



Your catchment in August '10



Cooma Region Waterwatch Address: Admin Building, Monaro High School, Mittagang Rd, Cooma NSW 2630
Mobile: 0429778633 Email: antia@coomawaterwatch.org.au Web: www.coomawaterwatch.org.au

Introducing Cooma Region Waterwatch!

Waterwatch (Cooma Region) now has an office in Cooma, located in the Admin Building at Monaro High School. Waterwatch is a community based program that supports schools and community members learn about, monitor and look after our local creeks and rivers. Antia Brademann (your new local Waterwatch coordinator) will now take on the face to face support that Tanya Noakes, the ACT & Upper Murrumbidgee Waterwatch Coordinator, has provided in our part of the catchment so far. Tanya remains involved in our region, continuing to provide support to Waterwatchers in our region at a higher strategic level and is always happy to be contacted also.

Antia Brademann will be working Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays. Please call or drop in for a chat to discuss Waterwatch or find out more! Thankyou to Monaro High School for housing the position at the school and Lynton Bond (Chair- Molonglo Catchment Group) for assistance with website development.

Your catchment in August (What does your data say?)

Thanks to all our volunteers who have collected data this month. The general across our catchments found moderate or higher water levels and low turbidity in all rivers sampled. EC, pH and DO were all within acceptable levels suited to our local freshwater ecosystems. Nutrient levels were also low, including phosphates. This reflects the fact that , at this time of the year, all bio-available phosphates are readily taken up by stream micro-organisms and algae.

Cooma Region Catchment Summary August 2010

Rainfall for August at Cooma Visitors Centre: 34.6 ml (Long term average for August= 27.2ml)							
Catchment sampled*	Turbidity (NTU)	pH	EC (mS/cm)	DO (mg/L)	Nitrates/nitrites (mg/L)	Phosphates (mg/L)	Stream height**
Murrumbidgee R.	<10	6.5-7.9	50-70	9-10	0	0.01	Med
Bredbo R.	<10	7.0	180	9	0	0.01	Med
Numeralla R.	<10	6.5-7.0	80-150	8.5-11	0	0.01	Med
Badja R.	<10	7.0-7.8	50	4-10.5	0	0.01	Med
Kybeyan R.	<10	6.5	110	9	0	0.01	Med

* In some catchments number of sites sampled may be limited and so data may be representative of one site only.

** Stream height is estimated by volunteers to be high/medium/low at time of sampling. Weekly stream flow data for gauged sites is available at <http://waterinfo.nsw.gov.au/>

Water Quality Variables

Turbidity– measure of 'murkiness', can be an indicator of sediment pollution. Levels above 10 NTU can start affecting aquatic life, especially if repeated over longer periods.

pH- measure of acidity. Levels between 6-8 pH units are suited for aquatic life.

EC– electrical conductivity is a measure of dissolved solids or 'salts'. Levels above 800mS/cm is detrimental to livestock.

DO– dissolved oxygen. Levels below 4ppm cause stress to/death of aquatic life.

Nitrates/nitrites/phosphates– bio-available nutrient levels will influence algal growth and productivity in stream.

The great job that Waterwatchers do!

Waterwatch data is taken monthly to provide a monthly overview of the water quality in our streams and rivers. Many positive, community based conservation activities have been initiated by Waterwatch groups (including creek restoration, willow removal, litter removal, weed control) based on the awareness and information generated by monitoring activity. In our region Waterwatch data will now also be used to develop half yearly catchment health indicator reports for monitored catchments.

Our data is also useful for a variety of other reasons, such as monitoring improvements in river health resulting from management actions. This is occurring in the Numeralla River Catchment, where Waterwatch data will be used to measure the positive effects of the Upper Murrumbidgee Restoration Project on the Numeralla River. The project, which is a partnership between government and non-government stakeholders (including Numeralla Landcare, Murrumbidgee CMA, Waterwatch, UMCCC and landholders), aims to arrest sediment input into the Numeralla River via a range of methods including bank stabilisation and revegetation.

If you would like to find out more about becoming a Waterwatch volunteer, local Waterwatch activities or what you can do to enhance your local stretch of creek or river, contact Antia at Cooma Region Waterwatch.

Upper Murrumbidgee Waterwatch Newsletter

The September edition of the Upper Murrumbidgee Waterwatch Newsletter is out. Download it online at <http://www.act.waterwatch.org.au/> or pick up a hardcopy at C-MS Council (level 2 foyer).

Grants and projects

The Murrumbidgee CMA are calling for expressions of interest for three grants now on offer:

- Climate Change Corridors (incentives to protect, enhance and link native vegetation remnants on farms)
- Drought Ready Package (funding support and training to establish & use drought feeding facilities)
- Grazing Management (funding support and training to subdivide and rotationally graze native grassland/shrubland paddocks greater than 75Ha in area).

For further information and EOI forms go to: <http://www.murrumbidgee.cma.nsw.gov.au/getinvolved/tenders.aspx> or phone (02) 6932 3232. EOIs close on Thursday September 30, 2010.

Coming Up.....

Platypus Survey: You can still take part in the ACT & Region Platypus survey to record sightings of platypus, past and present- for details <http://www.act.waterwatch.org.au/>

Next Waterwatch sampling weekend: 18th & 19th Sept.

Macroinvertebrate Assessments: Sample in September/October. Contact Antia to organise a session or borrow equipment. It would be great to get all sites assessed for macros this year!

Frogwatch Introductory Seminar: 15th September, 6:00-9:00pm, Queanbeyan Public School. Cooma Waterwatch is looking for interested people to carpool/share a small bus to attend this event. Please contact Antia on 049778633 or antia@coomawaterwatch.org.au ASAP as bookings are essential.

Fish Friendly Farms Day and UMDR Launch: 18th September, Namadgi National Park Visitors Centre, 9:00am-2:30pm. Contact charlie.carruthers@industry.nsw.gov.au or (02) 62980802.

K2C Biodiversity & Farming Fair: 10 October, Bredbo Village, 9am-4pm. Contact Lauren 0411 402 978.

UMCCC Forum "The Upper Bidgee- Helping it work": 29 October, University House ANU, 8:30am-4:30pm. Contact joperkins@grapevine.com.au or 0424 208 003.

Want to be added to/removed from our mailing list? Please send an email to: antia@coomawaterwatch.org.au