

STRICTLY Streamwatch

March 2007

And the winners are...

Congratulations to Jacqui Green from the Glenorie Environment and Creative Arts Centre who took out the highly contested Outstanding Participant Award at the 2006 Streamwatch Excellence Awards.

The prestigious Overall Excellence awards were presented to Canterbury Girls High School and The Friends of Katoomba Falls Creek Valley Bushcare Group who took out the school and community divisions respectively. For a complete list of winners please see the table below.

Streamwatch award winners were presented with a plaque and prize money. Sydney Water celebrated its awards at a ceremony in December whilst Sydney Catchment Authority winners were recognised at various events in early 2007.

Congratulations to all the winners and everyone involved in Streamwatch who helped to make it such a successful program in 2006! For more information on the Streamwatch Excellence Awards, please contact us on 9350 4978.



Award winners from Glenorie Environment and Creative Arts Centre



Award winners from Canterbury Girls High School with Sydney Water's Managing Director, Kerry Schott

Award	Winner
Outstanding Participant Award	Jacqui Green-Glenorie Environment and Creative Arts Centre
Overall Excellence Award School Division	Canterbury Girls High School
Overall Excellence Award Community Division	The Friends of Katoomba Falls Creek Valley Bushcare Group
Water Quality Monitoring Award Primary School Division	Kegworth Public School
Water Quality Monitoring Award Secondary School Division	Plumpton High School
Water Quality Monitoring Award Community Division	Fairfield Creeks & Wetland Group
Water Quality Monitoring Award Community Division-Highly Commended	Royal National Park (NPWS and Cabins Community), Gerringong/Gerroa Community Streamwatch Group

Award	Winner
Environmental Action Award Secondary School Division	Epping Boys High School
Environmental Action Award Community Division	Ryde TAFE
Water Conservation Award	Canterbury Girls High School
Water Conservation Award-Highly Commended	Moss Vale Landcare Group
Community Action Award	The Friends of Katoomba Falls Creek Valley Bushcare Group
Local Support Award	Fairfield City Council
Local Support Award-Highly Commended	Manly Council

Latest news

Streamwatch launched into 2007 with some exciting changes for the Sydney Water team... a new office and a new manager, Kylie Yeend. Sadly we also bid farewell to two of our team – see below.

Welcome Kylie

Kylie Yeend joined Sydney Water in January as the Community Education Manager. She is responsible for community education, which includes Streamwatch, tours and improving resource sharing and partnerships amongst those involved in water conservation and management.

Over the past 11 years, Kylie has been responsible for many natural resource management programs and community and school environmental education initiatives. She has worked with local and state government, non-government organisations, schools, and the private sector. Her tertiary training is in the areas of Environmental Science and Education. Prior to joining Sydney Water, Kylie was Gosford Council's Coordinator Parks and Waterways.

Kylie looks forward to working with the network to continue to ensure Streamwatch is a highly valued program.

Farewell Carla and Daniel

We bid a fond farewell to Sydney Water's Streamwatch Manager, Carla Hankins, who has managed the team since 2003. Also leaving us is Daniel Cunningham, our Hacking and Illawarra Catchment Coordinator. We wish Carla and Daniel all the best – they will certainly be missed!

The Streamwatch team is supporting all Hacking and Illawarra Catchment groups until a new coordinator is appointed. Please contact the office if you require any assistance.



Welcome aboard!

Sydney Water welcomes all former Upper Parramatta River Catchment Trust (UPRCT) Streamwatch groups. Approximately 40 groups have joined us.

All groups should have received an introductory letter from your Streamwatch Coordinator in the post. If not, or you would like more information, please contact our office.

Want to save money and help the environment?

For just \$22 a qualified plumber will visit your home to install water saving devices and check and repair for minor leaks. Your household could help save six buckets of water a day, every day. This helps the environment and your hip pocket. The service normally costs \$180 - so that's a saving of \$158!

Register now for your WaterFix and enter into a lucky draw to win an Electrolux water efficient washing machine.

Phone 1800 995 885 to make an appointment or visit: www.sydneywater.com.au.

World Water Day - how to get involved

Help to spread the message about the importance of water in our daily lives during this year's World Water Day on 22 March.

Streamwatch groups can participate in World Water Day events by:

- testing water quality at your Streamwatch site/s and uploading the results to www.streamwatch.org.au
- making a presentation to your school assembly or community meeting about your Streamwatch monitoring and activities
- attending your local World Water Day events
- creating themed illustrations or art works on what water means to you and our environment
- looking at the educational resources on the Sydney Water website www.sydneywater.com under 'Ensuring the Future'.

This year World Water Day is guided by the theme *Coping with Water Scarcity*. Visit www.worldwaterday.org for more information.

Show me the money!

Best Tea, Best Water Grants

Grants of up to \$1,650 are available for community and school groups for water quality testing kits, consumables and additions. The grants are part of the 'Best Tea, Best Water' Grants Program - an initiative of Landcare Australia and its partner, Dilmah Tea.

To download a copy of the funding application form visit www.landcareonline.com. Applications close 25 May 2007.

Community water grants

Grants of up to \$50,000 are available from the Australian Government's Community Water Grants program. The grants aim to help local community organisations save, recycle or improve the health of their local water resources.

