

## SACTCG WATERWATCH BULLETIN OCTOBER 2021

Hi,

As I sit here my 'doggo' (really a Tasmanian devil with a collar) is loudly destroying a chew toy while watching me and waiting to go on one of 2 now compulsory walks/day. Lockdown has instilled some routines in this house that I am sure to regret. Online meetings and virtual classrooms have allowed my usually impeccable dress sense and punctuality to find new lows. Emails? Meh, check them tomorrow. Anyway... Thanks to the loads of people who sent in a group profile for our **Waterwatchers of the Month** feature. I will add these each month for your reading pleasure, lockdown or not, to remind us of the fun we have been missing out on.

Unexpectedly, the sad absence of volunteers has created a different urgency as Waterwatch coordinators scurry about in the field collecting waterbugs and otherwise missing data. As well as water monitoring, in a 'normal' year we would have your help with waterbug surveys. This spring we have had to accompany each other and work around the nature reserve and cross boarder closures. Not quite as much fun. But apart from the pollen, there is a sniff of change in the air and I hope to have you back on board this month. I will let you know asap.

Take care and stay well,  
Martin Lind  
Waterwatch Coordinator.



### Maree Blume and Jill Smith; Paddy's River Waterwatch

*Best experience or memory of Waterwatching* - Seeing the recovery of our two rivers - Paddy's and the Cotter - and their riparian zones over the past 18 years of adverse events that we've witnessed - bushfires, floods, and droughts; seeing the effects of the enormous turbidity event in Paddy's River in February 2019.

*Funniest experience while WWing* - Jill hitting her head on an obscured low tree branch on the way to the Cotter Campground site... and then hitting it again on the way back to the car!



Jill at Paddy's River (adapted, poorly, from a Photo by MBlume)

*Worst* “ “ “ Jill hitting her head on that branch

*What you love/hate most about your site/s* - Seeing the seasonal changes and the sometimes dramatic results of extreme weather events; being able to explore the way Paddy's River flows into the Cotter at Cotter Bend and, likewise, the way the Cotter flows into the Murrumbidgee (and how they effect each other); enjoying random conversations with rangers, campers and visitors to the sites, and having the opportunity to introduce curious children and their parents to the hands on chemistry and data collection of citizen scientists;

*Your motivation for continuing to WW* - Developing our connection to the non-urban environment, the land and our specific sites - their habitats, wildlife, plant life, birdlife, and the diversity of experiences with each visit; taking the time on our trips to and from the sites to engage in deep conversations that we can rarely indulge in during our busy urban lives

*Anything else you would love to share about you and/or your group* - Maree has been a Waterwatcher since the 2003 bushfires, initially with passionate and wise Fleur, and during the last 2 years with Jill, who has acted as 'reserve' until then.

### Southern ACT Catchment Group news and events;

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



### Upper Murrumbidgee Waterwatch news and events;



**Australian River Restoration Centre** 'Thank you to everyone who made it to our third webinar from the Native Fish Showcase Webinar Series; **Learn about the Murray River crayfish and the work to help them thrive in the wild** The recording is now available on the [Finterest website here.](#)'

'If you enjoyed this session, we recommend you check out these additional web pages and resources:

["Caring for the Cray" – efforts underway to bring back the Murray Crayfish.](#)

At the end of the webinar, there is a slide with a list of reference articles and publications for further information.



## 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 Elizabeth Turner, Water Distribution Engineer, Icon Water. This data is operational information and subject to change.

