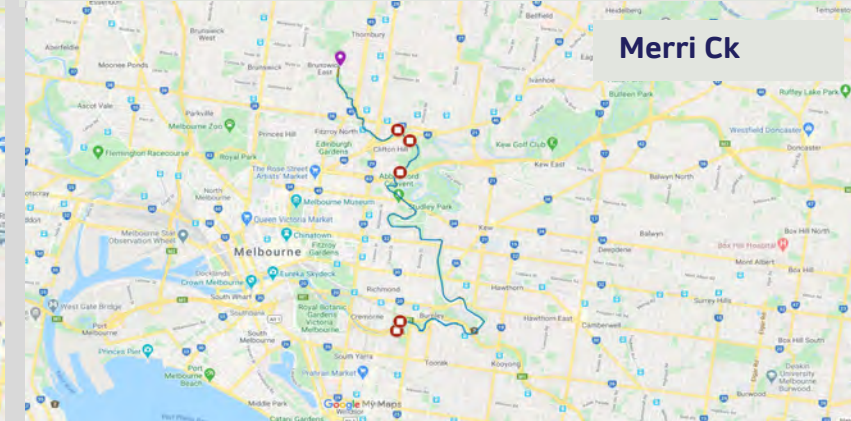
## Downstream transport



All bottles in the Yarra  
4 in litter traps

Effectiveness of litter traps

## Persistence in waterways



2 bottles in the Yarra  
1 at Herring Island  
1 in a litter trap

Trapped along banks







*"This is the best excursion we've ever had"*

St Therese Grade 6 student, proclaimed on site, 7 Sep 2022

*"Thanks so much for having us attend today. The students enjoyed the activities that were presented to them, particularly the invertebrate search."*

*I know a lot of organisation goes into one of these events and as such it ran really smoothly.*

*The girls loved having their photo taken with the minister!"*

Northern Bay College teacher, Kim Baranowski, Aug 2022



# What can we provide?



## Self launch:

- Bottles provided
- Follow journey via mapping on line



## RMIT staff assisted on site bottle launch

Individual Litter & Waterway health related activities



## Full program

- RMIT staff assisted bottle launch release and
- Litter & Waterway health related activities



The Aquatic Environmental Stress Research Group identify and address the ecological impacts of pollution in aquatic environments

<http://www.rmit.edu.au/aquest>

**For more information contact:**

[monica.tewman@rmit.edu.au](mailto:monica.tewman@rmit.edu.au)

**9925 9587**

[www.rmit.edu.au/littertrackers](http://www.rmit.edu.au/littertrackers)

**What's next...**