



# Newsletter

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - 8 AUGUST

### Conargo Hall - 1pm

This is a very important AGM. The future of YACTAC will be discussed and in many ways decided at this meeting. The Yanco Creek System Natural Resource Management Plan (NRMP) was formally launched in 2004 and a review has been undertaken in recent months. Bob Laing was engaged by the Board to undertake this review and he will be presenting his report at the meeting.

The four key issues of the NRMP were:

- Maintaining and improving the health of the creek and mimicking natural flooding events where possible.
- Maintaining and improving the riparian habitat (creek corridor biodiversity) along the system.
- Improving the overall deliverability and efficiency of (water) supply for the entire creek system.
- Developing community ownership, participation and empowerment to improve the future management of the system's natural resources.

Key questions need to be addressed and this meeting will give members the opportunity to contribute to the discussion. Currently there is an annual levy charged to all landowners along the Yanco Creek System to implement the NRMP. The future of this levy will be one of the key questions.

Members will be asked to consider options which include:

- Continue YACTAC in its present form, or
- Continue YACTAC with improvements/changes, or
- Continue YACTAC but change its direction, or
- Conclude that YACTAC has served its purpose and does not have a future.

Jim Parrett will be making a presentation about his findings during his recent survey of the YCS.

### Guest Speakers

In addition to the presentation by Bob Laing, other speakers have been invited to make a presentation. Light refreshments will be served.

Murray Darling Basin Authority - MDBA

NSW Irrigators Council - NSWIC

Office of Environment and Heritage - OEH

WaterNSW

DPI - Fisheries

Murray Lower Darling Rivers Indigenous Nations



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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

**Murrumbidgee  
Environmental Water  
Allowance Reference Group -  
MEWARG**

**Fish Objectives for Long Term  
Watering Plan**

MDBA Fish Outcomes:

- No loss of native species
- Improved population structure
- Increased movement
- Expanded distribution.

Whilst Fisheries don't have any water they can provide statistics to CEWO and OEH to influence an environmental watering event.

**Nimmie Caira Project Update**

A lease agreement was signed in Maude on 29 May with the handover on 1 July 2018.

Consortium Lease to:

- The Nature Conservancy
- Nair Nair Tribal Council
- Murray Darling Wetlands Working Group
- University of NSW.

**CSU Institute for Land Water and  
Society**

Broad objectives:

- Hydrology
- Supporting ecosystem function
- Fish community, breeding and recruitment
- Wetland fauna and flora

## **BOARD CASUAL VACANCY**

There is a casual vacancy (Top Section) due to the recent resignation of Sam Trinca, due to other commitments. Please contact any committee member and discuss your interest. In order to be eligible you must be the landowner, or nominated representative in the:

Top Section: between Jerilderie and the junction of the Yanco Creek and the Murrumbidgee River (Billabong and Colombo Creeks) and between Wilson's Bridge and the junction of the Yanco Creek and Murrumbidgee River.

## **PRESIDENT - Bob Crawford**

It is essential YACTAC shout load and clear the worthiness of the Yanco Colombo System for not only the local communities but for the wider community. It is better to keep the YCS viable in the long term, for it can be achieved at far less cost than trying to revive and maintain a degraded downstream environmental site.

## **EXECUTIVE OFFICER - TANYA THOMPSON**

Once again it has been a busy few months. Engaging Bob Laing to undertake a review of the YCSNRMP has been a focus and it is hoped from this review clear pathways will be further developed both administratively and out on the system. I hope a new Natural Resource Management Plan will be developed, with achievable outcomes, which can be used to strengthen the case for the existence and viability of the YCS.

Considerable work was undertaken during the course of the year to achieve a more streamlined end of financial year program. This has been achieved with cost savings in accounting fees. The organisation will be moving to utilize Xero Accounting in the 2018/19 financial year. With this move it is with regret that Hayley Wordsworth will no longer be involved and I would like to take this opportunity to thank Hayley for her professionalism and efforts over many years. It was greatly appreciated and I will certainly miss her input.

## **RIVERINA LOCAL LAND SERVICES PROJECT - JIM PARRETT**

Streambank Erosion and Riparian Restoration Project on Yarrabee Park (Washpan Creek) upstream of Morundah. There will be a **field day** in the coming months, offered to members and the general public to view the progress.

## **YACTAC WEBSITE**

Check it out at: <https://landcare.nsw.gov.au/groups/yanco-creek-and-tributaries-advisory-council/> or google: Landcare YACTAC.

## NSW IRRIGATORS COUNCIL

A meeting was held this month in Sydney.

There appears strong support for the newly created Natural Resources Access Regulator - NRAR (metering and compliance regulator). These duties have been moved from DoI Water and WaterNSW. The principal objectives of the NRAR are:

- to ensure effective, efficient, transparent and accountable compliance and enforcement measures for the natural resources management legislation.
- to maintain public confidence in the enforcement of the natural resources management legislation.

