

Hi Waterwatch teams,

Welcome to my mid-winter bulletin. Many areas monitored by us, including **Namadgi National Park**, **Corin Forest** and the **Naas Valley** still remain closed to public access due the summer fires. There is no confirmed opening date as yet. ACT Parks and Conservation Service rangers are fielding daily phone calls and emails from angry members of the public who are now starting to blame them for the delays. This is unfortunate as the closures are necessary for public safety. When professionals (such as yours truly) enter fire affected areas we are required to follow a strict set of protocols including the wearing of hard hats while out of vehicles. The areas were heavily burned. Tree damage is extensive, and some areas still host large deposits of fine ash that whip up with any breeze. I will let all Waterwatch teams affected by closures know when they can enter. Your patience as a volunteer cohort has been terrific. Take care, Stay well.

Martin Lind.



Click here ↓ to head to the latest on the SACTCG website
[SACTCG Calendar/News](#)

SACTCG has been supporting the Southern Canberra community and its catchments for over 18 years, and we need your help to continue to do so in the years ahead. There has never been a more important time to be stepping up to protect our local environment now and for the future. SACTCG's environmental work is mostly funded by competitive grants, which are often small, short term, intermittent and don't meet all our community or catchment needs. If you would like to support us, please consider donating to the Southern ACT Catchment Fund through [our secure online platform](#) or via [direct debit](#).

**Due to the current pandemic, if you must visit us, please phone the office on 62966400.
Please try to avoid dropping in. The office is often unattended as we try to work from home.**



WW news and shared links;

- From Deb Kellock's desk at Molonglo Conservation Group:

“These webinars look excellent, especially

Nature-based Opportunities for Resilient Cities

Tues 21 July 2020, 4:30 - 5:30 pm

and

Valuing Nature in Agricultural Landscapes: Tools from Science & Economics

Tues 28 July 2020 4:30 - 5:30 pm”

See <https://www.nespthreatenedspecies.edu.au/events/business-and-biodiversity-webinar-series>

Deb also came across a paragraph at end of ABC News article on fish kills in nth NSW (from Mar) on the resilience of platypus; [‘Experts say the low river levels have little impact on platypus’](#) and;

“This one's great! only 2 mins on recovery of farm dam at Batlow after Jan fires and 80+ mm rain:”
<https://www.facebook.com/SustainableFarmsAU/videos/2483348481995965/>

Join Sustainable Farms ecologists Dr Mason Crane and Eleanor Lang, and Local Land Services District Vet Eve Hall, to discuss enhancing farm dams for multiple benefits.

The webinar was recorded, you can see it here:

<https://sustainablefarms.org.au/fielddays/enhancing-farm-dams-webinar-recording-now-available>

Thanks Deb!

- “Minister Gentleman has announced an **opera-house net swap program**, https://www.cmtedd.act.gov.au/open_government/inform/act_government_media_releases/gentleman/2020/swap-your-old-yabby-trap-for-a-free-wild-life-friendly-net ,this will allow Canberran’s to swap opera-house nets for an open-top pyramid net free of charge at participating retailers. We hope this will see less opera-house nets in the community and result in less deaths of non-target native animals captured in these nets. Please share this information with your clubs and your communities, we appreciate your support!”

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[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 Sarah McLaren, Icon Water.

Bendora

Currently not overflowing.

Current release is approximately 117 MLD.

Release currently at licence requirements:

15 July 32.9 – 36.2 MLD 0.93 – 0.94 m

22 July 104.5 – 108.0 MLD 1.14 – 1.15 m

Licence requirements:

15 July 35.5 MLD

22 July 106.5 MLD

Corin

Currently not overflowing.

Current release is approximately 54 MLD.

Release currently at licence requirements:

16 July 22.3 – 24.2 MLD 0.29 – 0.30 m

23 July 64.5 – 68.7 MLD 0.43 – 0.44

Licence requirements:

16 July 22.5 MLD

23 July 67.5 MLD

Cotter

Currently not overflowing. Current flow 45 ML/d via M2C.

Licence release requirements:

Base release flow of >15 ML/d, with bi-monthly riffle release of >100

ML/d for >24 hours. QR

Flow 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.



[A key step in our water reform journey](#)

[Priming our Basin for drought recovery - the 2020-21 priorities for environmental watering](#)

[Murray-Darling Basin Authority Communique](#)

[Murray-Darling Basin Ministerial Council, 19 June 2020](#)

RESTRICTIONS HAVE EASED BUT **YOUR RESPONSIBILITY HASN'T**



Maintain good hand hygiene



Stay 1.5m apart



Stay home if you are unwell



Get tested if you have symptoms of COVID-19

For updates, visit covid19.act.gov.au



World Environment Day
Online Auction



National Landcare Program



Regional Agriculture Landcare Facilitator

aws Australian Water School [Upcoming webinars and courses](#)

Australian Platypus Conservancy



The APC recently worked with Holbrook Landcare to produce a short video about the platypus and its conservation needs. View the video [here](#).



[How do you like The Waterbug App?](#)