

KESAB PATAWALONGA AND TORRENS WATERWATCH ON-LINE RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

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In this age of dwindling resources (mostly financial) and increasing demand, it is getting harder and harder to support all teachers requesting assistance. However, hope does lie in our ability to reach wide audiences through the use of the internet.

This presentation demonstrates some of the recent resources produced by KESAB Patawalonga and Torrens Waterwatch. These resources are designed to enable teachers to undertake their own activities, with minimal additional input from Waterwatch staff.

BACKGROUND

Before we had our own website, KESAB Patawalonga and Torrens Waterwatch produced a folder of resources that was sent out to all schools in our catchment areas. It was our intention to then post out updates of sections when they were made so that teachers could replace the older versions in their folders.

We found a number of problems with this process, chiefly:

- the cost of production and distribution of materials and updates to all schools
- the logistics of producing and distributing the updates
- the inability to track the use of updates and ensure newer versions would be used
- ensuring that resources were still available to a school if a teacher left.

With the development of our website (www.cwmb.sa.gov.au/kwc), and its continual improvements, we are able to reduce these problems. We have reduced publication and distribution costs by only posting out resources and updates when they are requested – we try to direct teachers to download them from the website, where possible.

Updates can be made and uploaded to the internet very quickly, so that the newest versions are always available. Although we cannot guarantee that the new versions are being used by the teachers, we can track the number of times the documents are accessed and downloaded. As the documents remain on the website until they are superseded, resources are always available to schools and any teacher can have his/her own copy of them.

In addition, the website allows us to produce a range of different resources and activities that would be hard to deliver in a standard hardcopy format. The website acts as a storehouse where interested visitors can access information about our program and all of our sessions (including curriculum resources, newsletters, feedback and water quality results) and use our interactive activities, worksheets and other information.

RECENT UPDATES

We have recently been through the process of updating our entire website. This has involved ensuring all pages have the same style and format (text, links, graphics etc). In most cases, language is at an upper primary school level, unless specific resources demand otherwise – eg secondary school activities etc.