

Monthly Waterwatch Report, March/April 2010

Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Improvement (MERI):

Catchment Health Indicators Data collected and recorded:

Data bank up to date and submitted to February 2010. Data collected for 3 sites for February and March. There is an increase in the number of groups undertaking signal 2 score and RARC evaluations of their sites. This all will form an important part of the 'CHiPs' evaluation system when it comes on line.

Monitor key indicator species:

Waterwatch groups in our region continue to submit information on species sightings as part of their valuable water monitoring efforts. There is a continued growth in groups conducting macroinvertebrate surveys and submitting the associated 'signal 2 scores' with their data on a regular basis.

Community skills, knowledge and engagement:

○ Support access to knowledge and skills

Field days:

Attended erosion works tour on Mt Painter with consultant David Tongway (3/3/10). D. Tongway's Ecosystem Function Analysis Training looks invaluable for planning erosion control programs. Contact details obtained.

Assisted in the UMCCC's field day to Namadgi NP showcasing GBRG's extensive efforts in the region (10/3/10).

Attended GPS system training hosted by Molonglo Catchment Group and PCL (14/4/10). Now able to make full use of our GPS unit.

Public events:

Staffed Combined Catchment Group's stall at 'Festival of the Forests' (14/3/10).

Staffed SACTCG stall at Farrer Primary School's 'Environment Fair' (27/3/10).

Distributed request for comment to volunteers, received and provided feedback to, and represented SACTCG at, 'Water for the Future' Initiative forum hosted by federal government officials (1/4/10).

Represented the SACTCG at the Murry-Darling Basin Authority's stakeholder forum on 'Sustainable Diversion Limits' for the basin's waterways (7/4/10).

Appeared on 2XX Radio Landcare (20/4/10).

Volunteer training:

Provided 2 X Waterwatch training sessions to new Lion's Youth Haven person.

Provided 3 X Waterwatch training sessions to new person monitoring Lake Tuggeranong.

Organised venue for ACT Waterwatch 'Turtle Talk' evening training (1/4/10).

Assisted in the delivery of 'Algae Workshop' training afternoon for WW volunteers at the Molonglo CG office (17/4/10).

Finalised logistics for 'Turtle Talk' presentation (27/4/10).

Projects developed/assisted:

Attended 2 X UMCCC meetings (24/2/10 & 14/4/10).

Attended Conservation Council meeting on lower Molonglo development proposals (24/2/10).

Attended 2 X Waterwatch Coordinators meetings (16/2/10 & 17/4/10)
Assisted Calwell HS with Yr9 'Exhibitions Program' by attending as a community representative at the 'round table' assessment sessions (6/4/10).

- **Increase youth volunteer involvement in NRM:**

Holiday Programs Delivered:

(none this period)

Educational programs delivered:

(See Water Education Officer report for this month)

- **Support community groups and build capacity:**

Groups supported:

Sought advice from Dr Skinner on algae samples taken from Lake Tuggeranong and 'Bumalong' Homestead (NSW). Provided feedback to homestead owners.

Provided equipment and support to WW team monitoring Gudgenby/Naas Rivers (30/3/10).

Along with the 'Bidgee Blue' WW group, assisted 'Tharwa Art Shed' WW group with macroinvertebrate and RARC monitoring (16/4/10).

Wrote letter of support as a 'strategic partner' for Lions Youth Haven 'School's as Communities' grant application.

Website publications:

Attended web site development training day hosted by NRM (16/2/10).

'Catchment Up Date Summer 2010' submitted for ACT Waterwatch website newsletter and emailed to WW groups. This is to be posted on SACTCG website once a glitch with access is resolved.