

Annual report 2011 Waterwatch in Molonglo Catchment

Highlights of 2011

January: World Wetland Day was celebrated with a picnic, at Banksia St Wetland provided by the then DECCEW (ACT government).

February: *The Glove Box Guide Aquatic Water Plants of the ACT and region* came back from the printers and was an immediate success. I also engaged with Simon Holloway from Palerang Council to support him doing a Water Snapshot for the Murrumbidgee CMA part of the shire.

March: Someone, I think it was Bill Phillips, pointed out that there were water lilies in Jerrabomberra wetlands and Lake Burley Griffin. When I identified these as Mexican Waterlilies with long, descending roots that required to be dredged for removal, we had a scandal on our hands!

April: Once again Merici Yr 12 descended on Molonglo Gorge Park!

May: The community planting morning for the new Dickson Wetlands was so well attended that by 11:00 am there were no more plants to put in!

June: We were at the Queanbeyan Expo again, but inside in the warmth this year. We finally got the frog census figures for 2010. And on a cold blustery lunchtime Dr Chris Bourke, and the local water rats, launched the Glove Box Guide, and the requests poured in again.

July: Waterwatch started netting for *Gambusia*, and the first day was bleak! Later on we had some wonderful warm winter days to chase them! Also this month I was out at Lot 100 at the National Arboretum for STEP when the American Ambassador came, and really joined in (unlike the two body guards).

August: With Andy away I helped the Madura Valley Landcare (the Woolshed Creek mob) hold their incorporating meeting. I also spent a very profitable morning walking along the Tralee section of Jerrabomberra Creek...now the developers have to get organised!

September: The Catchment Health indicators Report for January to June came out this month, with the frog data, and the Palerang Snapshot. There were plenty of Frog events, and a couple of days at the Botanic Gardens with children, and the fuss over the Chinese Elms in Trinculo Place and it was Floriade time.

October: We had one of the best attended and friendliest QA/QC meetings at Molonglo Gorge Park.

November: the Queanbeyan River Corridor draft plan of management came out this month, and caused some consternation.

All the year I have been supported by a very dependable and enthusiastic group of volunteers who took their samples each month and sent their reports in. Sadly there have been some people who have moved on (going home, or to jobs elsewhere) but there have been a steady increase in new volunteers too. And the committee! THANK YOU ALL