

March 2010 in our Catchment

Thank you all for taking such a delight in doing your waterwatching. This month's responses were very quick and many of you had a tale to tell about how good it was to see flowing water again.

Your Results:

It is wonderful what a difference a little rain can make! The only EC reading over $400 \mu\text{S. cm}^{-1}$ was for Yarralumla Creek, and the pH readings had all decreased, some into the acid side. There was plenty of activity among the PO_4 and NO_3 readings, very likely as a result of localised erosion. The dissolved oxygen results indicate that even with flow in the system, if the water heats up, and there is little shading of banks, waterways quickly lose oxygen. The results from the David St wetland, where the blood red *Euglena* bloom still rages, and in Yarralumla Ck where there are conspicuous quantities of green algal streamers, indicate just how much effect aquatic plant growth can affect the oxygen balance. All in all, it is a normal late summer spread of results, with little to indicate drought.

Please keep the Plague Minnow reports coming in...I don't know that we can do much about them, but you never know. Last Friday, in the Molonglo Gorge there were Mountain galaxids as well as the plague minnows. More power to the locals!

The M-CHiP water report for July–December 2009 is almost ready and should be on the web by the 12th of April.

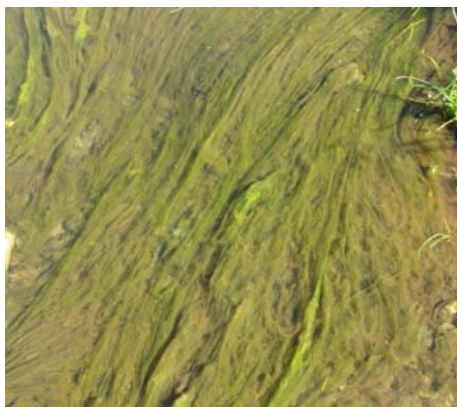


**Conspicuous Algal Scoring Workshop, Room 10
Cassidy Arcade, Queanbeyan, 2:00 pm Saturday 17th
April.**

Do you want to be able to tell these three apart, and report them to us in a meaningful way?



We will be conducting a hands-on workshop, in Queanbeyan, at the Cassidy Arcade office (Room 10) and on the banks of the Weir on Saturday 17th April from 2:00 pm. We will show you as many different kinds of conspicuous algae as we can, explain how to distinguish them by sight, smell and touch, and what we want you to record. We hope that you will then be able to note down what conspicuous algae you see at your sites each sampling day and help us add another indicator to the **Catchment Health indicators Program**.



You will get plenty of notes to help, and a Ready Reckoner to help with the calculation of the score.

Chances to broaden your mind:

This autumn QA/QC will be at Molonglo Gorge. Not only is it a good spot to have a barbecue and a pleasant get-together, but the river provides opportunities to actually do some real testing, some rapid appraisal of riparian condition and see macroinvertebrates. The date is 29th May. We'd love to see every one of you there!

Before that, you can learn all about *Chelodina longicollis* and other turtles from the Murray-Darling system at a talk in Kambah, (at Urambi Primary School, Snodgrass Cr) at 7 pm on the 27th April. You can go for a dawn Platypus Walk from 6:45 in the morning of 22nd of May in the Q parking lot. And there is plenty more on with wetland planting days in Sullivans Creek sub-catchment and... See the Molonglo Catchment Website at www.molonglocatchment.com.au and the ACT Waterwatch site at www.act.waterwatch.org.au where you will find plenty more.

The date for April's sampling is Saturday 17th, and those of you who want to do macroinvertebrate sampling that weekend can get in touch with the office and get equipment on loan. Please let us know well ahead!

Stephen Skinner

Waterwatch Coordinator, Molonglo Catchment Group.