

SACTCG WATERWATCH BULLETIN NOVEMBER 2021

Hi,
Isn't it great to be back in almost normal land? I hope you have been able to get back into your waterwatching without too much hassle. The wet weekends are making things interesting around the waterways. Access to some remote sites is not always a given and even some of the urban sites can be challenging with the extreme flows and slippery banks. The rivers have been teaming with all sorts of invertebrates as the flushing water does its magic and it has been disappointing to not have been able to share the waterbug hunting this spring due to the plague. I really hope this changes next year. Enjoy this month's Bulletin. Featured is a true quite achiever on many levels, Vera Kurz.

Cheers,
Martin Lind
Waterwatch Coordinator.



Vera Kurz; Conder Wetlands Waterwatch (2006- now)

Best experience: Seeing the ducklings and baby Coots and Swampen chicks.

Funniest experience: Watching two of the boys of a former WW partner pushing each other into the pond in a sibling fight.

Worst experience: The whistling bitterly cold wind that regularly blows up the creek line in a direct line from the mountains. That, and seeing the pond dry out in the 2019 drought.

The site: I inherited the site, rather than me choosing it, but I love seeing it over the years, sometimes flooding, sometimes drier. The area is used a lot by kids fishing, for dog walking and so forth, so there's always people around. They're often interested in what I'm doing. Lately it's getting much greener, thanks to the love and work of a fellow park carer, and I contribute to that by growing local plants for him to put in. I wish all the waterways in Canberra could be more like this rather than just concrete drains. I'm looking forward to seeing how the site changes in the future.

And my four year old grandson took this photo of me this morning, which is pretty much in frame, so that's a success!

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



Pondweed in the Old Dam (Taken from Nov21 Newsletter)

"Have you noticed how beautiful the Old Dam looks after all this amazing rain? Not only is it full of plants, but the frogs are also enjoying the water. One particular unknown aquatic plant caught my eye, and so I posted a photo on Canberra Nature Map. Within 30 minutes, the answer came back – Pondweed. (*Potamogeton*, probably *ochreatus*). This plant has not been recorded on our plant-list, despite it being widespread. The name is related to the Greek "potamus" meaning river or lake (hiipopotamus-horse-river). The plant is a native and is valuable to waterfowl and fish. There are a few species, some with oval leaf, but this species has long submerged, translucent leaves. Potamogeton commences growing vigorously in September, reaching maturity in early summer, when it rapidly disintegrates, or is destroyed by aquatic insects. A second burst of growth can occur in autumn. It occurs erratically and is not a long-lasting perennial plant."

Photo: Linda Spinaze



Pondweed (Potamogeton ochreatus)

Upper Murrumbidgee Waterwatch news and events;



From Woo's home office;

Greetings platypus enthusiasts.

Belated thanks to Geoff Williams from the Australian Platypus Conservancy for his terrific platypus talk that he presented to us all in the ACT region on 1 November. For those who weren't able to make it, you can view the talk at the link below.

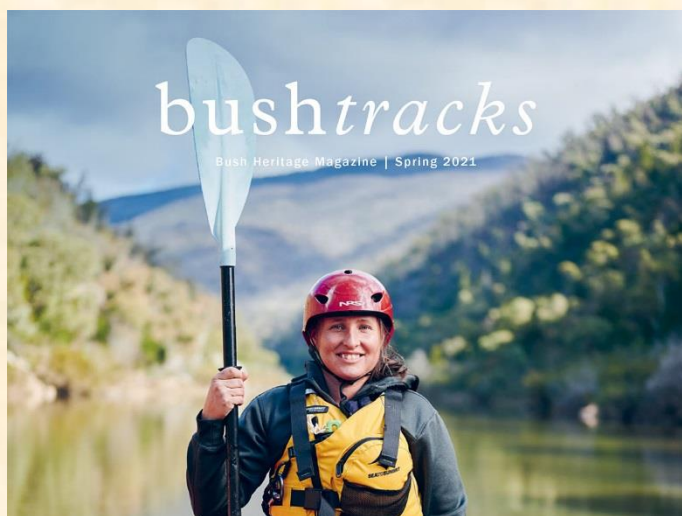
<https://zoom.us/rec/share/Fo9TjYFMDzGbYc0qeDWubpWeqC87hkwpYEHWeKsj6o-9rEvs3MwEULvOTv5vBjZ0.hNk86NBzTXtJJox6> Passcode: tu1vet&.

