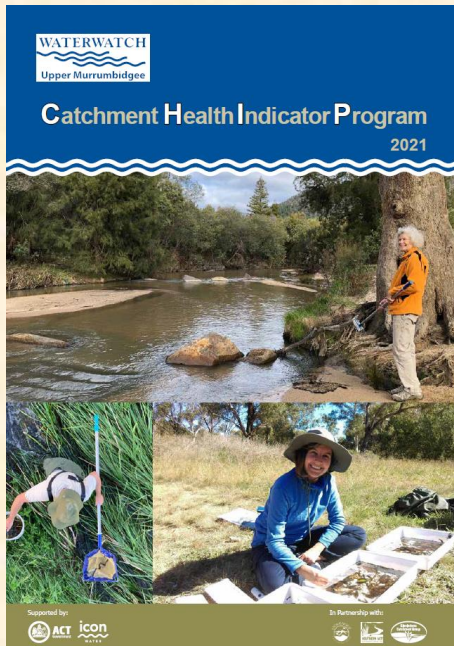


SACTCG WATERWATCH BULLETIN MARCH 2022



Hi,

Please join me next **8:30am Tuesday 22nd March** at **Holder Wetlands** for the launch of the **2021 Catchment Health Indicator Program (CHIP) Report** by **Minister Shane Rattenbury** (next to Dixon Drive). This is the official celebration of all your Waterwatching sweat and tears last year. Speaking of celebrations, last Thursday was the **ACT Landcare Awards** night. Our very own **Deb Kellock** walked away with the coveted Individual Landcarer award for her many years work in various roles mostly in the southern ACT and/or with Waterwatch. **Jim Lehane**, from the Southwell Scout group won the Photography Award – Amateur, for his beautiful aerial photos of Namadgi NP while out there with their Waterwatch team and the **Gudgenby Bush Regenerators Parkcare** crew won the Quiet Achiever Award against a strong line up. See the photos;

<https://www.facebook.com/hashtag/landcareawards2021>

It's also been a long time since you've have been invited to go bug hunting and I want to make it up to you. It is a fun addition to water testing and great for kids & grandkids. Priority will be given to your sites, but there will be plenty of extra places to visit. Let me know and we'll make a date. waterwatch@sactcg.org.au



Cheers,
Martin Lind
Waterwatch Coordinator.



Waterwatch of the Month: Sijia Ding (Lake Tuggeranong)

Sijia has been checking where the northern creeks flow into Lake Tuggeranong for nearly 3 years. This included taking monthly photos of the floating wetland near one site. Sadly Sijia has had to stop her Waterwatching. Below is her highs and lows;

Best experience or memory of Waterwatching: Best experience might be the first couple ones with Emily, because at that time I did not have much chance to get exposed to local community. The waterwatch process was also very eye-opening for me. I did not even know the existence of waterwatch before. I never think about monitoring water quality, it was so far from me and it suddenly became alive.

Funniest experience while WWing: I was sampling and there were two kids just came out from water from boating (forgive my wording, I do not know how to express it well). They thought I was thirsty, and they looked so worried. They asked: are you going to drink it? you cannot drink it! Then I said, no I am sampling to water quality experiment. They laughed and it was fun. People are actually very caring in Canberra.

Worst experience while WWing: I did not tighten the bottles very well and the water leak out on my car. I found there was no water left when I was about to do experiments. I had to go back and re-sample.

What you love/hate most about your sites: I love the wetland, it looks so beautiful when sky is blue (which is always the case in Canberra 😊). I like the reflection of wetland on water. The wetland turns the lake view to a totally different thing. I like the net because all the little holes make the picture looks full of details.

Your motivation for continuing to WW: I think it is the classic thing as if you have been doing one thing or being with one person for a long time, it is hard to say good bye. I have finished all volunteering hours I needed for completing my volunteering program in my uni and have been continuing waterwatching from then for about 6 months in addition to about 2 years volunteering.

Anything else you would love to share about yourself: I believe in giving back. I love helping people and I believe all my giving back brings me good luck as well. I sometimes stretch myself too thin for all commitments I have in my life but it is still good to spare some time giving back to the community.



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



Australasian Grebes on Old Dam Photo: Allan Hahn (Taken from Coleman Ridge PC March22 Newsletter)



Upper Murrumbidgee Waterwatch news and events;



Community Champion for the month of March.

Andrew Leigh MP announced the ACT FrogWatch program as his 'Community Champions' for March. See Ginninderra Catchment Group's Facebook post with the link to Mr Leigh's blog page with full article. [Read more.](#)



Saving aquatic insects: We may be looking in the wrong place. Here is a link to an interesting article in the Melbourne University's 'Pursuit' e-newsletter, found by GCG's Waterwatch Coordinator **Bruno Ferronato**. 'Insects that live in and around our rivers are at great risk of extinction, and we don't know why. Despite billions of dollars spent on improving water quality, repairing river channels and releasing environmental flows, extinction rates among aquatic insects and other invertebrates remain puzzlingly and worryingly high.' [Read the full article.](#)

ACT Government Waterway updates;



[Waterway closures.](#)

[Recreational Water Quality](#)

[Bacteria alerts](#)

Icon Water Eflow releases;



Last month's summary of Icon dam release reports below. They are emailed fortnightly and are available upon request.

Cotter Dam was gently overflowing at the end of February. This increased 10 fold over early March but has now halved to a flow 250ML/day below the dam. **Bendora Dam** stopped overflowing in late February then followed similar patterns to the Cotter. It now has 160 ML/day below the dam. **Corin Dam** continued to overflow all month with steady flows getting up to 400mL/day in the river below the dam.