

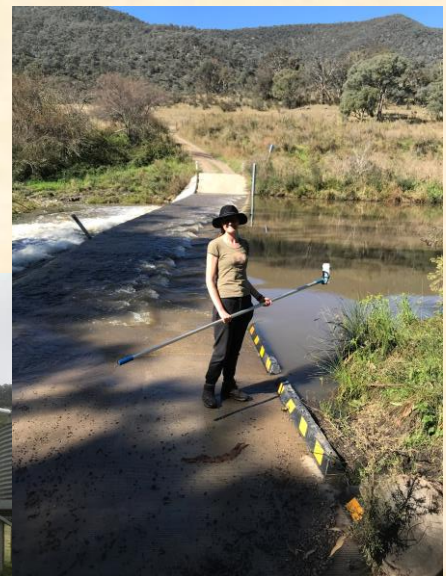
Hi,
 This last month has been a whirlwind of volunteer engagement in Waterwatch around the south. Many teams accompanied me in bug hunting at their favorite waterways and a few new people have joined the program. An added treat for me this month was chancing upon a ranger at Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve checking on the diminutive southern corroboree frogs in their prerelease enclosures. I was there helping the Visitor Assist team with one of their exciting holiday program activities in the Sanctuary. Below is a bit of a photo essay capturing some of the last 4 weeks. I also had the pleasure of visiting the very exclusive ‘Cotter Hut’ in the Bimberi wilderness with ranger Liz Collier. It’s a tough job, but someone has to do it.



Southern Corroboree frogs at Tidbinbilla

Cheers,
 Martin Lind
 Waterwatch Coordinator.

Clockwise from top left; new member Scott Powers, Ranger Sally Hatton, Tidbinbilla Visitor Assist education event, Samantha Burn at Caloola Farm, Cotter Hut with ranger Liz and photographer Cristy, Jill and Maree. In the Centre, Jan Koehler.



Waterwatchers of the Month: Elissa O’Keefe & Tony Greenwell

Elissa and Tony monitor Stranger Pond, Bonython. They only started a few months last year before writing this contribution in 2021 during partial lockdown.

Best experience or memory: As we are very new and raw in this caper, actually completing two tests by ourselves is our major achievement, reviving ancient memories of high school science experiments!! Also, surviving two sets of sample collection without falling into the drink!!

Funniest experience: We are ambitious Water Watchers and began with high hopes!! Yet who would have believed that in such a short career, we have seen our pond (Stranger Pond) promoted to a lake (see photo).

Worst experience: Not being consulted by the powers at be when our pond was firstly, closed, and secondly, promoted to a lake!! Very disappointed 😞 😊, but at the same time very proud 😊 😊.

Love about site: Stranger Pond/Lake is a beautiful waterway and nature attraction, particularly for us Bonython locals!! We are very fortunate to live in such close proximity to it, as well as the Murrumbidgee River and Pine Island which are just a few hundred metres down the track. The walkway around the pond has been unbelievably popular with locals in lockdown.

Motivation for Waterwatch: Hopefully making a valuable contribution to assessing and improving water quality in our region. And carrying on the excellent work of Martin and his team, and our predecessors of course!!



Southern ACT Catchment Group news and events;



New Waterwatch Volunteers (Excerpt from **Coleman Ridge PC Newsletter** May 2022)

‘Helen Govey and Peter Lindenmeyer have offered to take over the Waterwatch role. Thanks Pat for 12 years of diligent monthly water testing.’

Upper Murrumbidgee Waterwatch news and events;

The BioCollect makeover – what's new and what's

changed BioCollect, who host the Upper Murrumbidgee Waterwatch database, has been getting a makeover. Data entry, however, remains straight forward with only cosmetic changes to layout and graphics. Read more in the [Atlas of Living Australia May Newsletter](#).



Webinar 23 May 12pm-1pm- Assessing natural barriers to assist with environmental flow planning for Macquarie perch spawning migrations in the upper Murrumbidgee River

Saturday 21 May is World Fish Migration Day, which aims to create awareness about the importance of migratory fish and free-flowing rivers. Join Upper Murrumbidgee Demonstration Reach/Cooma Waterwatch Coordinator, **Antia Brademann** and others from the Uni of Canberra and NSW Gov for a show case projects to assist with environmental flow planning for Macquarie perch spawning migrations in the upper Murrumbidgee River. [Register here](#).



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. Flows below the **Cotter Dam** sat around 300ML/day for most of the last month but rose dramatically to over 1300ML/day on the 17th May. **Bendora Dam** licensed release requirements alternated between around 15ML/day to 35ML/day this period. The releases were slightly above these figures. **Corin Dam** releases were above the license requirements which alternated between below 10ML/day to below 30ML/day this period.

Other watery newsletters and links;

Widespread rainfall and cooler temperatures supported a strong recovery of Australia's environment in 2021, with several environmental condition indicators reaching values not seen for several years.

That's the main conclusion from [Australia's Environment](#), the latest in an annual series of environmental condition reports released today.

Australia's Environment | 2021 REPORT



ECOS



After the Floods Why the wet weather? La Nina is a big factor, often associated with wetter years in Australia. And climate change could be contributing since we know a warmer atmosphere can hold more moisture. To read more head to; [Issue 289: April 2022](#)

Murrumbidgee Landcare May newsletter Has a link to the [Draft Regional Water Strategies: Murray and Murrumbidgee](#) (NSW Government). 'The water strategies aim to help manage the water needs in the Murray and Murrumbidgee regions over the next 20 years. The overarching objective is to ensure 'beneficial outcomes' for a wide range of water stakeholders.' You can [have your say](#) on the draft strategy by providing written feedback to the Department of Planning and Environment by midnight Sunday, 22 May 2022.

