

Spotlight On...

Oracle Environment Volunteers

CAMPFIRE (Community Assessment Monitoring Program for Fire Impacted River Ecology) was initiated by ACT Waterwatch in 2003 to monitor the impact of the devastating bushfires on stream ecology. Once a month, a team of volunteers meets at Coppins and Uriarra Crossings to measure water quality. Both of these sites were significantly impacted by the bushfires, and they provide an excellent opportunity to track the recovery of river ecosystems after a destructive natural event.

CAMPFIRE is an excellent way for groups or individuals to get involved in Waterwatch without having to take on the responsibility of monitoring a site of their own. Each month, the Waterwatch coordinator attends the CAMPFIRE sessions to provide training and support. In September, we were proud to welcome Oracle's Environment Volunteers to the program to assist with the CAMPFIRE monitoring.

The Oracle team was introduced to the CAMPFIRE program by one of our enthusiastic GCG volunteers, Gail Barth.



(above) *The Oracle volunteers learning about Waterwatch and water quality monitoring from Beth at Coppins Crossing.*

Without any hesitation, Gail, Brenda, Reid, Phil and Maria dived into the morning's activities, happily utilising the water quality test kits and probes to measure all the usual parameters at both Coppins and Uriarra Crossing. Each site threw up some different results demonstrating how variable water can be across a small geographic area. The morning was a great success, and everyone enjoyed the experience immensely.

Do you have a team of people at your workplace who are looking for an activity that is fun, good for the environment and simple? Contact Beth Mantle, your Waterwatch Coordinator, to take advantage of CAMPFIRE monitoring. Go on, get out there!

!QAQC EVENT! Yarralumla Nursery 9 November @ 2pm

Hey everyone! I'm really keen to catch up with all my volunteers, old and new. So **email me now to register for this FUN and FREE event!**

Join the Waterwatch Coordinators (Tanya Rucosky-Noakes, Stephen Skinner and me), and meet your fellow Waterwatchers, as we test our equipment (and ourselves!) against the standards set by the professionals at E-Water CRC.

Don't forget to bring your kits and your solutions so can ensure our data collection is accurate.

Then, relax with a High Tea of scones and tasty pastries while we raffle off some Lucky Door Prizes! Its our way of saying "Thankyou!" to our hard-working and committed WW volunteers.

Make sure you [email me](#) to let me know that you can make it. C'mon - I'm looking forward to seeing you!



Waterwatch Results for September 2008

The drought is definitely wearing the ACT community down, so it is with some relief that we received a reasonable amount of rainfall this month. September delivered a total of 40.8mm of rain, which compared favourably with the long-term average of 52.1mm. The month of September averages 7 days of rain, and you can see on our rainfall chart (overleaf) that this was exactly the number of days of rainfall we received. Just wonderful!

All Waterwatch sites produced water quality measures well within our acceptable limits. We observed an increase in air and water temperatures this month, compared with August, and these temperature changes are reflected by a reduction in the oxygen content of our

waterways. There was a dramatic increase in algal growth at some sites (notably Coppins Crossing and Gooromon Ponds), however this bloom coincides nicely with the reappearance of hibernating Long-neck turtles (*Chelodina longicollis*) that will find the algae a welcome meal after their winter torpor. Local frog activity has increased this month. Winter breeders, like the Common Eastern Froglet (*Crinia signifera*), are being joined by Plains Froglets (*C. parinsignifera*), Spotted Grass Frogs (*Limnodynastes tasmaniensis*) and Eastern Pobblebonks (*L. dumerilli*). Their tadpoles will also make good use of excessive algal growth, so don't despair if your site is looking a bit green!

GINNINDERRA CATCHMENT GROUP



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Macroinvertebrate and Riparian Assessment Course

Saturday 25th October, 2008
9:00am – 4:00pm
Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve
Depot

It's National Water Week!
C'mon out and brush up on your
riparian assessment and water
bug ID skills!

For the second year, Waterwatch
will join the Frogwatch Census
with riparian and macro-
invertebrate surveys to take a
holistic snapshot of life in and
around our waterways.

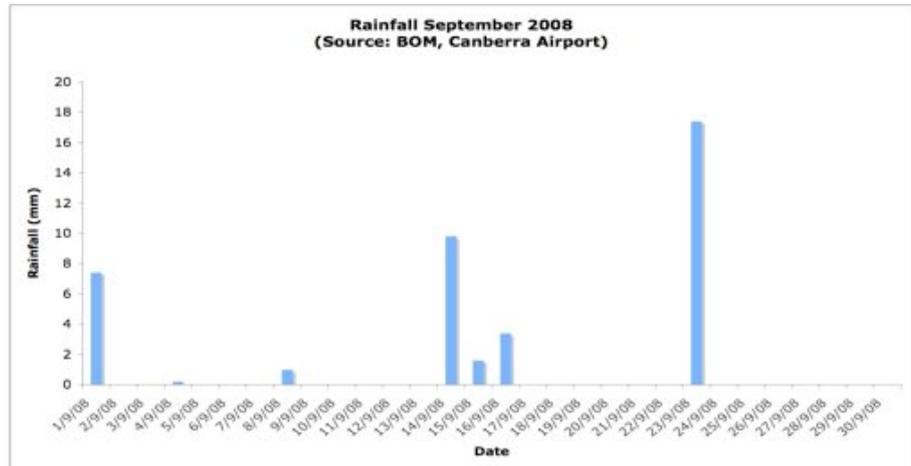
[Email me](#) to let me know that
you can make it. It's **FUN &
FREE!**

References:

- www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/sprat/public/publicspecies.pl?taxon_id=25234
- www.bom.gov.au

Table of Results for September 2008:

Parameter	Mean	Minimum	Maximum
Air temperature (°C)	17.6	11.0	24.0
Water temperature (°C)	14.2	10.0	18.0
pH	7.2	6.4	8.3
EC (µS/cm)	405.3	90	1570
Turbidity (NTU)	20 (median value)	<10	350
Dissolved oxygen (%)	78	52	93
Orthophosphates (mg/L)	0.06	0.00	0.25



FOCUS ON...

Synemon plana

Golden Sun Moth

It's not very often an invertebrate makes it onto the Nationally Threatened Species list, but Canberra is home to one such animal – the Golden Sun Moth. This moth is approximately 3cm in length and the females boast bright yellow-orange hind wings.

This species spends most of its life underground as a pupa, and emerges for an extraordinarily brief life as a free-flying adult for just 1 or 2 days from October to January each year.

This species is locally abundant throughout suitable grassland habitat, though nationally it has disappeared from much of its original range. It prefers Wallaby Grass habitats, though in an interesting development, it has been discovered that this species is utilising exotic Chilean Needle Grass tussocks as well.

The University of Canberra, together with the Friends of Grasslands group, are undertaking a community-monitoring project on the distribution and abundance of this moth in Canberra. If you would like to be involved, please email Anett Richter, the postgraduate student who is working on this fascinating species and coordinating the monitoring project, on anett.richter@canberra.edu.au.



WE'RE ON THE WEB!

www.ginninderralandcare.org.au
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