

Wildlife Preservation Society of Australia helps Kelso High Waterwatch group recover from school fire

A group of environmentally-minded students from Kelso High School are continuing their good work, despite the loss of their equipment, and their school buildings, in a recent fire thanks to the generosity of our Society.

When Kelso High School was burned to the ground in August, the school's Waterwatch Group, led by Teacher Phillip Warner, lost their chemicals, dip nets and water sampling equipment. The sampling equipment included meters for measuring the pH, temperature and oxygen content of streams. The group of around 18 students regularly monitors water quality in five streams in the Bathurst area, providing their results to the City Council for use in environmental management.

The students have also been involved in a linkage program with many of the local Primary Schools, where they have visited to teach younger pupils about Waterwatch and water conservation.

The Society learned of Kelso High Waterwatch Group's loss and has donated funds to assist in the replacement of their equipment.

Teacher Phillip Warner initially feared that the loss of the equipment would spell the end of the group's valuable work. However, thanks to Waterwatch NSW and our Society, new equipment and chemicals are being provided to the group.

Our Society is enthusiastic to support the students to continue stream monitoring, as well as a range of other activities including tree planting and attending environmental conferences.

"The fire certainly devastated everyone," Mr Warner said. "It is uplifting to know that there are people and groups who do care. Today with all the support that we have received, the future is looking good. I am now looking forward to getting back with the kids so that we can continue with our Waterwatch program."



Kelso High Waterwatch group undergoing a training session for the use of the new Waterwatch kit