Enjoy!

Cheers – Woo

PS Stay tuned for more information about some extra platypus surveys to be conducted in February to make up for those cancelled in August.

Our very own Antia Brademann!!, Cooma Waterwatch Coordinator/Upper Murrumbidgee Demonstration Reach Officer.



“For our cover story, we visit the upper Murrumbidgee River south of Canberra where a community-driven effort to restore the river is underway.

A river in recovery

The bushfires of January 2020 left Australia's second longest river, the Murrumbidgee, thick with ash and silt. Now, its waters are clearer thanks to a community-led effort to restore its health.

[Read more >](#)

[Download your copy of bushtracks >>](#)

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 Sarah McLaren, Icon Water. This data is operational information and subject to change.

Bendora

Currently overflowing. Flow below Bendora Dam approximately 530 ML/d. Release currently at licence requirements:

10 November 48.0 – 51.2 MLD 0.98 – 0.99 m 17 November 81.6 – 85.2 MLD 1.08 – 1.09 m

Licence requirements: 10 November 50.3 17 November 83.8 MLD

Corin

Currently overflowing. Flow below Corin Dam approximately 340 ML/d. Release currently at licence requirements:

11 November 30.2 – 32.5 MLD 0.33 – 0.34 m 18 November 56.3 – 60.3 MLD 0.41 – 0.42 m

Licence requirements: 11 November 32.3 18 November 53.8 MLD

Cotter

Currently overflowing. Current flow approximately 1,490 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

- **Hume Dam releases increase to provide airspace ahead of expected rain this week.** The following can be attributed to Murray-Darling Basin Authority (MDBA) acting Chief Executive Andrew Reynolds: The Murray-Darling Basin Authority is increasing the release of water from Hume Dam to create airspace ahead of widespread rain expected later this week.. [Read more](#)
- **Working with communities to find solutions to the sand slug.** Something we're often asked at the Murray-Darling Basin Authority is if we've found a solution to the 'sand slug' impacting the River Murray Barmah Choke. We haven't found a solution but we're working with the community, seeking expert advice, and finding a way forward. [Read more](#)
- **River Murray operators put through their paces in water delivery shortfall simulation exercise.** This week the Murray-Darling Basin Authority is hosting an annual simulation exercise with state government agencies to test and enhance River Murray operators' preparedness for handling a shortfall in water delivery. [Read more](#)

Dear UMCN Members and Associates,

Looking for an affordable conference with a stellar lineup of speakers?
Look no further!

The draft program for the [Australasian Wildlife Management Society](#) Conference Biodiversity Management and Climate Change (7-9 December) is now up on the AWMS website. This conference was to be held on UC campus but is now completely online. The opening Plenary is by Mark Howden (ANU) on "Climate change: an update on trends and prospects for future change"

[Register here](#)

See you there!



Students seeking opportunities for professional practise

The School of Science at the University of Canberra is looking for [Work Integrated Learning \(WIL\)](#) opportunities for second and third year undergraduate science students over the summer period and into 2022. As part of a WIL unit, students undertake a professional placement for the equivalent of 15 full-time working days and is expected to allow the students to develop their scientific and professional skills. Because this would be undertaken as an undergraduate unit, students are not normally paid and the University covers the student for insurance purposes. If you have any opportunities where you think students could contribute to your workplace while gaining valuable professional skills, please contact Fiona Dyer (Fiona.Dyer@canberra.edu.au) for more information.

Claire Sives Executive Officer | UMCN PO Box 82 Jamison Centre ACT 2614 0403 867 784

Canberra Environment Centre [Newsletter: Tips for National Recycling Week](#)

[Newsletter: Growing Tomatoes at Home](#)

[Newsletter: We're so Proud of our Latest Podcasts!](#)



"We are pleased to invite all members to the Canberra Environment Centre Inc **Annual General Meeting** which will be held on Thursday 25th November, 2021 at 6pm at the Canberra Environment Centre with online attendance available via Zoom. Your participation is important to us.