You may be eligible for a grant if your project relates to:

- water saving and efficiency
- water recycling
- water treatment – improving surface and groundwater health.

Round 3 is expected to open soon. Visit www.communitywatergrants.gov.au/about.html for more information.

Envirofund - Round 9 applications now open

Community groups and individuals can apply for grants of up to \$50,000 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 visiting www.nht.gov.au/envirofund/.

Who's new?

Oyster Bay Primary School
St. Andrew's Cathedral School

Why do we test for dissolved oxygen?

Oxygen is essential to all life and therefore a good indicator of waterway health. Streamwatch groups test for dissolved oxygen, which is a measure of the amount of gaseous oxygen that is dissolved in a waterbody. Measurements are given in milligrams per litre (mg/L) and are then converted to a percentage.

There are four main processes that affect the concentration of dissolved oxygen in a waterbody:

- 1) **Photosynthesis** – photosynthesis is the process by which plants use the sun to convert carbon dioxide into oxygen. Oxygen levels will increase during the day as plants access more sunlight. At night plants and animals use the oxygen in the water. Typically, oxygen concentrations are lower during the early morning and evening.
- 2) **Diffusion and Temperature** – air contains 21% oxygen (compared to only 1% oxygen in water). When air touches water, the difference in oxygen concentration forces some of the oxygen in the air to dissolve into the water (diffusion). The temperature of the water affects its capacity to hold oxygen. Colder waters retain higher oxygen concentrations; therefore, oxygen concentrations in waterbodies naturally decrease in summer months.
- 3) **Aeration** - the flow rate or mixing of the waterbody also influences the concentration of dissolved oxygen. The faster the flow, the more oxygen that dissolves in the water.
- 4) **Decomposition** – rotting leaves, sticks and organic matter in the waterbody also deplete oxygen levels as they break down. Therefore, oxygen concentrations at the bottom of the waterbody are usually lower.

The following table refers to creeks with temperatures of 30°C or below.
(Reference www.waterontheweb.org accessed 16/02/2007).

Oxygen Concentration (mg/L)	Effect on the waterbody
≥ 9	High concentrations of oxygen are harmful to aquatic life. The high oxygen levels may cause blockage of blood vessels.
5-8	Healthy dissolved oxygen level.
3-4	Reproduction impairment to fish and macroinvertebrates.
1-2	Oxygen levels that remain this low can cause large fish kills in a few hours.
According to ANZECC Guidelines (as stated in the Streamwatch Manual) ideal Dissolved Oxygen concentrations are 80-110%.	

QA 2007- what you need to do

This year's Quality Assurance (QA) Day is on 16 May.

To prepare for QA, we encourage you to contact your Regional Coordinator to organise a training day to ensure that you are confident with the Streamwatch tests. Additionally, please make sure all the chemicals in your Streamwatch kit are up to date.

QA is run in conjunction with NSW Waterwatch and aims to identify training needs or equipment issues for individual groups. It also helps prove the credibility of the water quality data collected as part of the Streamwatch and Waterwatch Programs.

In 2006, over 97.5% of Streamwatch/ Waterwatch QA results for all the tests were within the acceptable range. We aim to get even higher this year.

If you require further information on QA 2007, please refer to our website or phone your Regional Coordinator. If you would like a copy of QA 2006 results, please let us know.

Upcoming events

- 18 March** **Ingleside Scout Camp- Autumn Water Bug Survey**
- 22 March** **World Water Day**
'Coping with Water Scarcity'. Help to celebrate by participating in various activities and events that focus on the importance of water in our daily life and in the life of our planet.
- April** **Sydney Water Month at Taronga Zoo**
Children can participate in the WaterWise Passport challenge. Successful participants will be awarded with a great backpack!
- 14-20 May** **National Volunteer Week**
Volunteering Australia
(03) 9820 4100
www.volunteeringaustralia.org
volaus@volunteeringaustralia.org
- 16 May** **QA Day**
- 22 May** **International Day for Biodiversity**
Biodiversity and Climate Change
Convention on Biological Diversity
www.biodiv.org/programmes/outreach/awareness/biodiv-day-2007.shtml
- 5 June** **World Environment Day**

Regional Coordinators

Sydney Water

Cooks and Georges River Catchment

Mylissa Kilian

Ph: 9350 6191

mylissa.kilian@sydneywater.com.au

Sydney Harbour Catchment (Port Jackson, Middle and Lower Parramatta River, Middle Harbour, Lane Cove)

Emily Christopherson

Ph: 9350 4791

emily.christopherson@sydneywater.com.au

Hacking and Illawarra Catchment

To be advised- in the meantime contact the Streamwatch office.

Ph: 9350 4978

streamteam@sydneywater.com.au

Eastern Beaches, Northern Beaches and Botany Bay

Chris Gow

Ph: 9350 6343

chris.gow@sydneywater.com.au

Hawkesbury/Nepean Central Catchment

Helena Machado

Ph: 9350 6887

helena.machado@sydneywater.com.au

Hawkesbury/Nepean North Catchment

Myly Truong

Ph: 9350 6643

myly.truong@sydneywater.com.au

Sydney Catchment Authority

Caroline Dearson

Ph: 4725 2503

caroline.dearson@sca.nsw.gov.au

If you do not wish to receive future Streamwatch correspondence please contact Streamwatch on 9350 4978.