

# The Water Watcher

The newsletter of Hunter-Central Rivers Waterwatch

## The year that was... Our 2005-2006 Annual Report

Waterwatch is a community action program involving community groups and individuals, in partnership with government and industry, which aims to improve and protect the health of local waterways. Waterwatch aims to educate participants and stakeholders on appropriate catchment management strategies and enable participants to take an active and responsible role in monitoring the health of local catchments.

The Hunter-Central Rivers CMA encompasses three Waterwatch regions:

**Central Coast Waterwatch**—Gosford & Wyong local government areas.

**Hunter-Central Rivers Waterwatch**—Lake Macquarie, Hunter & Port Stephens catchments.

**Manning-Great Lakes Waterwatch**—Gloucester, Great Lakes & Greater Taree local government areas.

The following facts and figures report on all three Waterwatch regions regarding Waterwatch activity in the CMA from 1 July 2005 to 30 June 2006:

- ◆ 9266 participants were involved in the Hunter-Central Rivers CMA Waterwatch program
- ◆ 90 training workshops (including 1978 participants) were conducted by Waterwatch Coordinators. Forty-two of these workshops were for new groups to the Waterwatch program.
- ◆ 104 groups uploaded 1097 sample data sets for 195 sites across the region to the NSW Waterwatch website ([www.waterwatch.nsw.gov.au](http://www.waterwatch.nsw.gov.au))
- ◆ 91 groups took part in the Water Bug Surveys and uploaded their results to the NSW Water Bug Survey website ([www.bugsurvey.nsw.gov.au](http://www.bugsurvey.nsw.gov.au))
- ◆ 69 Waterwatch groups participated in Quality Assurance Trials (QA) 2006, part of a total of 203 in NSW including Sydney Water Streamwatch groups. More than 94% of the Streamwatch and Waterwatch results fell within the acceptable range of normally two standard deviations, used by NATA accredited laboratories on all parameters tested.
- ◆ 60 groups took part and monitored 90 sites for Phosphorus Awareness Day (P-Day) 2005.
- ◆ Three Catchment Crawls were organised in the Williams River, Wyong River and Erina Creek catchments.
- ◆ Waterwatch Coordinators conducted 36 presentations and displays where they discussed water quality and catchment issues with the community and interacted with over 2500 individuals across the CMA region.

**Thank you all for your support and participation in 2005-2006!**

**It is an incredible effort & we should all be very proud!**

**Well done to all Waterwatchers!**



National Water Week will be held from **15-21 October 2006**.

National Water Week was first held in 1993 and is designed to help members of the community understand and take action to help protect and conserve our precious water resources and habitats.

What activities can you do at your school or within your community 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 at [www.waterwatch.nsw.gov.au](http://www.waterwatch.nsw.gov.au)
- Organise a group to take part in the Spring Water Bug Survey (see information below)
- Remove rubbish from your local waterway or Waterwatch site.
- Complete a water audit of your home or school. Try the water audit from the NSW Sustainable Schools Program at <http://www.curriculumsupport.education.nsw.gov.au/policies/envired/sempr/resources/index.htm>
- Check out ways to conserve & protect our water on Hunter Water Corporation's website at: <http://www.hunterwater.com.au/education.asp>
- Report incidents or issues of concern. If you become aware of a stormwater pollution problem or any incident that concerns your local waterway, please contact Hunter-Central Rivers Waterwatch or your local council. Examples of problems include: poor sediment & erosion control at building sites, oil or chemical spills, sewer overflows and abandoned shopping trolleys.

## SPRING WATER BUG SURVEY

### 18 OCTOBER 2006

The 2006 Spring Water Bug Survey can be completed any time during Water Week (15-21 October). If you haven't registered before or have forgotten your login details, please contact your Waterwatch Coordinators on 02 4930 1030.

**Don't forget to upload your results to the  
NSW Water Bug Survey website at  
[www.bugsurvey.nsw.gov.au](http://www.bugsurvey.nsw.gov.au)  
where you can also find information and resources  
for your bug survey.**

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



## Hunter Water Corporation's Catchment Day—22 October 2006

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 22 October 2006, 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 an activity. Come and test out your water quality skills! See you there!

For more information on Catchment Day, go to [www.hunterwater.com.au](http://www.hunterwater.com.au).

## Phosphorus Awareness Day (P-Day) 15 November 2006



Each November, Waterwatch groups participate in P-Day activities that aim to create a 'snap-shot' of phosphorus levels in the Hunter-Central Rivers CMA 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 (15 November) or between 13-19 November 2006. 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 2006. We look forward to your support for P-Day 2006!

## Welcome to new Waterwatch groups!

*We would like to welcome the following groups to the  
Hunter-Central Rivers Waterwatch network.*



***St Albans Godly Play Waterwatchers, Charlestown  
Brightwaters Christian College  
Cooranbong 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 2006. 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 2006 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)

## IMPORTANT DATES FOR 2006...

|  |                      |
|--|----------------------|
| <b>Water Week</b>  | <b>15-21 October</b> |
| <b>Spring Water Bug Survey</b>                                       | <b>18 October</b>    |
| <b>World Water Monitoring Day</b>                                    | <b>18 October</b>    |
| <b>Catchment Day</b> (@ Hunter Wetlands Centre Australia, Shortland) | <b>22 October</b>    |
| <b>P-Day</b>   | <b>15 November</b>   |

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



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