

# The Water Watcher

The newsletter of Hunter-Central Rivers Waterwatch

## News from the Hunter-Central Rivers Waterwatch Network

Welcome to another Waterwatch year, when Hunter-Central Rivers Waterwatch groups monitor local waterways, look after their catchments and the environment. A couple of important items have recently been mailed out:

### **Waterwatch Contacts Letter**

A letter has recently been sent to all **registered** Waterwatch groups requesting them to update their details and identify any training needs or other requirements. If you did not receive this letter, please contact Colin or Ingrid on 02 4930 1030 or email [hcr.waterwatch@cma.nsw.gov.au](mailto:hcr.waterwatch@cma.nsw.gov.au).



### Spotlight on.....

## St Albans Godly Play Waterwatchers



St Alban's gully is a small tributary of Winding Creek which flows through Hillsborough, Cardiff, Cockle Creek and into Lake Macquarie. The gully adjacent to St Albans Church has been rehabilitated by removing lantana, mulching the whole area and replanting with a variety of native plants. In addition, a Waterwatch program has been established by the young people from St Albans to monitor the quality of the runoff water from the surrounding commercial and residential properties in the area on a regular basis. A number of recent water samples have contained extremely high concentrations of phosphate, with available phosphate results as high as 11mg/L.

Ideally, levels should be below 0.06mg/L.

As a result, St Albans Church, Lake Macquarie City Council and Hunter-Central Rivers Waterwatch are working with Hilltop Plaza, Charlestown Square and other retailers to improve the situation. A public awareness campaign has been initiated in the area which has included the production of a brochure aimed at informing local businesses and residents of some of the problems associated with the discharge of water containing chemicals into stormwater drains. If you would like a copy of this brochure, please contact Colin or Ingrid on



02 4930 1030.



## AUTUMN WATER BUG SURVEY



Water Bug Surveys are an excellent way to determine water quality. Each type of water bug (macroinvertebrate) is sensitive to change in water quality. We can get an indication of the water quality by the type and number of bugs found. Some bugs are affected by pollution more than others.

The Autumn Water Bug Survey will be held on 14 March 2007, however sampling can occur any time during the week of 11 to 18 March 2007. All results are to be uploaded, as soon as possible after sampling, to the NSW Water Bug Survey website at [www.bugsurvey.nsw.gov.au](http://www.bugsurvey.nsw.gov.au).

If you've forgotten your username and password or need to register your group and site, please contact your Hunter-Central Rivers Waterwatch Coordinators on 02 4930 1030 or email [hcr.waterwatch@cma.nsw.gov.au](mailto:hcr.waterwatch@cma.nsw.gov.au)

If you would like to view results from previous surveys, please go to the website and follow the 'WHERE THE BUGS R!' link.

## WORLD WATER DAY

World Water Day is on 22 March 2007 and will be guided by the theme "Coping with Water Scarcity". World Water Day is an annual event which celebrates the importance of water in our daily lives and in the life of our planet.

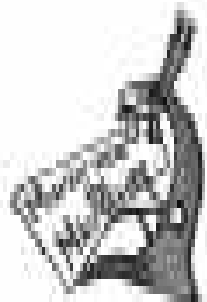
Ways for all Waterwatch groups to participate in World Water Day are to:

- ◆ Test the water quality at your Waterwatch site and upload the results to the NSW Waterwatch website at [www.waterwatch.nsw.gov.au](http://www.waterwatch.nsw.gov.au)
- ◆ Complete the Autumn Water Bug survey and upload results to the NSW Bug Survey website at [www.bugsurvey.nsw.gov.au](http://www.bugsurvey.nsw.gov.au)

For Waterwatch school groups (in addition to suggestions above):

- ◆ Make a presentation to your school assembly about your Waterwatch monitoring and activities.
- ◆ Create themed illustrations or art works on what water means to you and our environment.
- ◆ Conduct a Water Audit at your school. Instructions can be found in the Hunter Water Corporation Water Kit, in the Water Conservation section. If your school does not have this resource, please contact Ingrid for a copy of Water Audit worksheets on 02 4930 1030.

## MURDER UNDER THE MICROSCOPE



Registration has opened for Murder under the Microscope 2007.

Unleash the super sleuths in your classroom and marvel at how much your kids will learn about catchment management and the environment while solving a fictitious eco-crime.

# Grants & Funding Opportunities

## Dilmah Water Quality Funding—Best Tea, Best Water

The 'Best Tea Best Water' Grants Programme is an initiative of Landcare Australia and its partner Dilmah Tea. Grants of up to \$1,650 are available for community and school groups for:

- ◆ Water quality testing kits for community groups and schools
- ◆ Water quality testing kit consumables and additions.

You can download a copy of the Dilmah Water Quality Funding Application Form by going to [www.landcareonline.com](http://www.landcareonline.com). Colin and Ingrid would be happy to assist groups in completing an application form.

Applications for funding close 25 May, 2007.

## Lake Macquarie Environmental Education Grants Program



Grants of up to \$3,000 for community groups, schools and other educational organisations are now available for environmental education projects within the City of Lake Macquarie. For further information contact Council's Environmental Officer, Rachel Honnef, on 4921 0458 or go to [www.lakemac.nsw.gov.au](http://www.lakemac.nsw.gov.au).

Applications for funding close 23 February, 2007.

## Australian Government's Community Water Grants

The Australian Government's Community Water Grants programme offers grants to help local community organisations save, recycle or improve the health of their local water resources. Grants of up to \$50,000 are available for projects related to:

## Envirofund - Round 9 Applications now open



Applications for Round 9 Envirofund are now open and will cover the entire range of environmental and sustainable agricultural projects, including those targeting coastal areas. Community groups and individuals can apply for grants of up to \$50,000 (GST inclusive) to carry out on-ground and other actions to target local problems. You can download a copy of the Australian Government Envirofund Guide and Application Form for Round 9 by going to: [www.nht.gov.au/envirofund/](http://www.nht.gov.au/envirofund/)

# QA 2007

## 16 May 2007

This year's Quality Assurance Trials (QA) will be held on 16 May 2007. QA2007 is part of an annual Quality Assurance (QA) program, organised in conjunction with Sydney Water Streamwatch. QA aims to determine the accuracy of your water quality test results when compared to results of other Waterwatch groups and professionally-accredited laboratories. In 2006, over 97.5% of Waterwatch/Streamwatch results were comparable with NATA accredited laboratories. The QA program supports the credibility of community-collected water quality data.



Registration packs will be sent out to all groups at the end of March 2007. Delivery of samples will occur on 15 or 16 May 2007 by your Waterwatch Coordinators.

## IMPORTANT DATES FOR 2007...

<b>Autumn Water Bug Survey</b>	<b>14 March</b>
<b>World Water Day</b>	<b>22 March</b>
<b>Quality Assurance Trials (QA)</b>	<b>16 May</b>
<b>Water Week</b>	<b>21-27 October</b>

[www.waterwatch.nsw.gov.au](http://www.waterwatch.nsw.gov.au) *Have you logged on?*



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Colin Mondy and Ingrid Berthold • Hunter–Central Rivers Waterwatch

Hunter–Central Rivers Catchment Management Authority • Private Bag 2010 PATERSON NSW 2421

•Tel: 02 4930 1030 • Fax: 02 4930 1013 • Email: [hcr.waterwatch@cma.nsw.gov.au](mailto:hcr.waterwatch@cma.nsw.gov.au) • Web: [www.waterwatch.nsw.gov.au](http://www.waterwatch.nsw.gov.au)