



22 March 2021

#WorldWaterDay event shines spotlight on water in Fitzroy region. What does water mean to you?

According to the World Health Organisation at least 2 billion people use a drinking water source contaminated by faeces, and by 2025 half of the world's population will be living in water-stressed areas.

In the Fitzroy Basin, we have almost 20,000kms of waterways and waterway health reporting over nine years shows a remarkably resilient river system averaging a B grade for ecosystem health from 2011 – 2019, with A grade drinking water across the Rockhampton and Central Highlands Council areas included in the reporting.

In celebration of World Water Day on 22 March, Fitzroy Partnership for River Health held an event to sample and test a local waterway and shine a spotlight on how important healthy water is to our local communities, our livelihoods, our health and our recreation.

Held at Kershaw Gardens on Saturday 20 March 2021 visitors and families took part in a range of fun activities – checking out what local water bugs were lurking in their local waterway, taking a selfie with Mindi the Barramundi, playing our large Maisey the Mayfly game and telling us how important water is to them in their home and family life, livelihood, culture and local environment - #Water2Me?

Fitzroy Partnership for River Health Executive Officer, Dr. Leigh Stitz said 2020 had put a halt to many community events, but the Fitzroy Partnership team were excited to finally be able to engage with the community for their first 2021 World Water Day event to talk to community members about the importance of healthy waterways.

“Since 2012 we have produced nine annual report cards on the health of the Fitzroy Basin’s waterways and World Water Day was a perfect time to highlight the condition of our local waterways and talk to people about why it’s so important to have independent assessment and monitoring of the eleven catchments and the estuarine zone in the Fitzroy Basin,” Dr Stitz said.

“These waterway health report cards only exist because a committed collective of government, industry, research organisations and the community are working together to provide a more complete picture of river health,” she said.

“Our partners contribute data and funding, which enables us to work with our Independent Science Panel to produce an open and transparent, annual assessment on waterway health.

Overall the Fitzroy Basin received a B grade in the most recent report card, indicating that waterways were in a good condition. Grades for the 11 catchments within the Fitzroy Basin and the estuary are available at <https://riverhealth.org.au/report-cards/> and the Partnership is looking forward to releasing its tenth report card in August 2021.

We encourage community members to follow our journey on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/FitzroyPartnership4RiverHealth> and take an interest in the condition of our local waterways and the environment. Find out more about World Water Day at <https://www.worldwaterday.org/>

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