



Local students stencil a 'drains are only for rain' message on drains around their school.

IMAGE: Emma Kennedy



waterways

Health Snapshot

2019

Your rates at work: fostering water sensitive people

In schools

Through our *Connecting Kids to Creeks Program* we are inspiring the next generation to look after our waterways. Over 600 students, aged 3-17 years from local schools are involved in the program each year. By learning about our waterways, doing hands-on water science and taking practical action, these students are learning to be our waterway guardians of the future.

To find out about our schools program visit: www.bmcc.nsw.gov.au/schools-program

In our community

We support over 500 conservation volunteers at 130 sites across the city—with advice, tools and training. Come along and make a practical difference to your local creeks and bushland!

Visit: www.bmcc.nsw.gov.au/envirovolunteers

More ways to help

Report pollution

NSW Environment Line 131 555

Report sewage leaks

Sydney Water 13 20 90

Dispose of chemicals safely

Household Chemical Cleanout:
www.bmcc.nsw.gov.au/cleanout

Become a volunteer

www.bmcc.nsw.gov.au/envirovolunteers



www.bmcc.nsw.gov.au

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IMAGE: Ian Brown

the city within
a World Heritage
National Park

How healthy are our waterways?

Council regularly monitors local waterways for ecological health and recreational water quality.

You can find detailed waterways reports at: www.bmcc.nsw.gov.au/waterquality

Ecological health results



Based on testing that uses water bugs as indicators of waterway health. This year, nine of the test sites had no water flow.

59% Waterways in good to excellent health

24% Waterways in poor to fair health



Recreational water quality results

Based on weekly testing for bacterial contamination over summer.



Wentworth Falls Lake

Generally good microbial water quality. Suitable for swimming most of the time.



Glenbrook Lagoon, Megalong Creek, Minnehaha Falls (Yosemite Creek)

Susceptible to faecal pollution. Not always suitable for swimming. Minnehaha is currently closed due to geological instability.



At all sites, avoid swimming during and for up to three days after rain, or if there are signs of pollution in the water. Before swimming, consider other risks such as water depth, temperature and submerged hazards.

Protecting our creeks from stormwater runoff

Stormwater runoff (from roads, roofs and paved areas) is the number one cause of damage to our creeks.

Unlike sewage, stormwater runoff is generally not treated—it flows directly to our creeks, causing pollution, erosion, sedimentation and habitat loss.

Is your property 'water sensitive'?



A 'water sensitive' home or business helps protect our waterways from stormwater damage by reducing runoff and keeping pollutants out of stormwater drains. Being water sensitive also means using water efficiently, recycling and reusing stormwater where possible.

Rainwater tanks

Save up to 240,000L of drinking water a year and reduce peak stormwater flows by installing a rainwater tank. By using the water from your roof in the garden, toilet or laundry, you could also save up to \$200 per year.

Find out more at www.sydneywater.com.au



Raingardens

Raingardens are specially-constructed gardens which reduce peak stormwater flows and pollution by absorbing and filtering runoff from roofs and paved areas.

Find out more at www.melbournewater.com.au

Sediment control

Is your property, unsealed driveway or building site shedding soil or sand into street gutters? Thousands of tonnes of sediment are washed into our creeks every year, smothering habitats and silting up streams.

Find out more at www.yourhome.gov.au/housing/sediment-control



A single site can lose up to 4 truck loads of sediment in one storm.



Ecological waterway health in the City of Blue Mountains



- Excellent health
- Good health
- Fair health
- Poor health
- Dry

These ratings are based on the types of waterbugs found at each site. Waterbugs (such as mayflies and crayfish) are widely accepted indicators of ecological creek health. A rich variety of sensitive waterbugs indicates a healthy waterway.



Colo Catchment

- 1 Waterfall Creek

Coxs Catchment

- 2 Fairy Dell Creek
- 3 Centennial Glen Creek
- 4 Megalong Creek
- 5 Megalong Creek tributary
- 6 Pulpit Hill Creek
- 7 Pulpit Hill Creek tributary
- 8 Back Creek **NEW**

Erskine Catchment

- 9 Bedford Creek
- 10 Terrace Falls Creek
- 11 Lawson Creek
- 12 Cataract Creek
- 13 Red Gum Park
- 14 Bedford Creek tributary **NEW**
- 15 Wilsons Glen Creek **NEW**
- 16 Erskine Creek **NEW**

Glenbrook Catchment

- 17 Magdala Creek
- 18 Glenbrook Creek
- 19 Glenbrook Creek
- 20 Glenbrook Creek tributary
- 21 Florabella Pass Creek

Grose Catchment

- 22 Grose River tributary
- 23 Hat Hill Creek
- 24 Popes Glen Creek
- 25 Bridal Veil Creek/
Govetts Leap Brook
- 26 Yosemite Creek
- 27 Katoomba Creek
- 28 Govetts Creek
- 29 Wentworth Creek
- 30 Water Nymphs Dell
- 31 Dantes Glen
- 32 Hazelbrook Creek
- 33 Woodford Creek
- 34 Linden Creek tributary
- 35 Springwood Creek
- 36 Bulls Creek **NEW**
- 37 Adams Creek

Kedumba Catchment

- 38 Kedumba Creek
- 39 Leura Falls Creek
- 40 Gordon Creek
- 41 Lillians Glen
- 42 Jamison Creek
- 43 Kedumba River
- 44 Wentworth Falls Lake

Nepean Catchment

- 45 Fitzgerald Creek
- 46 Long Angle Creek
- 47 Blue Gum Swamp Creek
- 48 Frasers Creek
- 49 Frasers Creek tributary
- 50 Cripple Creek
- 51 Strathdon Creek
- 52 Lapstone Creek
- 53 Knapsack Creek
- 54 Glenbrook Lagoon

Our fantastic crayfish!



IMAGE: R. MCCORMACK

The Blue Mountains is home to one of the world's largest crayfish—the Giant Spiny Crayfish.

Crayfish are a vital food source for other water creatures in our creeks, with only one out of 1,000 baby crayfish surviving to old age. The rest help nourish the entire creek system, including turtles, platypus, water rats, water birds, lizards and snakes.

Crayfish can live up to 50 years. They are slow growing and only breed from about 9 years old.

What's in a name?

People often confuse spiny crayfish with yabbies, which grow quickly, breed early and are introduced pests in our mountain streams. To tell them apart, look at their claws. If the bottom edge is smooth, it's an introduced yabby, if spiny, it could be one of the two local spiny crayfish species.

How you can help...

When fertilisers, pesticides and detergents get into street gutters and drains, they end up in our creeks. In 2012, over 1,000 dead Giant Spiny Crayfish were killed by pesticides that found their way into Jamison Creek, at Wentworth Falls.

So remember, only rain down the drain! Don't take crayfish from their streams. And don't use yabbie traps—these can drown water birds and platypus.