

SACTCG WATERWATCH BULLETIN MAY 2021

Hi,

If you thought April was a bit dry, you'd be right. There was only 1.6mm recorded for the whole month. I hope the return of some rain this week is a sign of more follow up falls to come. Our waterways are still in need of good, steady flows to aid their recovery from the previous couple of years. This year many of our urban lakes choked on blue green algae through summer and autumn as nutrients and muck, built up in surrounding catchments over the drought years of 2018-19, were flushed into them by the high flows last year. We live and hope.

Ove the past month I have had the pleasure of welcoming several new members to our Waterwatching team. Four new or returning volunteers have joined the Lake Tuggeranong collective. A new person is taking on Stranger Pond and Conder Wetlands will be getting an extra pair of hands.

On a very sad note, **Deb Kellock**, my esteemed colleague and friend from **Molonglo Waterwatch** is leaving at the end of June. She has been a dedicated, longtime member of Southern's Waterwatching and Parkcare teams, personally monitoring 3 semi remote sites. As a Waterwatch Coordinator, she has built a loyal fan base in the Molonglo catchment and has been pivotal in the development of our online bases and website. Her sharing of online news, issues and events has been greatly appreciated by the team. She will be sorely missed.

Cheers,
Martin Lind
Waterwatch Coordinator.



Southern ACT Catchment Group news and events;
Head to [SACTCG Calendar/News](#) for the latest on the SACTCG website.



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 70 ML/d. Release currently at licence requirements: 12 May 44.8 – 48.0 MLD 0.97 – 0.98m 19 May 14.9 – 17.2 MLD 0.86 – 0.87m Licence requirements: 12 May 46.5 MLD 19 May 15.5 MLD

Corin

Currently overflowing. Flow below Corin Dam approximately 140 ML/d. Release currently at licence requirements:

13 May 26.0 – 28.1 MLD 0.31 – 0.32 m 20 May 8.76 – 9.93 MLD 0.19 – 0.20 m

Licence requirements: 13 May 28.5 MLD 20 May 9.5 ML/d

Cotter

Currently overflowing. Current flow approximately 130 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 >24 hours. 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 , (Edited extract of letter to UMCN members)



Dear UMCN Members and Associates,

Would you like to collect some stormwater samples to help monitor and improve water quality in Canberra's lakes? Read on:

Greetings all,

My name is Joseph O'Connell, I am undertaking surface runoff water sampling in Canberra for my Honours Research Project with the University of Canberra. The project involves sampling stormwater runoff from various surfaces in Canberra (roads, roofs, concrete etc.). The aim is to classify the nutrient contributions of those surfaces to the stormwater network and inform better management of Canberra's stormwater systems and the algal blooms in our lakes. Undertaking sampling on the scale required for this project would only be possible with the help of volunteers across Canberra.

High nutrient concentrations are a consistent issue in our stormwater, contributing to blue-green algae blooms. Stormwater runoff picks up pollutants which lead to high concentrations of nutrients which play key roles in influencing these water bodies.

The sampling is reasonably straightforward and should take around 10 minutes to get a sample. The sampling kits that I will provide to volunteers will have all the necessary equipment to undertake the sampling.

For any further information or to express an interest in volunteering, please contact me at Joseph.oconnell@canberra.edu.au.

Murray Darling Basin Authority



- **Water sharing arrangements imminent at the Menindee Lakes** The Murray–Darling Basin Authority anticipates that the water volume in the Menindee Lakes could surpass 640 gigalitres late this week, triggering water sharing arrangements agreed between New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia. [Read more](#)
- **Latest community knowledge to be shared at inaugural annual water conference** People from across the diverse communities of the Murray–Darling Basin will come together to share the latest knowledge, achievements and challenges in water management at the inaugural MDBA-hosted annual conference *River Reflections* in Griffith, NSW this 9-10 June, 2021. [Read more](#)

Murrumbidgee Landcare [Newsletter](#)



CSIRO [ECOS newsletter](#)



Canberra Environment Centre [Newsletter: April 30th](#) [Newsletter: April 16th](#)

