

Hi Waterwatch teams,

We are fortunate that the lock down on volunteering has had a hiatus with Waterwatchers now being released back into the wild. But take care out there folks and heed the directions about safe monitoring as spelled out by Woo below. See also an exciting fundraising event by our catchment group for Namadgi NP. Also very worth opening the Invasive Species Council link to read interesting views on possible new threat by invasive fish.

Take care and stay well.

Martin Lind.



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



Hi there,

We hope you are staying safe and looking after yourself during isolation.

We are following up about volunteering in Namadgi for bushfire recovery. Unfortunately, the National Park is still closed, and organised volunteer activities are not permitted until at least September. The flames, smoke and devastation of the Orroral Valley Fire 4 months ago feel like a lifetime away.

We may be stuck at home wishing for a speedy recovery for both the world and for Namadgi, but there's still something we can do!

We are very excited to share with you [Walk for Namadgi](#).

A lovely Canberran- Emma- has spearheaded the creation of this online peer-to-peer fundraiser because she wanted to take action and contribute to recovery even in lockdown.

Walk for Namadgi is a sponsored walk/run over May and anyone can join! To get on board you can simply create a profile, set your walking/running distance goals and get to work sharing your profile and completing the challenge throughout May. You can also just chip into the Campaign or sponsor someone you know.

Funds raised will go to the Southern ACT Catchment Environment Fund- which will be used to resource and co-ordinate volunteer projects and activities supporting the recovery and regeneration of Namadgi National Park on Ngunawal Land.

[Walk for Namadgi](#) is such a great way to take action; get active for your physical and mental health; explore more of Canberra's parks and reserves; connect virtually with your friends and family; and most importantly give your contacts an opportunity to contribute to the recovery of the precious Namadgi.

[Sign up](#), share with your friends and family, and let's make sure we can go and give Namadgi some love after lockdown!

Best wishes,

Southern ACT Catchment Group

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](#).

If you must visit us, please phone the office on 62966400. Please try to avoid dropping in.



WW news and shared links;

• Dear Waterwatch volunteers

It's with great pleasure to inform you that as of today, some forms of volunteering can recommence in the ACT region, including Waterwatch water quality testing.

With the relaxing of restrictions in both NSW and the ACT, up to ten people are now permitted to gather outdoors. As the majority of Waterwatch volunteers sample either alone or in groups of two, this means most can recommence water quality testing. The exception to this is school groups and Scouts. These groups are still not permitted to sample and we will look at them separately at a later date.

With the use of PPE and good kit hygiene, the water quality monitoring activity is already considered low risk. The following additional protocols will further minimise the chance of volunteers contracting or spreading COVID-19. These are:

- Do not monitor if you are feeling unwell/experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, are self-isolating due to returning home from overseas or have been in contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19;
- Maintain social distancing of 1.5m at all times;
- Wash and/or sanitise your hands before and after monitoring;
- Wear single-use gloves while using the kit and avoid touching your face and other public surfaces;
- Sneeze or cough into your elbow;
- Do not share food or drink;
- After monitoring, clean glass wear as per the Waterwatch manual, then wipe down all kit surfaces with a disinfectant, diluted bleach or methylated spirits;
- Advise Waterwatch if you have had or develop flu-like symptoms before or after monitoring;

- If volunteers require extra supplies from the Waterwatch coordinators, then we ask that they call please call ahead before visiting the relevant office to ensure minimal numbers are attending at one time; and
- Waterwatch coordinators will disinfect all kit materials before issue and upon return.

In regards to other forms of Waterwatch volunteering such as waterbug and platypus surveys, we will keep you informed of policies regarding these at a later date. We have finished the majority of Autumn waterbug surveys and Platypus Month doesn't occur until August. Given the dynamic environment we find ourselves in, we feel it is best to consider our options closer to the day to ensure the safety of volunteers is considered first and foremost.

Most volunteers sample on the third weekend of the month so the timing of this announcement means that we will hopefully see you out at your sites next weekend (16/17 May). The Waterwatch staff have done their best to collect some data over the past two months to maintain data thresholds, but haven't come close to collecting the amount of data that you all manage in a single month. It was a good reminder of how good the Waterwatch model is and how lost we would be without you all.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact your local Waterwatch coordinator or myself on 0413 246 761.

Many thanks for your understanding and patience and enjoy getting back out to our rivers and wetlands.

Regards, Woo

Ms Woo O'Reilly

Upper Murrumbidgee Waterwatch Facilitator

Environment, Planning & Sustainable Development | ACT Government
 Dame Pattie Menzies House, 16 Challis Street, Dickson ACT
 02 6207 2246 | 0413 246 761
www.act.waterwatch.org.au

- From Deb at Molonglo CG;



[Re-diversifying our waterways, a garden stake at a time | Pursuit by The University of Melbourne](#)

Re-diversifying our waterways, a garden stake at a time. For hundreds of years we've cleared the natural debris that builds up in our waterways, wiping out the habitats and ecologies of river animals in the process.
pursuit.unimelb.edu.au

- Deb also found this 4 min video of a cased caddis making its case and the amazing properties of its silk:
<http://aeon.co/videos/when-life-is-but-a-stream-insects-need-something-extra-sticky-to-survive>



[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 is approximately 22 MLD.

Release currently at licence requirements:

13 May 44.8 – 48.0 MLD 0.97 – 0.98 m

20 May 14.9 – 17.2 MLD 0.86 – 0.87 m

Licence requirements:

6 May 46.5 MLD

13 May 15.5 MLD

Corin

Currently not overflowing.

Current release is approximately 9 MLD.

Release currently at licence requirements:

14 May 28.1 – 30.2 MLD 0.32 – 0.33 m

21 May 8.76 – 9.93 MLD 0.19 – 0.20 m

Licence requirements:

14 May 28.5 MLD

21 May 9.5 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. OR 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.



[Lower Lakes independent science review confirms river managers are on the right track](#)

[Taste of winter relief in Basin weather outlook](#)

[The MDBA responds to the Interim Inspector-General's report on water sharing in the southern Murray-Darling Basin](#)

[Murray-Darling Basin Authority Communique](#)



[COVID-19 - slight loosening of ACT restrictions](#)



National
Landcare
Program



Regional Agriculture
Landcare Facilitator



MURRUMBIDGEE
Landcare
INCORPORATED



[COVID-19 special edition](#)

