

SACTCG WATERWATCH BULLETIN MARCH 2019

Hi Waterwatch teams,

The launch date for the **2018 CHIP report** is aimed to coincide with **World Water Day** on **March 22nd** at **Questacon** at **9:30am**. Minister Mick Gentleman will be conducting the launch. More details soon. In the meantime rsvp to me so I have list ready if they need it.

It is now autumn, which means I have to dig out the bug nets, gumboots and evict the spiders. I also need to conduct some riparian vegetation surveys. I will combine these where possible. I loved to have your help so let me know if and when you are available. Other news and events below.

I hope you all had an enjoyable summer.

Cheers,

Martin Lind.



WW Calendar;

- **March 22nd** Catchment Health Indicator Program (C.H.I.P.) launch. Questacon 11am.
- **March 19th-21st** 'World Water Week at QLab' hosted by the **MDBA** and attended by WW staff.
- **Autumn 'Bug Blitz'**. Times and dates; contact me.
- [Developers could soon buy offsets instead of saving water](#)



SACTCG Calendar/news;

- **March 31st** Fetherston Gardens Working Bee Next Sunday Working bee is scheduled from 10am to 1pm. Contact; fetherstongardens@gmail.com



- **March 17th** Cooleman Ridge Park Care Group Working party from 1.30 pm to 4 pm
Contact; Linda Spinaze 6288 6916 www.coolemanridge.org.au
- **March 31st** Amberly Farm Kambah Road, Urambi Parkcare group is helping out John and Carol with maintenance on their 4 year old plantings. Contact; Louise lcurham@yahoo.com.au.
- **April 7th** Mt Taylor Park Care Walk from Colquhoun gate to the dams.
June 1st Combined meet with Urambi Hills PC to mark **World Environment Day** and will help with a planting around a dam. Contact; Kathy Eyles mttaylorparkcaregroup@gmail.com
- **April 15th** Friends of Grasslands (FoG) is offering a small number of grants of \$500-\$1500 each in 2019 to support projects that promote investment in the understanding and management of grassy ecosystems. Any individual or organisation can apply Closing date; 15 April 2019.
Website; <http://www.fog.org.au/>. Email; supportedprojects@fog.org.au
- **Officeworks** donation Office works have offered SACTCG their 'round up to the dollar' donation bucket from their local Tuggeranong store. They would like to support "a project" and were very excited about the idea of a local planting. Please send through any ideas you have for doing a small plant in your area for upcoming Autumn or next spring,
Contact; Martine Franco info@sactcg.org.au

Dam photos!! from February. The last time I saw a **red** algal bloom like this was at Westwood Farm several years ago. Thanks to Mt Taylor and Cooleman Ridges PCs.



Eugleniod algae in Mt Taylor Dam (photo K Eyles, Mt Taylor PC)



Old Dam empty

“At the end of February, the Old Dam joined its counterpart, the Kathner St Dam: both empty. When did this last occur? Rivett resident of 40 years, Faye Grant, said she had never seen the Old Dam empty but others think it may have dried up in the mid 2000s.” From Cooleman Ridge PC newsletter

www.coolemanridge.org.au



Old Dam 28 February 2019 Photo by Rob Lundie

Other News and links:

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.

This message was sent by Dr K Auty last month;



COMMISSIONER FOR SUSTAINABILITY
AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Good
morning

I am pleased to inform you that [*The Heroic and the Dammed – Lower Cotter Catchment Restoration Evaluation*](#), was tabled in the Legislative Assembly yesterday by the Minister for Environment and Heritage, Mr Mick Gentleman MLA.

This Minister-directed report undertaken by my Office responds to Recommendation 12 of the Auditor-General's Report No. 3/15, to evaluate restoration against ongoing management goals and report on priorities for the next decade.

The findings highlight the vast amount of restoration work that has taken place in the Lower Cotter Catchment, and the ongoing investment (likely for decades to come) required to maintain and build on these efforts to protect Canberra's water supply.

This challenge will become more complex with emerging climate change scenarios and population growth. Some of these issues are already being experienced in the broader Murray-Darling Basin.

In light of this report and my recommendations, the ACT Government, utilities, research institutions and community alike have an opportunity to lead the way in protecting these vital ecosystem services for future generations.

The recommendations relate to 5 broad themes (full list on page 130):

- monitoring and evaluation implementation
- funding and resources commitment
- governance improvements
- coordination of efforts
- legislative interventions

The full [accessible pdf report](#) and [Story Map](#) are available on the [OCSE website](#). The [Story Map](#) presents key issues from the report, utilises maps and infographics, and represents an innovative way of communicating complex issues in a digestible format. Story mapping is being used extensively to communicate science messages to a broader community and our story map on the Molonglo Valley Strategic Assessment Audit has been added to the ANU Fenner School curriculum for undergraduates.

I would be very pleased if you would distribute the link to this [Story Map](#) to anyone who may be interested and I hope you enjoy reading this report.

Kind regards

Professor Kate Auty (Honorary Professorial Fellow, University of Melbourne)

ACT Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment

Phone 02 6207 2626

Room C216, Level 2, CIT Bruce, Vowels Crescent, BRUCE ACT 2617

GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601 | www.envcomm.act.gov.au



Article forwarded on to me by Deb Kellock and the Friends of Jerrabomberra Wetlands Parkcare group.

Plummeting insect numbers 'threaten collapse of nature':

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/feb/10/plummeting-insect-numbers-threaten-collapse-of-nature>



[Waterway closures.](#)

[Recreational Water Quality](#)

[Bacteria alerts](#)



Eflow releases;

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

Bendora

Currently not overflowing.

Current release via scour valve is approximately 10 ML/d

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

Releases at licence requirements:

13 Mar 8.4 – 10.1 ML/d 0.82 – 0.83 m

20 Mar 8.4 – 10.1 ML/d 0.82 – 0.83 m

Corin

Currently not overflowing.

Current release via cone valve is approximately 5 ML/d.

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

Flows are also reduced for intake tower works

Release at licence requirements:

14 Mar 16.1 – 17.5 ML/d 0.25 – 0.26 m

Mon 18 Mar Approx 2ML/d Close cone valve

Fri 22 Mar 16.1 – 17.5 ML/d 0.25 – 0.26 m

Cotter

Currently not overflowing.

Current flow 15MLD through cone valve

Licence release requirements:

Base release flow of >15 ML/d, with bi-monthly riffle release of >100 ML/d for >24 hours. OR

Flow requirements as set out under Murrumbidgee to Cotter eflow return.



[Expected low water availability central to planning for next summer](#)

[Hard yards keep the Basin Plan on track](#)

[MDBA to strengthen engagement with Menindee, Lower Darling](#)

[MDBA urges accelerated progress on key water projects](#)

[Authority responds to South Australian Royal Commission report](#)

[New phase of climate change research to improve Murray-Darling Basin management](#)

[MDBA statement on AAS report into fish deaths](#)

[Stronger regional commitment for Murray-Darling Basin Authority](#)

[MDBA statement on AAS report into fish deaths](#)

[MDBA assessment finds water delivery risks remain steady in 2019](#)

[MDBA response to Wentworth Group report: Water flows in the Murray-Darling Basin](#)

[Challenging environmental watering outlook for 2019-20](#)

Click on these links to go to the latest newsletters;



ICE WaRM
International Centre of Excellence
in Water Resources Management



Australian Platypus Conservancy



Environmental Defenders' Office
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY



**Australian
Water School**

