

SACTCG WATERWATCH BULLETIN JUNE 2021

Welcome to winter everyone,

This month I am starting the first in a series of short celebrations of Southern ACT's Waterwatch teams. June's Waterwatch Team of the Month is the **'Sands' Waterwatch** team. Words by Wendy Rainbird. Photo by me some years ago.

It will be lovely to include this every month. There are 6 easy answer questions. Check you emails 😊

Cheers,

Martin Lind

Waterwatch Coordinator.



Waterwatching at Casuarina Sands on the Murrumbidgee River

"Anne l'Ons and Wendy Rainbird responded to a request after the devastating 2003 bushfires to do water monitoring in the ACT water catchment.

We appreciate that we are part of a larger group doing such monitoring as a whole of catchment study.

Anne and Wendy have maintained regular monthly Waterwatching since those 2003 bushfires. (As at 2021, that means 18 years of regular, consistent readings.)

The best experiences include working with each other, sharing our stories, and observing what is happening with the Murrumbidgee River.

The worst experiences were when, after some summer storms the river ran dark reddish brown, and we knew something was wrong. Due to Martin and others following up the source was found where there was an upstream eroding, red soil stream near Bredbo.

The other bad experiences have been seeing the river barely running during long drought, and exposing the bedrocks. Anne said she reckoned we could walk across the Murrumbidgee.

We love seeing the river running well, sparkling in the sun, ducks about, and many birds calling. Also, when the bush gradually recovered after the fires.

It helped with motivation when we knew that our data had value, and was being used by the ACT water authority, in its various names. It also helps that the data is respected to be entered into the Atlas of Living Australia website.

All the regular data collected over so many years would provide very useful data for higher studies.

We would like to see the Rangers spending more time on weed work along the riparian zone, but they tend to be busy cleaning barbeques and toilets."

Wendy.



Anne and Wendy at Casuarina Sands

Southern ACT Catchment Group news and events;

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



From Hannah's desk;

Featherston Gardens and **Urambi Hills**: [ABC News](#) Skip to 36:16 to watch the volunteer group segment.

Upper Murrumbidgee Waterwatch news and events;

From Woo's hot desk;

FYI - another example of Waterwatch data uptake in the [Catchment Health and Water Quality indicators in the ACT Wellbeing Framework](#). Thanks Danswell Starrs for putting these together.



From Bruno's desk;

Hi everyone,

Just saw these two stories in the NESP newsletter that might be of interest.

Impacts of nitrate pollution on native fauna and guidelines current set at 50mg/L (this is very high for a recommendation value, as we consider 4mg/L to be high... anyway, it shows how it impairs the physiology of animals at those concentrations). [Read more.](#)

This one talks on how to include biodiversity and ecology in urban planning. [Read more](#)

From Deb's kitchen table;

New factsheet from Threatened Species Recovery Hub on the impact of nitrate pollution in waterways on freshwater species particularly in combination with other stressors Date: 19 Apr 2021 Author(s): Daniel Gomez Isaza, Craig Franklin, Rebecca Cramp (all from UQ) Publisher: TSR Hub [The impact of nitrate pollution in waterways on freshwater species](#)

Cheers, Deb

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 50 ML/d. Release currently at licence requirements:

9 June 67.5 – 71.0 MLD 1.04 – 1.05 m 16 June 21.5 – 24.4 MLD 0.89 – 0.90 m

Licence requirements: 9 June 67.5 MLD 16 June 22.5 MLD

Corin

Currently overflowing. Flow below Corin Dam approximately 100 ML/d. Release currently at licence requirements:

10 June 41.3 – 45.0 MLD 0.37 – 0.38 m 17 June 13.4 – 14.8 MLD 0.24 – 0.25 m

Licence requirements: 10 June 42 MLD 17 June 14 MLD

Cotter

Currently overflowing. Current flow approximately 70 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.



Murray Darling Basin Authority

- **Caring for Culture and Country under spotlight at River reflections conference** The importance of Gayini (Nari Nari word for water) and land to First Nations people across the Murray–Darling Basin was a feature presentation in this week's *River reflections* annual water conference in Griffith, New South Wales. [Read more](#)
- **Late frosts and erosion amongst the key climate risks facing the Murray-Darling Basin.** Delegates at the *River reflections* annual water conference today have heard about the increased risks to agriculture and water infrastructure due to climate change. In his address, *Are we ready? Our changing climate* Professor Mark Howden, Director of the Institute for Climate, Energy & Disaster Solutions at the Australian National University shared the future watch points for farmers and water managers. [Read more](#)
- **Water metering in the Basin is improving, but has a long way to go.** The Compliance Compact between Basin states to improve public confidence in water management has served its initial purpose well. However, a report has found its focus now needs to shift from activities to outcomes. [Read more](#)
- **Positive opening for water trade downstream of Barmah Choke** A positive opening balance means water will be available to be traded in the River Murray from above the Barmah Choke to below the choke on 1 July 2021. [Read more](#)
- **Winter works scheduled over three-week period for the Mildura Weir** Essential maintenance works will be conducted at the Mildura Weir from 12 July, which will involve lowering the river level in the weir pool and closing Lock 11 for about three weeks, the Murray–Darling Basin Authority and Goulburn-Murray Water announced today. [Read more](#)
- **Small water releases to start this week from Menindee Lakes** On behalf of Basin state governments, the Murray–Darling Basin Authority will begin releasing a small amount of water from Menindee Lakes later this week in response to recent dry conditions across the southern Basin. [Read more](#)



UMCN Members and Associates,

On the 21st of April UMCN held the first in our 2021 series of Mini-forums: Landscape Recovery, Restoration and Resilience. The presentations from the day are now available to view on the UMCN YouTube channel:

[Laura Canackle- The Resilient Bredbo Gentian](#)

[Carolyn Larcombe- Wandiyali: Recovery, Restoration and Resilience](#)

Enjoy! Kind regards, Claire

Murrumbidgee Landcare [Newsletter](#)



Canberra Environment Centre [Newsletter: May 28th](#)

[Newsletter: May 15th](#)

CSIRO [ECOS newsletter](#)



Invasive Species Council [Feral Herald](#)



Icon Water [Icon Water and Qwestacon work together to support awareness on water sustainability](#)

ACT Government
Keep CBR safe & strong
Things can change quickly. Check the latest health and travel advice.
For updates visit: covid19.act.gov.au