

## SACTCG WATERWATCH BULLETIN APRIL 2021

Hi,

It's mid autumn and waterbug surveys are well underway. The flooding events around our waterways in late March have had a real impact on the diversity of bugs found. One usually 'excellent' site only scoring 'fair' with half the number of types simply missing. There are still many sites to survey so if you interested let me know asap. Some of the more remote sites are inaccessible but there are plenty of lower river and urban sites to share.

Also coming up very soon is the autumn **QA/QC event**. Teams who need to be accredited have been sent an email. The details are **Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> May Gungahlin Scout Hall**, 5 The Valley Way, Gungahlin. The start time has not been finalised but should be no earlier than 10am. (We got to get the urn heated up.) Please rsvp to me asap. Thanks to those who have already. It looks like we are going to have a good turn out from 'southern'.

Cheers,

Martin Lind

Waterwatch Coordinator.



### Southern ACT Catchment Group news and events;

Head to [SACTCG Calendar/News](#) for the latest on the SACTCG website.



### Planting at the Old Dam Sun 28 March (Excerpt from Coolleman Ridge PC Newsletter April 2021)

'On Sunday 28th March, we held a special planting event. Meeting at the end of Kathner St were many of our usual weeders, but also 14 Young Landcarers who had been organised through Correa Driscoll from SACTCG. Their original task had been to cut'n'dab briar roses, but we found something much more exciting for them to do. After everyone had been transported to the Old Dam, Linda set out the plan for the morning and demonstrated the planting process. She then organised people into small groups and directed them to the planting areas. Everyone worked really hard, digging the holes, planting the plants and watering them from water carted from the dam. The effort and diligence was so impressive that we had finished the exercise within three hours including a lovely morning tea provided by Correa. We now keep our fingers crossed for continuing intermittent rain." *Linda Spinaze* [www.coollemanridge.org.au](http://www.coollemanridge.org.au)

Ranger: Chris Holder

SACTCG: Correa Driscoll



*CRPCG and volunteers at Old Dam Correa Driscoll*

### Upper Murrumbidgee Waterwatch news and events;

**2020 CHIP launch in the [Canberra Times](#).** (subscription needed)

[WIN News link](#)



## From Deb Kellock Molonglo Waterwatch;

- **Multiple benefits of citizen science again supported**

From Michael Mulvaney, NatureMapr admin & long time PCS ecologist

Posted on <https://canberra.naturemapr.org/announcements/317>

"Naturemapr participants were contributors to this German study on how those involved in citizen science benefit. The study found that involvement in one of the surveyed 63 citizen science projects in Europe, Australia and New Zealand

- increased knowledge about science and the environment
- gained or improved scientific skills
- improved confidence that actions taken by a person will have an effect
- increased interest in and motivation for science and environment; and
- changed their actions towards the environment

The research can be downloaded from the link below

Peter M, Diekötter T, Höffler T, Kremer K. Biodiversity citizen science: Outcomes for the participating citizens. *People Nat.* 2021;00:1–18. <https://doi.org/10.1002/pan3.10193>"

- **Floodplains aren't separate to a river — they're an extension of it. It's time to change how we connect with them**

Posted 5 Apr 2021 by Melissa Parsons and Martin Thoms, both from Uni of New England

"Dramatic scenes of flood damage to homes, infrastructure and livelihoods have been with us on the nightly news in recent weeks. Many will be feeling the pain for years to come, as they contend with property damage, financial catastrophe and trauma.

But what if, for a moment, we removed the humans and their structures from these tragic images — what would we see? We would see a natural process of river expansion and contraction, of rivers doing exactly what they're supposed to do from time to time. We'd see them exceeding what we humans have deemed to be their boundaries and depositing sediment across their floodplains. We'd see reproductive opportunities for fish, frogs, birds and trees. The floods would also enrich the soils. Floods can be catastrophic for humans, but they are a natural part of an ecosystem from which we benefit." [Read more](#)

- **Scientists venture deep into Victorian forest to secure future for giant burrowing frog** [Read more](#)

**News and footage of the flooding events in our region at the end of last month.** In case you missed it.

- Short video of Googong spilling on the 23 March [https://fb.watch/4o\\_aPnzaSU/](https://fb.watch/4o_aPnzaSU/)
- Naas bridge over Gudgenby collapsed on the 23 March. [Canberra Times](#)

'Why blue-green algae remains on Lake Tuggeranong despite \$30m investment' from [Canberra Times](#)

## ACT Government Waterway updates;



[Waterway closures.](#)

[Recreational Water Quality](#)

[Bacteria alerts](#)

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

## Icon Water Eflow releases;



Below is a summary of water releases from Icon Water dams in the Southern ACT, courtesy of Chris Martin, Icon Water. This data is operational information and subject to change.

### Bendora

Currently overflowing. Flow below Bendora Dam approximately 295 ML/d. Release currently at licence requirements:  
7 April 11.5 – 13.1 ML/d 0.84 – 0.85 m 14 April 36.2 – 39.0 MLD 0.94 – 0.95 m

*Licence requirements:* 7 April 12.0 ML/d 14 April 36.0 MLD

### Corin

Currently overflowing. Flow below Corin Dam approximately 260 ML/d. Release currently at licence requirements:  
8 April 6.63 – 7.69 ML/d 0.17 – 0.18 m 15 April 22.3 – 24.2 ML/d 0.29 – 0.30 m

*Licence requirements:* 8 April 7.5 ML/d 15 April 22.5 ML/d

### Cotter

Currently overflowing. Current flow approximately 360 ML/d below dam. Current release is approximately 15 ML/d from the dam. *Licence release requirements:* Base release flow of >15 ML/d, with bi-monthly riffle release of >100 ML/d for >24hours. OR Flow requirements as described in M2C section of the Water Abstraction EMP.

## Other newsletters and links;

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.

### Upper Murrumbidgee Catchment Network ,



### Species and landscape recovery, restoration and resilience

Dear UMCN Members and Associates,

You are invited to join the first in a three-part series of mini forums for 2021, and please extend this invitation to your networks:

**When:** Wednesday the 21st of April, 8.30am - 2pm

**Where:** Googong Community Centre and an on-site visit to Wandiyali

**Who:** We will hear from Carolyn Larcombe from the [Wandiyali Restoration Project](#) and the forum will include an on-site visit.

**RSVP:** [eventbrite](#)

Please submit your questions about species and landscape recovery, restoration and resilience to the forum speakers by emailing UMCN: [contact@umcn.org.au](mailto:contact@umcn.org.au)

### The ACT Natural Resources Management Plan- community consultation open!

Dear UMCN Members and Associates,

It's time for you to comment on the new ACT NRM Plan!

Go to the [Plan website](#) to find all info about surveys, submissions and drop-in sessions for community consultation.

What is the ACT NRM Plan? We've prepared an explainer to answer that very question!

Also, go to the UMCN YouTube channel to watch the [presentation that Frank Garofalow gave at our last General Meeting](#).

### Murray Darling Basin Authority



- **Highs and lows of water quality explained in MDBA webinar** Water quality will be in the spotlight in the next webinar hosted by the Murray–Darling Basin Authority. [Read more](#)
- **Murray-Darling Basin Authority Communique** The Murray–Darling Basin Authority met on 23 March 2021. [Read more](#)

### Murrumbidgee Landcare Newsletter



### Canberra Environment Centre \_ Newsletter: April



### CSIRO ECOS newsletter



### Invasive Species Council Feral Herald



- **Our CBR** Single-use plastics banned in the ACT
  - Floating wetland created in Lake Tuggeranong
  - Final areas of Namadgi open
- [Go to link](#)

