

Volunteer Role Description

Position	Clean Creek Project Team Members
Portfolio	GeckoEd
Supervisor/Mentor	Dereka Ogden

Purpose of the role:

This project is a collaboration between Gecko Environment Council and Surfrider Foundation and is designed to measure the health of three creeks initially in the southern Gold Coast on a regular basis. The health of a creek is assessed by sampling the water and measuring the number and type of macro-invertebrates (water bugs) and some characteristics of water such as dissolved oxygen.

Tasks and duties:

Macro-Invertebrate sampling consists of using a net to collect bugs as a volunteer disturbs a length of the creek bed, so dislodging bugs from their habitat. This sample is then placed in a tray for identification and an identification manual used. The frequency and type of water bugs in the sample are used to calculate a score that indicates the pollution level of the stream. As some Macro-Invertebrates are less resistant to pollutants, their presence or absence will indicate stream health. All results are shared with Gold Coast City Council who will take appropriate action against any creek pollution. Sampling takes approximately one hour.

Duties as a water testing volunteer will involve:

Working in a team collecting Macro-Invertebrate or 'Water Bug' samples and sampling water for temperature, pH and other physical and chemical water qualities four times a year, at a creek location you are assigned to in Currumbin, Flat Rock Creek, Coolangatta or Tallebudgera Creek. All training and equipment is provided.

Estimated hours: 2 hours a week

Required or desired skills:

Volunteers are needed and welcomed to ensure the success of the project. Training and support is provided and in return we ask that you have an ability to commit training and to sample testing several times a year. The project will be reviewed at the end of the first year of operation.

The project is supported by Gold Coast Council Catchment Management Officers.