

The Water Watcher

The newsletter of Hunter-Central Rivers Waterwatch

Hello Waterwatchers,

The next few months are packed with activities for all Waterwatch groups to participate in.

Coming events are:

- ▶ Water Week (17-23 October)
- ▶ Spring Water Bug Survey (20 October)
- ▶ Hunter Regional Envirothon (27 October)
- ▶ World Water Quality Monitoring Day (18 October)
- ▶ Catchment Day at The Wetlands Centre (24 October)
- ▶ Phosphorus Awareness Day (17 November)

The following is information on how you can be involved in all these events. If you would like any assistance from your Waterwatch Coordinators for any event, please contact Colin or Ingrid on phone 02 4930 1030 or email hcr.waterwatch@cma.nsw.gov.au



National Water Week

National Water Week will be held from 17th-23rd October 2004. National Water Week was first held in 1993 and is designed to help members of the community to understand and take action to protect and conserve our precious water resources and habitats.

What events will you be doing at your school or within your community group to help celebrate Water Week?

Here are some ideas...

- ★ Complete water quality testing at your Waterwatch site and upload the results to the NSW Waterwatch website.
- ★ Remove rubbish from your local waterway or Waterwatch site.
- ★ Organise a group to take part in the Spring Water Bug Survey.
- ★ Report incidents or issues of concern. If you become aware of a stormwater pollution problem (such as poor sediment and erosion controls at building sites, oil or chemical spills, sewer overflows and abandoned shopping trolleys) or any incident that concerns you in the environment, please contact Hunter-Central Rivers Waterwatch or your local council.
- ★ **Participate in all the other events listed in this newsletter!!**



Another great way for all groups to participate in Water Week is to be involved in **World Water Monitoring Day**. America's Clean Water Foundation (AWCF) and the International Water Association (IWA) are coordinating a day for citizens and organisations around the world to join together to monitor water quality in their local catchment.

Hunter-Central Rivers Waterwatch encourages all groups to participate in this event. Water quality monitoring can occur between 18 September and 18 October 2004. Please upload your data to the NSW Waterwatch website (www.waterwatch.nsw.gov.au). Your Waterwatch Coordinators will then collate all the uploaded data and forward it on to World Water Monitoring Day organisers.

If you would like to find out more, go to the World Water Monitoring Day website at
www.worldwatermonitoringday.org



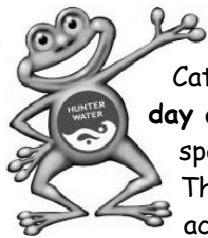
2004 SPRING WATER BUG SURVEY



The next Water Bug Survey is on 20 October 2004

The 2004 Spring Water Bug Survey can be conducted any time during 17-23 October, to coincide with national Water Week.

If you haven't registered before, go to www.bugsurvey.nsw.gov.au and follow the 'REGISTER HERE!' link. There is plenty of information and resources (including *Buglopedia*) on the Water Bug Survey website at www.bugsurvey.nsw.gov.au. If you need assistance with your Water Bug Survey, please contact Colin or Ingrid on phone 02 4930 1030 or email hcr.waterwatch@cma.nsw.gov.au.



Catchment Day—24 October 2004

Catchment Day is a great way to celebrate the end of Water Week. It is a free family fun day at The Wetlands Centre, Shortland from 9am-4pm on Sunday 24 October 2004, and is sponsored by Hunter Water Corporation.

The event brings together key 'water stakeholders' in the Hunter and features a wide range of activities for everyone, including: catchment tours, walking tours of The Wetlands Centre, Landcare displays and the NSW Fisheries touch and feel tank. Your Hunter-Central Rivers Waterwatch Coordinators, Colin and Ingrid, will be there running 'Catch the Catchment Criminals'. Come and test out your water quality and investigative skills to catch the catchment polluters.

For more information on Catchment Day, please contact Debra Santosa, Hunter Water Corporation on phone 02 4979 9646.

Envirothon 2004

Envirothon is a challenging outdoor competition for environmentally-minded Year 11 students. It is a joint initiative of the NSW Department of Education and Training, NSW Sport and Recreation and NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service. The competition is state-wide, and is coordinated by Environmental Education Centres across NSW.



How to Enter: To register, go to www.schools.nsw.edu.au. Then to the *Events* and *Competition* pages for an application form. To get involved in the **Hunter Envirothon (27 October 2004)** contact Carolyn Gillard at The Wetlands Environmental Education Centre on phone 02 4955 8673 or email wetlands-e.school@det.nsw.gov.au. Winners from the Hunter Envirothon will go on to compete in the State Envirothon at Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park, Sydney from 8-10 December 2004.

Phosphorus Awareness Day (P-Day)—17 November 2004

Each November, Waterwatch groups participate in P-Day activities that aim to create a 'snap-shot' of phosphorus levels in the Hunter-Central Rivers region.

Phosphorus is an essential plant and animal nutrient that occurs naturally in low concentrations in Australian soils and waterways. When a waterway has a large influx of nutrients, conditions favour the growth of algae and exotic plants to the detriment of native species.

In order to create a 'snap-shot' of phosphorus levels across the Hunter-Central Rivers region, we ask that all Waterwatch groups participate in water quality monitoring at their site on P-Day (17 November) or between 14-20 November 2004. Of particular interest is the available phosphate results from monitoring. If your group is unable to test this parameter, please contact Ingrid on phone 02 4930 1030 to arrange for a Waterwatch Coordinator or a Senior Waterwatch group to complete the test for you. All results should be uploaded to the NSW Waterwatch website (www.waterwatch.nsw.gov.au) and sent or faxed to Hunter-Central Rivers Waterwatch.



**Keep your 'P'
out of the
creek!**

More information and registration forms for P-Day will be sent to all Waterwatch groups during October 2004. We look forward to your support for P-Day 2004!