

August in our Catchment

The rains have started, but we were a week early in most places! It is good to hear that some spots have started to flow again. September should be much better.

Results for the month:

The water temperatures were all as expected with the urban and 'gutter' sites reading higher than rural ones. Keep an eye on the water temperature, and the amount of overhanging foliage ... rushes, tussocks, shrubs or trees ... and you will probably note a simple correlation, the better the bank vegetation, the cooler or more even the water temperature throughout the year.

pH readings were all fine except up the top of Sullivans Ck, where more they are generally alkaline than in any other sub-catchment. There is more limestone in the local geology here, and concrete doesn't help acidify things.

Yarralumla Ck must have some land clearance work upstream to show a spike in electrical conductivity. And as for turbidity, the pools at the University will take a good flushing to settle to a satisfactory level after their cleaning. Interestingly Kate and Jo reported 10mg/L Nitrate in Yarralumla Ck, which may also relate to whatever caused the conductivity to rise. The sites at the bottom of the Molonglo above the Lake all show localised influences, from Queanbeyan, from stock or from the Fairburn Rd roadworks!

The lime green drifts of algae the Hodgeman family found are probably the children of the pinky brown muck. Look out for all kinds of algae this month, after the rain!

Important Dates:

Date	Time	Event	Location	How do I join in?
19 th Sept	When you choose	M-CHiP sampling	Your own sites	
23 rd Sept	18:00–21:00	Frogwatch Introductory Seminar	Crosbie Morrison Building, Australian National Botanic Gardens	waterwatch@ginninderralandcare.org.au register with Frogwatch as soon as possible, before 16 th September
30 th Sept	17:30–20:30	Advanced Frogwatch Training	Tidbinbilla nature reserve	waterwatch@ginninderralandcare.org.au
7 th	18:00–	Frogwatch Introductory	Crosbie Morrison	waterwatch@ginninderralandcare.org.au

Oct	21:00	Seminar	Building, Australian National Botanic Gardens	
17 th Oct	When you choose	M-CHiP sampling	Your own sites	
26 th Oct	17:30	QAQC	George Harcourt Inn, 5 Gold Creek Rd, Nicholls	Tanya.RucoskyNoakes@act.gov.au Register now!

QAQC at the pub ..on a Monday evening. It would be good to see those of you who find this more convenient than Weekend afternoons. You get more than just



accreditation and new calibration fluids! (and don't forget...we get our data taken seriously because we have these sessions!)

Two Spring Jobs:

Macroinvertebrate Survey, to be done with the November Waterwatch on 21st Nov. We do have gear to loan for the weekend, but as it is also for school visits it needs to come back quickly.

Rapid Appraisal of Riparian Condition of your site...this not only helps us do the M-CHiP, but it assists your Landcare group either see that their work has started to come along or where work needs to be done and what kind!

I know many of you do not feel confident to do this work. We can have training sessions, one in Queanbeyan (for the westerners), and one at Molonglo River Park (for the easterners) one weekend late in October or early in November.

And a marker for the future: When your site was first set up there were photos taken up and down stream. Waterwatch ACT have been requested to make sure all sites have a peg marked Photo Point that is used for shots each year.