

Hi Waterwatch teams,

It is my pleasure to wish you all a very merry festive season! It has been a difficult year to be a 'Waterwatcher' with so many of our beloved waterways becoming dry or showing significant signs of stress from little rain. That huge areas of NSW are suffering bushfires will also sit uneasily with many. A significant number of our volunteers began their involvement in Waterwatch with the 'C.A.M.P.F.I.R.E' program. In 2003 a fire storm destroyed most of the A.C. T's beautiful bushland in addition to hundreds of homes and several lives. Waterwatch was viewed as a perfect way for a traumatised community to help with the recovery of the 'bush capital'. C.A.M.P.F.I.R.E. stood for **C**ommunities **A**ssessing and **M**onitoring **P**rogress of a **F**ire **I**mpacted **E**nvironment. The annual **C**atchment **H**ealth **I**ndicator **P**rogram (C.H.I.P) reports replaced the 4 years of C.A.M.P.F.I.R.E. reporting that gathered Waterwatch data after 'the fires'. These annual reports, which began 10 years later in 2013, have since grown to become an enviable model of citizen science in action. Collating your data and writing this year's report will not be a happy business. I am glad that you continued to visit your sites and record what you can. Lesser folk would have walked away from such a task.

Take care of yourselves this summer.

Your very grateful Coordinator,

Martin Lind.



Click here ↓ to head to the latest on the SACTCG website!

[SACTCG Calendar/News](#)



WW Calendar and shared links;

- **January 5<sup>th</sup> (C.O.B) Waterwatch data** All Waterwatch data must be 'released' by Coordinators for the C.H.I.P synthesis.
- **February 22<sup>nd</sup> World Water Day** Launch of 2019 Catchment Health Indicator Program report. Details TBA.

YouTube clip featuring our own movie star Tony Cory!!

[Why Become a Waterwatch Volunteer?](#)

...and our legendary FrogWatch Coordinator Anke Maria Hoefer:



['FrogPhone' provides new platform for environmental studies](#)

[Dial-a-frog – researchers develop the 'FrogPhone' to remotely call frogs in the wild](#)

[Drought and bushfires stopping frogs from mating](#)

[Fight to the death: image of platypus and rakali stoush shocks and surprises](#)



[Molonglo Conservation Group is undertaking a community survey and we need your feedback.](#)

[Latest volunteer skills survey](#)



[December 2019 E-news correction](#)

## Other News and links



[Waterway closures.](#)

[Recreational Water Quality](#)

[Bacteria alerts](#)

For water and sewerage faults and emergencies phone 02 6248 3111 (option 1)



### Eflow releases;

Below is a summary of water releases from Icon Water dams in the Southern ACT, courtesy of Chris Martin, Icon Water.

#### Bendora

Currently not overflowing.

Current release via scour valve is approximately 30 MLD

Due to low inflows, the releases have been reduced to calculated natural flow as per the licence:

11 Dec 10.1 – 11.5 MLD 0.83 – 0.84 m

18 Dec 29.9 – 32.9 MLD 0.92- 0.93 m

Licence requirements:

11 Dec 51.3 MLD

18 Dec 30.8 MLD

#### Corin

Currently not overflowing.

Current release via cone valve is approximately 12 MLD.

12 Dec 9.93 – 11.1 MLD 0.20 – 0.21 m

19 Dec 12.3-13.4 MLD 0.22-0.23 m

Licence requirements:

12 Dec 39 MLD

19 Dec 13 MLD

#### Cotter

Currently not overflowing.

Current flow 15 ML/d through Cotter Dam Cone Valve.

Licence release requirements:

Base release flow of >15 ML/d, with bi-monthly riffle release of >100 ML/d for >24 hours. ORFlow requirements as described in M2C section of the Water Abstraction EMP.

**Click on these links to go to the latest newsletters or events;**

**Some of the icons below are hyperlinked to online newsletters if there is no adjacent article.**

**The views expressed in some media releases and opinion pieces are not necessarily the same as SACTCG or UMWW. But they make interesting reading and all sites linked to here are bonafide.**



[e-newsletter DECEMBER 2019](#)



[End-of-year report card reveals mixed progress on Basin Plan](#)  
[Independent review of Lower Lakes science underway](#)  
[Murray-Darling Basin Authority Communique](#)  
[Canning the Plan won't turn the taps on](#)

[Dry and hot conditions across the Basin trigger water quality concerns](#)  
[Water quality mapping - a new initiative from the MDBA](#)  
[Fortnightly drought update for the Murray-Darling Basin](#)  
[Murray-Darling Basin Authority Communique](#)  
[First Aboriginal chair appointed to Basin Community Committee](#)



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NATIONAL CARP CONTROL PLAN



MURRUMBIDGEE  
**Landcare**  
INCORPORATED



[A bold new vision for Australia's future](#)  
["Hell's gate"](#)