



Newsletter

PRESIDENT—Bob Crawford

YACTAC members and delegates have had success in increasing the awareness of the cultural, environmental, spiritual, physical, natural and political narrative of the YCS. Through deputations and correspondence to the Premier of NSW, Minister for Water, Local Member for Murray, MDBA Officers, YACTAC members and the peoples of the YCS, the effects of the SDL project that calls for the return of some sections (top section) of the YCS to pre-development regimes including drying and flooding events have been explored. YACTAC has said that this project should not proceed as written!

However, you would be aware that a highly charged politicised “fog” has descended again on the Basin Plan and the welfare of the YCS is enveloped in this “fog”. The delegates are alert to this situation and geared up to respond if any opportunity presents for YACTAC to further the YCS case. Until this “fog” is lifted the Advisory Council is concentrating on the riparian zone, exploring in depth the environmental and cultural assets such that the YCS can more definitively say it is the environmental consciousness of the mid-section Murrumbidgee River.

MDBA VISIT

YACTAC hosted two representatives from the MDBA Eco Hydrology Environmental Management Division in October. Representatives from YACTAC, OEH, Murray LLS, DPI Water (Crown Lands and Water), Jerilderie indigenous and community members joined the tour. The two day visit covered many areas of the upper and middle section of the system.

The Yanco Weir was first on the list and the proposed SDL project was discussed at length, demonstrating concerns about the construction and risks involved. Tarabah Weir and Arrowidgee wetland complex were also visited. The Finley Escape was shown and the current lack of use of this escape was also on the agenda. Tours of Old Coree and Cooinee Woods were also undertaken. There were many other areas which could have been used to show case the creek system but time was not on our side. However a virtual tour was undertaken of the entire system.

The MDBA gained a clear insight into the concerns of the representatives, which formed the basis of a submission on the proposed SDL projects. YACTAC also responded to the online submission directly.



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EMAIL OPTION

- Would you prefer to receive this newsletter via email to take advantage of the links to additional information?
- Please contact Tanya on 0408 833 801



Tour: YACTAC, MDBA , OEH, Murray LLS, DPI Water, Jerilderie indigenous and community representatives in front of the 'Coming Together' canvas.

Murrumbidgee Environmental Water Allowance Reference Group – MEWARG

Meetings were held in August and October. There were field trips and presentations made by OEH, WaterNSW, CSU, LEWO, DPI Water & DPI Fisheries. More information can be found at:
<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/water/water-for-the-environment/murrumbidgee/environmental-water-advisory-group>

EXECUTIVE OFFICER—TANYA THOMPSON

At the Annual General Meeting in August an election was held to elect the new committee for the next three year term. Russell Ford did not seek reelection as chairman/president and Bob Crawford was nominated and accepted the position of president. Jeremy Barlow and David Leeds stepped down and Lawrence Simpson and Sam Trinca were duly elected.

The new YACTAC Constitution was ratified and lodged with Fair Trading. A Committee Charter has also been developed and ratified by the board. Representation at various meetings has been made with information distributed to the board. Policies and Procedures are currently being drafted. There are changes for Local Land Services which will impact on the funding available to YACTAC through joint projects.

The committee decided to approach members for a one off fee to assist in the additional activities currently undertaken by YACTAC. Overwhelmingly members have contributed to this fee and it is being used to fund an increased presence across all areas of consultations. The committee are better informed of potential risks and the changing environment of water issues.

As you can appreciate it has been a busy time on a number of fronts. This is a very important time for YACTAC and irrigation as a whole. Your continued support is appreciated.

NSW IRRIGATORS COUNCIL

YACTAC has recently joined the NSWIC due to the vast amount of change across various sections of irrigation. The board felt YACTAC needs to be aware of the current situation and have a seat at the table of discussions which directly affect the Yanco Billabong Colombo Creek System. NSWIC membership enables YACTAC to be better informed and gain access to relevant people within the irrigation sector, via their guest speakers.

“YACTAC represents the environmental consciousness of the Yanco Billabong Colombo Creek System” Bob Crawford.

IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER – JIM PARRETT

It is that time of the year again to start the summer aquatic weeds program, in recent weeks we have had reports of new sagittaria outbreaks in the Colombo and some willow outbreaks in the upper Yanco, most likely translocated during the 2012 and 2016 floods from willow infestations in the Murrumbidgee up stream of Yanco Weir.

- Willows and Sagittaria
I propose to do a thorough run through the system over the summer period with Border Land Control, I would like to combine willow and sagittaria work together as they go hand in hand and require a very similar treatment method. Biological control for sagittaria is still a long way off and is more inductive to larger infestations in irrigation channels rather than in stream control.
- Boxthorn Project
An inspection of sites is proposed with follow up treatment provided as per Murray LLS agreement.

Riverina LLS are looking at a streambank protection project in the upper catchment and have approached YACTAC to implement the project. There are some really good sites on Washpan Creek (an anabranch of the Yanco in the top section of the system).

Please contact Jim Parrett on 0428 609 835 to discuss your situation.



Office of Environment & Heritage – OEH

All available water was used during the successful reconnection event in August 2017. The priority actions are:

- Maintain core refuge habitats in North Redbank
- Maintain core refuge areas in Nimmi-Cara
- Maintain Wargam Bellfrog population
- Lower Murrumbidgee fish/connectivity flow

A summary of the watering priorities for the Murrumbidgee Catchment for 2017-18 is reported in the Murrumbidgee Water Resource Plan Area: Statement of annual environmental watering priorities 2017-18. See: <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/water/water-for-the-environment/murrumbidgee/profile>

Stakeholders

Advisory Panel – SAP

Water Resource Plans (WRP) are a key requirement of the Commonwealth Basin Plan 2012. Members of the SAPs are working with CLAW to develop these plans. There are 22 across NSW. YACTAC is a member of the Murrumbidgee SAP and contributes to the meetings. More information can be found at: http://www.water.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0009/679059/wrps_nsw_roadmap-2016-19_factsheet-1.pdf

and http://www.water.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0009/682335/wrp-devlp-plan-factsheet_final.pdf

YANCO CREEK AND TRIBUTARIES ADVISORY COUNCIL

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Sam Armytage	0427 534 622
Russell Ford	0429 425 798
Mark Wettenhall	0427 861 825

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Bob Crawford	0427 875 955
Sally Dye	0427 875 940
Colin McCrabb	0428 847 558

Implementation Officer

Jim Parrett 0428 609 835

Executive Officer

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Please contact us to discuss any matter about the creek system, riparian areas or concerns you may have.

BILLABONG YANCO PROJECT

This project is a partnership between Murray LLS and communities within the Billabong Yanco region. The project aims to provide 'a resilient, productive Billabong Yanco system, with healthy ecosystems and communities'. There have been many local events recently namely: Wetland Wonders of the Billabong, Yanco and Colombo Creeks – Yanco Billabong Creek Cultural Heritage Tour. However the largest project has been the Integrated Hydrological Operations Plan for the Billabong, Yanco and Colombo Creeks. The scope of work was to develop a hydrological operations plan for the Billabong, Yanco and Colombo Creeks that integrates the economic, social and ecological needs and aspirations of key stakeholders in a balanced and equitable manner. The report will be available early 2018.

<http://murray.lls.nsw.gov.au/our-region/programs-and-projects/billabong-yanco-creek-system-project>



Tarabah Weir

COMMONWEALTH ENVIRONMENTAL WATER OFFICE – CEWO

Recent changes to the Water Act 2007 have increased the flexibility for the CEWO to sell water allocations under certain circumstances.

More information can be found at: <http://www.environment.gov.au/water/cewo/investment-framework/discussion-paper>

and <http://www.environment.gov.au/water/cewo/trade>.

Information about restoring and protecting the Murrumbidgee River system can be found at: <https://www.environment.gov.au/system/files/resources/c60a3e5d-4e6a-4aa0-8462-ce4e05fd71c2/files/restoring-protecting-murrumbidgee-2017-18.pdf>