**Bendora** Currently overflowing. Flow below Bendora Dam approximately 280 ML/d. Release currently at licence requirements:

13 October 121.8 – 126.1 MLD 1.18 – 1.19 m 20 October 74.6 – 78.2 MLD 1.06 – 1.07 m

*Licence requirements:* 13 October 125 MLD 20 October 75 MLD

**Corin** Currently overflowing. Flow below Corin Dam approximately 250 ML/d. Release currently at licence requirements:

14 October 79.4 – 85 MLD 0.46 – 0.47 m 21 October 45 – 48.6 MLD 0.38 – 0.39 m

*Licence requirements:* 14 October 80 MLD 21 October 48 MLD

**Cotter** Currently overflowing. Current flow approximately 400 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.



- **UMCN 2021 AGM and General Meeting**

**When:** Wednesday the 3rd of November, 9.30am- 12.30pm **Where:** Online

**Join the Zoom Meeting via this link:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89618646829?pwd=K1VxOUdTY1Y3N2x4T0w1ODU0ckN3UT09>

**Meeting ID:** 896 1864 6829 **Passcode:** 882819

**Who:** All are welcome, feel free to forward this Zoom link to anyone who may be interested in joining us. Voting rights apply to current financial members only, if you would like to become a member you can [join here](#).

**What:** We will hold our AGM business including nominations for the Executive Committee. Afterwards we will have a General Meeting during which we will go on a virtual tour of John Ive's property, [Talaheni](#), followed by discussion, questions and brief member updates.

**For the agenda, and to be sent any further information, contact your favourite coordinator;** [waterwatch@sactcg.org.au](mailto:waterwatch@sactcg.org.au)

- **University of Canberra and CSIRO** have a research project looking into perceptions of biocontrol, with a focus on dung beetles. The aim of this research is to explore understandings of, and attitudes towards, biocontrol. The project is also interested in how and why these understandings and attitudes form. The survey will take 15- 20 minutes, is open until the end of October and can be found [here](#).

- “Ever wondered “Who and what is the UMCN anyway???” Well here's your answer: [The UMCN Story](#)”

Kind regards,

**Claire Sives**

**Executive Officer | UMCN**



## Murray Darling Basin Authority

- **Yarrowonga Weir crossing confirmed to close from 15 October** Plans to permanently close the Yarrowonga Weir bridge to public vehicle traffic from 15 October 2021 are in their final stage. [Read more](#)
- **Hume Dam releases increase to provide airspace for week ahead** A strengthening Bureau of Meteorology forecast of between 50 and 100mm of rain starting mid-next week has prompted the Murray-Darling Basin Authority to increase releases from Hume Dam to create more airspace. Two media releases: [24 September](#) [01 October](#)



**Australian Water School** Interesting and mostly free [Webinars](#)



**Invasive Species Council** [Have your say: Stand up of Kosciuszko](#) (Note: this link is seeking donations)

**Canberra Environment Centre** [Newsletter: Ordering local groceries](#)  
[Newsletter: Bee friendly gardens](#)



**CSIRO** [ECOS enewletter](#)  
[Snapshot Newsletter](#)



**Murrumbidgee Landcare** [Newsletter](#)



**Feral Herald** [Newsletter](#)



## COVID-19 Update

**The ACT is in lockdown**  
Only leave your home for essential reasons

covid19.act.gov.au

### ACT COVID-19 update

#### 13 October 2021

<div style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">51</div> <div style="font-size: 0.8em; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">New cases</div>	<div style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">474</div> <div style="font-size: 0.8em; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">Active cases</div>	<div style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">833</div> <div style="font-size: 0.8em; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">Total recovered</div>
<div style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">2,321</div> <div style="font-size: 0.7em; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">New negative tests (past 24 hr)</div>		<div style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">COVID-19 vaccinations in the ACT for people aged 12+</div> <div style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold; margin: 5px 0;">98.5%</div> <div style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">received first dose</div>
<div style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">16</div> <div style="font-size: 0.7em; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">In hospital</div>	<div style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">6</div> <div style="font-size: 0.7em; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">Lives lost</div>	<div style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">73.5%</div> <div style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">received second dose</div>

All data based on the current outbreak period from 12 August 2021 until today. COVID-19 vaccination data is based on the percentage of ACT residents aged 12 and over. This includes vaccinations administered by ACT Government clinics, primary care and contracted vaccination providers.

For more information visit, [covid19.act.gov.au](https://covid19.act.gov.au)