

Hi,

Southern ACT Waterwatchers converged on mass at the WW Training Day at the start of the month. Thanks to everyone who came along. It was one of the largest of these events staff can remember, with over 40 attendees. We normally see around 25. Nearly 20 were from Southern this time. I always enjoy pointing folk out to each other who share waterways. Coming in August is the annual **Platypus Month**. Dusk and dawn surveys will be happening at the usual places around the upper Murrumbidgee catchment. A flyer is on its way, but I am happy to take enquiries now [waterwatch@sactcg.org.au](mailto:waterwatch@sactcg.org.au).

Cheers,  
Martin Lind  
Waterwatch Coordinator.

## Waterwatcher of the Month: Alannah Alley-Freeman

*Alannah monitored 3 sites down in the Naas Valley from 2019 until 2021. When personal commitments made the long drive impossible, rather than quitting, Alannah took on a site at Lake Tuggeranong. A truly committed Waterwatcher!*

*Best experience or memory of Waterwatching* - When I first joined Waterwatch two of my monitoring sites were dry month after month. Seeing water finally reach the dry creek bed on the Naas River was very exciting. I told my whole family, even when they didn't ask.

*Funniest experience while WWing* - I suppose I scare easily, or at least I have always jumped a lot. Most people know not to sneak up on me... but one day as I was mid-way through testing my site a local came up behind me. When he said hi I jumped so dramatically I knocked over my tests (thankfully the only open lid was on the water bottle). We had a good laugh after.

*Worst experience while WWing* - One of my sites used to have tall reeds and grass surrounding the river banks. Sometimes they would become marshy and in certain areas also drop off quickly. In the early days I was unaware and strode right in, only to sink and come out wet and covered in mud.

*What you love/hate most about your site/s* - The drive - some days it's wonderful to have remote sites, get a change of scenery and see what's happening out of town. Other days I am just sick of driving.

*Your motivation for continuing to WW* - I work/study in the environment space. I rely a lot on citizen science data to inform research projects and so I know how important volunteering is. I also love being able to talk to landholders out near my sites and share my knowledge with them. It's great to see them interested in what's happening around them and becoming mindful of their impacts on the waterways.



*Alannah enjoying a river somewhere. (Not Naas)*



## Upper Murrumbidgee Waterwatch news and events;



**World Fish Migration Day (23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022)**, Our **Antia Brademann** joined others to promote awareness about the importance of migratory fish and free-flowing rivers. This included environmental flow planning for Macquarie perch spawning migrations in the upper Murrumbidgee River. If you missed it, [view the webinar recording here.](#)

## ACT Government Waterway updates;



[Waterway closures.](#)

[Recreational Water Quality](#)

[Bacteria alerts](#)

## Icon Water Eflow releases;



Last 2 month's summary of Icon dam release reports below. They are sent fortnightly and are available upon request.

All 3 dams on the Cotter river were overflowing constantly over the past 2 months.

The **Cotter Dam** released 15ML/day. **Bendora Dam** released above the license requirements of between around 23ML/day to 107ML/day this period. **Corin Dam** releases were also above the license requirements which alternated between below 10ML/day to below 70ML/day this period.

## Other watery newsletters and links;



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**Jo Clay MLA, ACT Greens Member for Ginninderra Western Edge Investigation Area** The area, known as the 'western edge' is bordered by the Murrumbidgee River and Belconnen, Molonglo Valley, Weston Creek and Kambah. The ACT Government are looking at developing the so called 'Western Edge' of Canberra. My (Martin Lind) belief is that any development adjacent to the Murrumbidgee river poses significant environmental risks, and Waterwatch volunteers need to be aware of this issue. **The media release [is here](#). The ACT Government has [released reports here](#).**



In **Nicole Lawder's [June newsletter](#)** she references our latest **ChiP report** in relation to the water quality issues faced by **Lake Tuggeranong**. Nicole also mentions a feasibility study flagged by ACT Liberals into potential development of **West Tuggeranong**, on the west bank of the Murrumbidgee river acknowledging environmental concerns.

**'Ribbering' recovery for endangered frog** The Tidbinbilla Northern Corroboree Frog (*Pseudophryne penquillieyi*) recovery program is showing signs that the species is gaining a foothold in Namadgi National Park. Monitoring demonstrates that the frogs are surviving, are in excellent condition and have started breeding. [Read the story.](#)



**Vortceptor: ACT Government Asset Approval** Read in SPELs e-magazine 'The Flow' [Issue #6](#) about a new stormwater treatment device to be rolled out around Canberra in an effort to reduce the amount of pollutants entering our urban lakes and ponds.



**'River reflections' annual water conference June 2022 extracts;**

- **'We must meet our climate challenges head on, and we must do this together'** Murray-Darling Basin Authority Chair' Sir Angus Houston address. Challenges are faced due to climate change and work is needed to make the MD Basin, of which the Upper Murrumbidgee is a major part, ready for a more variable, drier and hotter future. [Read more](#)



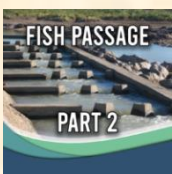
- **Wet and wetter conditions in store for most of the Murray-Darling Basin**

Water storages were just 36 per cent full in May 2020 compared with 89 per cent today. The Bureau of Meteorology's outlook is for above-average rainfall across the catchment from now until August. [Read more](#)

- **Final pieces of Basin Plan vital for long-term prosperity for all**

Prior to the 'Basin Plan', for 100 years, our rivers were 'essentially managed as a pipelines to support towns and agriculture'. The MDBA's new Sustainable Diversion Limit Adjustment Mechanism (SDLAM) will hopefully see an improvement in the health of our rivers and wetlands, as water is delivered in a way that more closely mirrors the natural pattern of movement. [Read more](#)

**This year water for the environment will boost resilience for the drier times** The recent wetter than average years provide perfect timing to 'secure water for the environment' at keys sites around the Murry Darling Basin, of which the upper Murrumbidgee River is a key component. [Read more](#)



**Webinar: Something's fishy, part 2** A follow-up to the first AWS webinar about fish passages; 'Something's Fishy' with a focus on Australian species and additional global research. See 3D printed models in action, learn about innovative culvert upgrades to promote fish passage, and find out about the latest research in designing sustainable waterways. **Wednesday, 31 August 2022 10am.**



[Find out more and sign up here.](#)



**STORMWATER SHEPHERDS**

'Stormwater Shepherds' is an international not-for-profit organisation promoted by [SPEL Stormwater](#). Their website is mostly about sourcing donations, selling a range of products and offering promotional activities, described under 'Volunteering'. Have a look [here](#) if you're interested.