

Streamwatch Newsletter

Winter 2009

Thanks for the surveys

Sydney Water is gathering information on the type and age of Streamwatch equipment to help with program management and ordering. The 2009 Streamwatch survey also gathers feedback on kit working order. This is important for maintaining data quality.

Thank you to all groups who have already returned the survey. If your group has not received or completed it please fill out the attached copy and return to Penne Coleman:

Fax: 02 8849 3142

Email: penne.coleman@sydneywater.com.au

Post: Sydney Water, Community Education, PO Box 399, Parramatta 2124.

Quality Assurance Day kicks off next month!

The annual Quality Assurance event will check the accuracy of your testing techniques and provide a group feedback report. It will be held during the third week of August. Streamwatch Coordinators will be in touch in the next few weeks to arrange delivery of the laboratory mystery samples.

Replacement flows for Hawkesbury-Nepean

From next year, highly treated water from the St Marys Recycled Water Plant will begin to replace flows from Warragamba Dam below Penrith Weir. The new plant will treat wastewater from St Marys, Penrith and Quakers Hill sewage treatment plants. It will provide up to 18 billion litres to maintain river health and save drinking water.

For more information, visit:

<http://www.sydneywater.com.au/MajorProjects/WesternSydney/ReplacementFlowsProject/index.cfm>

World Environment Day

To celebrate World Environment Day Sydney Water had a stall at the Parramatta City Council Environment Day fair. Our education officers talked to the community about what Sydney Water and Streamwatch are doing to protect waterway health. A live stream macroinvertebrate display was very popular and a good way to introduce stream ecosystems.

Connect with your catchment

These are some projects bringing together our catchment communities:

Community Action for the Georges River Catchment

The Georges River Combined Council Committee (GRCCC) is setting up a two year monitoring project to assess ecosystem health in the Georges River and its tributaries.

The project aims to engage the community in their river's management. Volunteers are required for macroinvertebrate survey days to be held during Spring and Autumn. The data collected will be analysed along with records from active Streamwatch groups to prioritise rehabilitation and identify problematic tributaries feeding the estuary.

The program is a collaborative effort between nine councils, the Sydney Metropolitan Catchment Management Authority, Georges River Environmental Education Centre and new and existing Streamwatch groups.

If you are testing in the Georges River catchment and wish to get involved in this important project please contact:

Carl Tippler: carl.tippler@cma.nsw.gov.au

Riverscience monitoring the Cooks River

Riverscience is a program tracking the health of the Cooks River and broadening community understanding of it. Each year the program measures ecological indicators including:

- crab, oyster and barnacle numbers
- condition of salt marsh, mangroves and seagrass
- sediment characteristics.

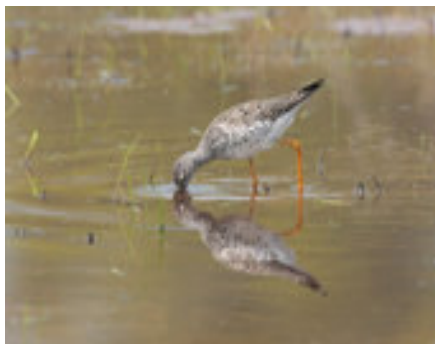
This year's data will be benchmarked against previous years to measure the impact of management and environmental programs in the catchment.

Riverscience started as an initiative of the Cooks River Foreshore Working Group, and is funded by a number of local councils with the support of the Wollie Creek Preservation Society and the Department of Environment and Climate Change (DECC).

Assistance is required to measure indicators at nominated sites to help determine the rate of change of the river.

To get involved or read Riverscience reports visit:

www.marrickville.nsw.gov.au/environment/cooks_river/riverscience.htm



Get active with Catchment Connections

Catchment Connections covers the Terrys Creek, Mars Creek, Shrimptons Creek and Buffalo Creek catchments; all tributaries of the Lane Cove River.

The program aims to involve and educate the community about their catchment and:

- preserve and enhance remnant bushland areas
- increase involvement in Bushcare and bushland regeneration works
- improve the water quality of local creeks
- improve local biodiversity.

Catchment Connections is run in partnership with City of Ryde, Hornsby Shire and Hunters Hill Councils and funded by the NSW Environmental Trust. Streamwatch data is being used for water quality reporting.

For more information, to attend a workshop or get involved in Bushcare visit:

www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/environment/catch_protect/connection.htm

Dates for the diary

August

2 National Tree Day

24 - 30 Keep Australia Beautiful Week

September Biodiversity Month

18 World Water Monitoring Day

22 World Car-free Day

October

18 - 24 National Water Week