YACTAC and others, in the Southern Basin, have argued against private ownership of meters. Formal public consultation in August/September on the changes to metering/water take measurement regulations will be hosted by DoI Water.

New Meter Standards:

- Patent Approved and meet Australian Standard 4747.
- Independently verified for accuracy (+/-5%).
- Tamper evident seals, data loggers.
- Telemetry - objective for all users above the threshold to be telemetered.
- Existing meters below the threshold to be replaced with an accurate meter.

5 year implementation plan:

- 500mm pump or larger by Dec 2019.
- Southern regions by Dec 2021.

**Sustainable Diversion Limit adjustment mechanism - SDL**

- 23 projects in NSW (3 in the Yanco System).
- Preliminary Business Cases online.
- Projects required to be delivered by 2024.

<https://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water/basins-catchments/murray-darling/supply-efficiency-measures>

YACTAC has consistently presented the view of continuous flow in the YCS at all stakeholder meetings. This view is also held by other stakeholders in the valley, in fact the Murrumbidgee Field Naturalists are sending a letter to Minister Blair in support of continuous flow and against the Yanco Regulator, however there is some opposition to continuous flow.

The NSWIC have a new look website with lots of fact sheets on current topics. Check them out at: [www.nswic.org.au](http://www.nswic.org.au).

## CULTURAL WATER

Up until recently there has been very little discussion and information around cultural water. However, Rene Woods from Murray Lower Darling Rivers Indigenous Nations (MLDRIN) presented at the recent EWAG and NSWIC meetings. MLDRIN is a confederation of sovereign First Nations from the southern part of the Murray Darling Basin. MLDRIN is focused on caring for our rivers and achieving water rights for Aboriginal people. The group includes delegations from 25 First Nations.

YACTAC will be actively seeking networking sessions with MLDRIN to support

### Stakeholders

#### Advisory Panel – SAP

There have been a number of staff changes again, as with all government departments dealing with water.

At a recent meeting where 4 people were presenting all 4 had been engaged within the last 12 months.

This constant change in staff, in my view, compounds and delays efficiency.

The Commonwealth Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources, the Hon. David Littleproud MP, announced the bi-partisan agreement which covers key themes:

1. Strengthening protection of environmental flows.
2. Strengthening Compliance with Basin Water Laws.
3. Improving outcomes for indigenous people and addressing the social and economic impacts of the Murray Darling Basin.
4. Improving confidence in the Northern Basin Review data.
5. Improving the Sustainable Diversion Limit Adjustment Mechanism.

#### NSW Water Management Agencies

There are four agencies responsible for developing and implementing the regulatory framework for water management in regional NSW. Information was emailed to members last month. This brochure may help you to understand recent changes.

[https://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/data/assets/pdf\\_file/0019/166024/Roles-of-water-management-agencies-in-NSW.pdf](https://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0019/166024/Roles-of-water-management-agencies-in-NSW.pdf)

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**Middle Section Committee:**

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Russell Ford 0429 425 798  
Mark Wettenhall 0427 861 825

**Bottom Section Committee:**

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

**Implementation Officer**

Jim Parrett 0428 609 835

**Executive Officer**

Tanya Thompson 0408 833 801

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

If you know of any change of ownership of property please send details to the Executive Officer, so our records can be kept up to date.



## BILLABONG YANCO PROJECT

The Billabong Yanco Steering Committee began in June 2013, strategic planning commenced and implementation of works started in February 2014. The committee was initially funded by the NSW and Federal Governments - Caring for our Country Program and then the National Landcare Program took over that role. Over \$400,000 was spent in the Billabong region.

Ambitious goals were set and then revised to the following:

- Integrate management of water flows in the Billabong Yanco system.
- Improving land manager ability to effectively manage key weeds.
- Promoting best practice pest animal control methods.
- Providing options for improved grazing management and adapting to a changing climate.

Committee members had the opportunity to decide where funds would be expended and control over projects. This was a brilliant and effective program which unfortunately will not be replicated.

The networking between the stakeholders was fundamental in creating a working environment which had the one goal of improving the outcomes of environment and the local community.

All stakeholders and especially the team leaders Trish Bowen and Els Tack, NSW Murray Local Land Services, are to be congratulated for their efforts and those of their team, in driving this initiative.

## INVESTIGATING TROUT COD SPAWNING & RECRUITMENT IN THE YANCO - COLOMBO CREEKS

The major recommendation from this study is to restore a flow regime to Yanco-Colombo Creeks that supports trout cod ecology, by mitigating extreme discharge and water level variability that has persistently occurred.

The key elements of the hydrograph for trout cod in Yanco-Colombo Creek have been noted and will be made publically available when the report is officially released.

A second recommendation is for fish community surveys to be undertaken during December-January 2018/19 to confirm the occurrence or continued absence of trout cod in the Yanco-Colombo Creek system.