If you wish to participate online please email info@canberraenvironment.org before 12pm on Thursday 25th November to receive the zoom link and any required voting information.

The election of the Canberra Environment Centre Board is conducted at the AGM. Board nomination forms can be [downloaded](#) here. If you wish to nominate for the Board please submit a completed application by Thursday 18th November.

Please note that nomination forms for Board positions can be signed and returned by mail or email, and that the Secretary will accept evidence of the nomination via a confirming email from the nominator / seconder for those who are unable to obtain physical signatures.

Please send completed email nominations to the Executive Director at director@canberraenvironment.org OR post to GPO Box 1875 Canberra ACT 2601"

Invasive Species Council Campaign; [Keep Tassie Wild, not Feral](#)

"Tasmania's wilderness area is a global treasure and home to places like the much-loved Overland Track, Cradle Mountain and Walls of Jerusalem national parks. We believe all Australians care deeply about this very special place.

The Tasmanian Government can stop feral deer from taking over the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area, and give farmers the tools they need to protect their livelihoods from invading feral deer."

[Feral Herald](#) newsletter.



Greening Australia Upcoming events



Wednesday 24th November - **Seeds at Sunset:**

5pm - 7.30pm, Aranda Nursery. Propagation event with food and drinks. RSVP required [here](#), spots limited.

Saturday 27th November - **Seeds for the Future**

2pm - 4.30pm, Aranda Nursery. Propagation event with afternoon tea. RSVP required [here](#), spots limited

Friday 3rd December - **Seeds for the Future**

5pm - 7.30pm, Aranda Nursery. Propagation event with light dinner. RSVP required [here](#), spots limited

Riverina Local Land Services [Australasian Bittern Conservation Summit 2022](#)



The Australasian Bittern Conservation Summit 2022 is a unique opportunity to connect with scientists, conservationists, wetland managers, birdwatchers and farmers who share a passion for Bitterns. Bitterns are listed as an endangered species in Australia and only about 2,000 birds remain globally, so we are keen to connect with people who have an interest in its survival. The Summit offers an engaging program, with unique tours to the key Bittern wetlands of the Riverina, including the internationally recognised Fivebough Wetland and bittern-friendly rice crops. Expert speakers from across Australia and New Zealand will cover a range of topics, including innovative monitoring methods, wetland management and restoration. Conference tickets are available from www.lls.nsw.gov.au/bitternsummit

ACT Natural Resource Management and Landcare

[e-newsletter October 2021](#)



Murrumbidgee Landcare [Newsletter](#)



CSIRO [ECOS enewletter](#) Building resilience. A changing climate is prompting Australians to increase our resilience in the way we build our homes, manage our water and forecast smoke pollution. In this issue of ECOS, we scan the country to look at this cutting-edge science.

[Snapshot Newsletter](#)



Australian Water School [Tomorrow's Webinar: Lake modelling](#)



Learn of the complexities of modelling stationary water.

Responsible management of natural and artificial freshwater bodies is essential for sustaining a healthy environment and is critical to afford the basic human right of access to safe drinking water. Stationary water bodies exhibit unique physical behaviours, such as seasonal stratification and episodic turnover mixing. Join expert presenters from TUFLOW as they demonstrate 3D hydraulic modelling of these complex physical behaviours.

SPEL Storm Water [The Flow newsletter](#)



Nicole
LAWDER MLA
Liberal Member for Brindabella
Conservative
Liberals



Lake Tuggeranong Water Quality Like many Tuggeranong residents, I have a keen interest in improving water quality in Lake Tuggeranong. Water quality is such a complex issue, and we certainly have a lot to do when it comes to Lake Tuggeranong.

[Read more](#)

**Restrictions
have eased
but your
responsibility
hasn't**



For updates visit
[covid19.act.gov.au](https://www.covid19.act.gov.au)