Waterwatch

2018 Water Quality Site Summary

Objectives

- Create a longitudinal data set of water quality
- Gather data on the potential effects the drain just downstream of the creek site is having on the water quality of Darebin Creek
- Reporting to the EPA major pollutants that have resulted in historical fish kills.

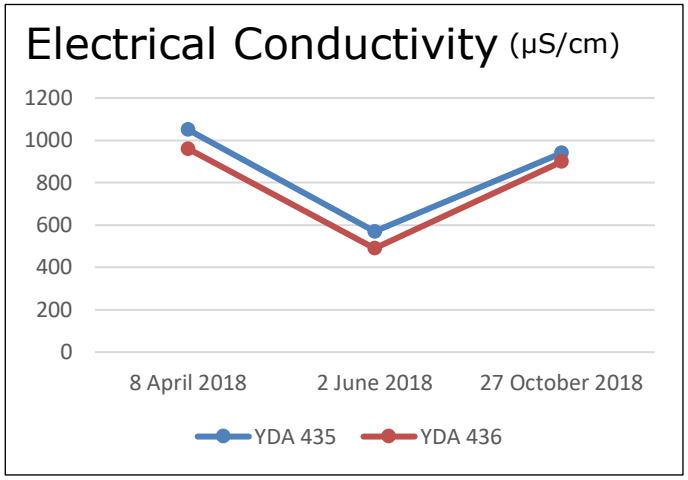
Monthly Parameters

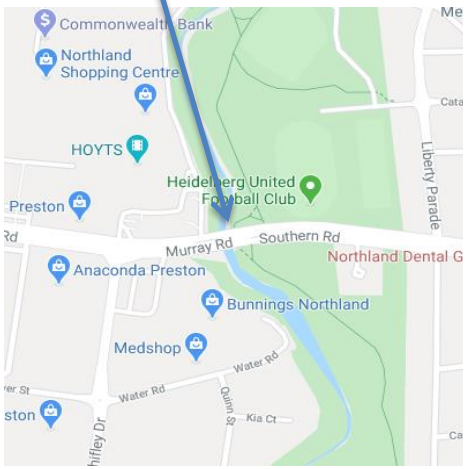
- Temperature
- Dissolved Oxygen
- pH
- Electrical Conductivity (salinity)
- Turbidity (muddiness)
- Reactive Phosphate
- Ammonium

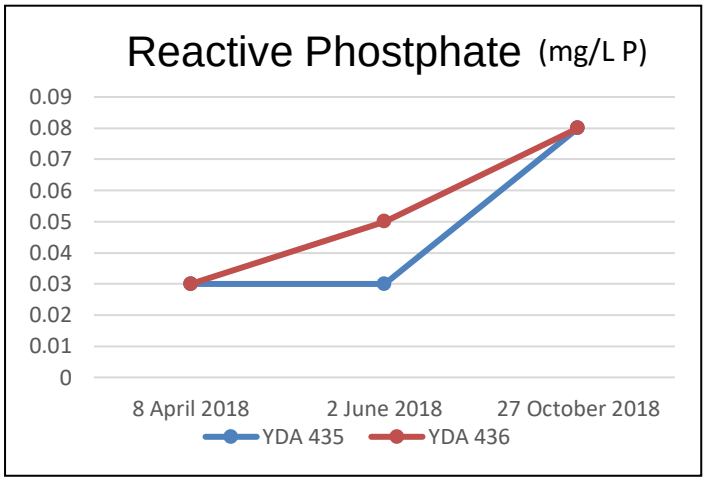
To look at further water quality data for this site and others, visit the Waterwatch online database

Site Name and Description

ME_YDA435 Darebin Creek, upstream Murray Road/Southern Road bridge, Preston/Heidelberg Heights.
Monitors: Ebina Siby and Irena Casserati







Site Introduction

This site often sees polluted water coming through the stormwater system. Previous events have involved high turbidity (sediment), detergents and pesticides. These events have sometimes caused fish kills. We also monitor slightly downstream, at the stormwater drain to allow for a comparison of the two sites in an attempt to discern the effect of the stormwater drain on this section of Darebin Creek.

Summary

Please refer to the YDA436 2018 Water Quality Site Summary for further information about the stormwater drain slightly downstream of the creek.

Sites YDA435 and YDA436 were monitored three times in 2018.

Electrical conductivity (salinity) is generally quite high in the Darebin Creek with an average of 791µs/cm at the two sites over the past 18 years. All measurements taken in the stormwater drain in 2018 were lower than the creek, suggesting a dilution effect from the stormwater drain.

Reactive phosphate fluctuated between 0.03 and 0.08. In June the amount of reative phosphate after the stormwater drain was 0.02 mg/L higher than the creek.

Turbidity was 9 NTU for every reading taken at both YDA435 and YDA436.

Interestingly, at least for the parameters we are testing, for most visits, the stormwater drain is not adding pollution to the creek.