



# The Water Watcher

The newsletter of Hunter-Central Rivers Waterwatch

The remainder of 2005 is packed full of great events for all Waterwatchers to participate in. Coming events are:

- ▶ Water Week (16-23 October)
- ▶ World Water Quality Monitoring Day (18 October)
- ▶ Spring Water Bug Survey (19 October)
- ▶ Catchment Day at The Wetlands Centre, Shortland (23 October)
- ▶ Hunter Regional Envirothon (26 October)
- ▶ Phosphorus Awareness Day (16 November)

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](mailto:hcr.waterwatch@cma.nsw.gov.au).

**UW** **urbanwater.info**  
managing the urban watercycle: tools and resources

**urbanwater.info** is a great website to visit for education information on all aspects of water management. Hunter Councils Inc. will soon be distributing a DVD to Hunter schools.

Go to <http://www.urbanwater.info/organisation/UrbanWaterVideo.cfm> to view a video clip summary of the information that is presented in the DVD.

**WATCH OUT FOR THE ARRIVAL OF THE DVD AT YOUR SCHOOL!**

## Australian Government's Community Water Grants Reminder

As part of the Australian Government's \$2 billion Australian Water Fund, the first round of the Community Water Grants applications are now open. Community Water Grants encourage increased community awareness and involve practical on ground works to save and protect water resources. Community organisations can apply for **grants of up to \$50 000** for on-ground works that: increase water saving and efficiency; recycle and reuse; or water improvements for surface & groundwater health.

### Who is eligible to apply?

Environment groups (including Landcare, Rivercare, Coastcare and 'friends of' societies), community groups, schools, local government, Catchment Management Authorities, and non-government organisations. **Applications close on 4 October 2005.** For more information, go to <http://www.communitywatergrants.gov.au> or ring 1800 780 730.



## National Water Week

National Water Week will be held from **16-23 October 2005**. National Water Week was first held in 1993 and is designed to help members of the community understand and take action to protect and conserve our precious water resources and habitats.

What activities 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!!*



## 2005 SPRING WATER BUG SURVEY



The next Water Bug Survey is on **19 October 2005**.

The 2005 Spring Water Bug Survey can be conducted any time during 16-23 October, to coincide with national Water Week. If you haven't registered before or have forgotten your login details from a previous survey, please contact your Waterwatch Coordinators for assistance.

Check out the Water Bug Survey website at [www.bugsurvey.nsw.gov.au](http://www.bugsurvey.nsw.gov.au) for information and resources, including Buglopedia. 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](mailto:hcr.waterwatch@cma.nsw.gov.au).



## Catchment Day—23 October 2005

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 23 October 2005, 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, go to [www.hunterwater.com.au](http://www.hunterwater.com.au).

## Envirothon 2005

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, and NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service. The competition is state-wide, and is coordinated by Environmental Education Centres across NSW. This year the Hunter Region Envirothon is being sponsored by Hunter Water Corporation.

**How to Enter:** To register, go to [www.schools.nsw.edu.au](http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au). Then to the *Competition* page (in the *Events* section) for an application form. Entries close at 3pm on 9 September 2005.

For the Hunter Envirothon (26 October 2005) please email your application form to [wetlands-e.school@det.nsw.gov.au](mailto:wetlands-e.school@det.nsw.gov.au) or contact Carolyn Gillard at The Wetlands Environmental Education Centre on phone 4955 8673. Winners from the Hunter Envirothon will go on to compete in the State Envirothon.



## Phosphorus Awareness Day (P-Day)

16 November 2005



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

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 (16 November) or between 14-20 November 2005. 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](http://www.waterwatch.nsw.gov.au)) and sent or faxed to Hunter-Central Rivers Waterwatch.

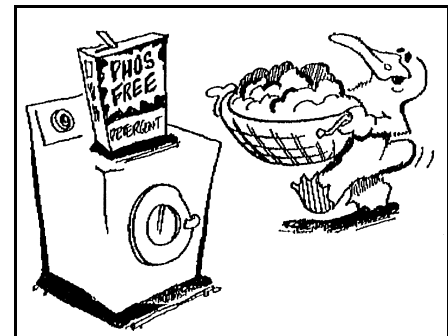
**More information and registration forms for P-Day will be sent to all Waterwatch groups during October 2005. We look forward to your support for P-Day 2005!**

How can you decrease the amount of phosphorus in your home?

**Use low or no phosphorus detergents!**

Phosphorus is used in detergents to 'soften' the water and aid the cleaning process. Laundry detergents in Australia are labelled with a green "P" meaning it contains phosphorus (up to 7.8g per wash, the industry cap) and "NP" containing no phosphorus. Generally, powders have a higher concentration of phosphorus than liquids although this will vary depending on the product. As front loading washing machines use less water, a smaller amount of detergent should be used otherwise the concentration of phosphate in the waste-water will be higher than for a top loading machine.

For information on specific brands look for the May 2005 issue of Choice Magazine in your local library.



## Welcome to the following new Waterwatch groups

Booral Public School  
Congewai Landcare  
Congewai Public School  
Dora Creek Wesley Mission  
Friends of Tumblebee Group  
Friends of Werakata Group  
Great Lakes Council Community Waterwatch  
Linuwel School, East Maitland  
NPWS Discovery Rangers (Hunter)  
Maitland Christian School  
Maitland Golf Course  
Rosedale Retirement Village Adopt-a-SQID Group  
Scouts Australia (Glenrock Scout Camp)  
Stroud Public School



Stroud Road Public School  
St Joseph's Primary School, Charlestown  
St Philip's Christian College, Waratah  
TAFE NSW Belmont Campus  
TAFE NSW Taree Campus  
Tuncurry Public School  
Williams River Best Management Practice Project (Greswick Angus)  
Windemere Park Adopt-a-SQID Group

**And groups who have been retrained:**  
Grahamstown Public School  
Morisset Public School



# WORLD WATER MONITORING DAY

Hunter-Central Rivers Waterwatch encourages all groups to participate in **World Water Monitoring Day**. Coordinated by America's Clean Water Foundation (AWCF) and the International Water Association (IWA) this is a day for citizens and organisations around the world to join together to monitor four key indicators of water quality—temperature, pH, dissolved oxygen and turbidity—in their local catchment.

Water quality monitoring can occur between 18 September and 18 October 2005. Please upload your data to the NSW Waterwatch website ([www.waterwatch.nsw.gov.au](http://www.waterwatch.nsw.gov.au)). Your Waterwatch Coordinators will then collate all the uploaded data and forward it on to the World Water Monitoring Day organisers.

The data collected worldwide in 2005 will provide us with a snapshot of the world's current water quality.

If you would like to find out more, or look at reports from previous years, go to the World Water Monitoring Day website at [www.worldwatermonitoringday.org](http://www.worldwatermonitoringday.org).



## Hunter Environmental Educators Network

### Invitation

All those with an interest in environmental education and getting out the message of education for sustainability, are invited to join the newly regenerated ECOEDGE Network. Contact Craig Manhood at Lake Macquarie City Council on phone 4921 9245 or email [CManhood@lakemacq.nsw.gov.au](mailto:CManhood@lakemacq.nsw.gov.au) for the latest activities and up-coming events.

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



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