

# Ginninderra and Yass Waterwatch News

## Know Your Macrophytes!

Macrophytes are aquatic plants that provide cover, food and breeding areas for invertebrates, fish, frogs and birds.

Water Milfoils (*Myriophyllum crispatum*, *Myriophyllum variifolium* and *Myriophyllum varrucosum*) are one of the more easily identifiable macrophytes. The submerged leaves are feathery and light, while the emergent leaves are succulent. The leaves are arranged in five to eight-leaf circles surrounding the stem.

It's good to know some macrophyte species, as they can indicate changes in water quality. A sudden drop could be due to salinity, turbidity, or even herbicides present in the water. An increase could indicate significant increase in nutrient levels, which can interfere with filtering processes.



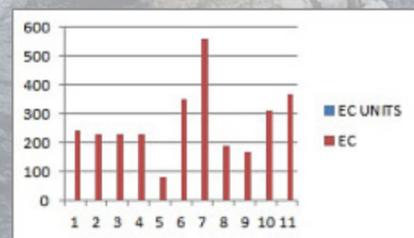
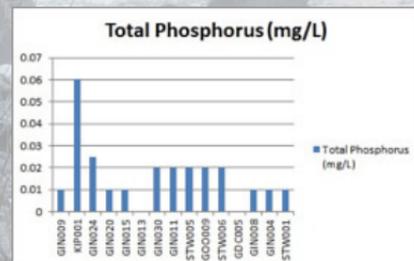
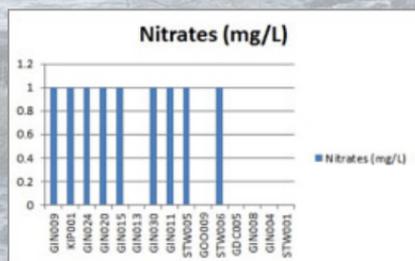
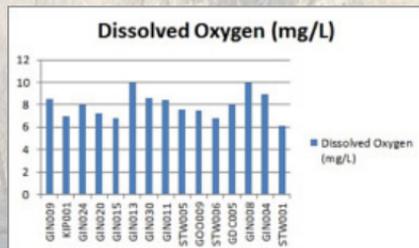
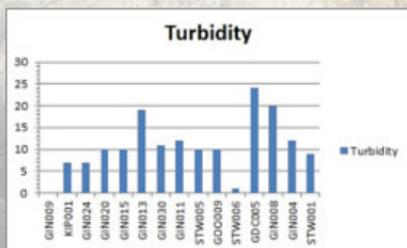
*Note the feathering on  
far right sample*

## Monitoring this Sunday!

Now that the weather is significantly cooling down, remember to warm up the Phosphorus and Nitrate tests, to ensure an accurate reaction

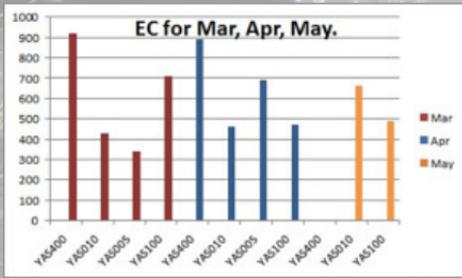
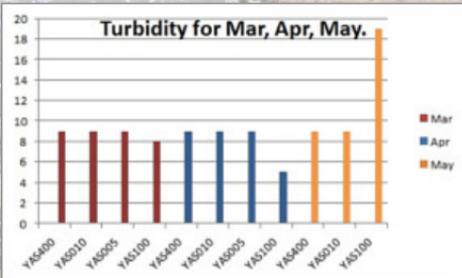
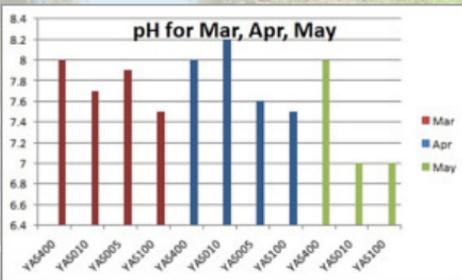
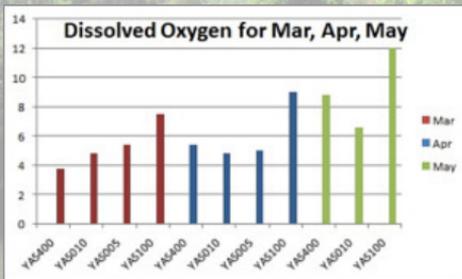
Remember to enter your data in by June 30 so it can be included in the 2016 CHIP Report!

# Summary of Monthly Data - May -Ginninderra



May showed consistent levels of Nitrates, with a normal pH range. Higher levels of turbidity are often caused following rain, which also affects the electrical conductivity readings (salt levels of water). The QA/QC held in May will probably affect Phosphorus and Nitrate readings in the future. Remember to enter your data so it is included in these monthly reports and the yearly CHIP report!

# Summary of March/April/May data - Yass



We have recently incorporated the Yass region into our water quality monitoring, and have managed to gather a little bit of data from the last three months.

We are still seeking interested volunteers to begin monitoring Yass sites, so please forward this newsletter to any interested parties.

An increase in Dissolved Oxygen readings is not surprising given the colder weather, with pH results in expected ranges.

A significant even could account for the spike in Turbidity, and Electrical Conductivity readings are consistent with some variation.

# Autumn Bug Blitz



The autumn waterbug blitz is complete! Here are some volunteers looking for macroinvertebrates, as well as a damselfly nymph! (missing its third tail; note the head is wider than the body - a key identifying feature of the damselfly)