

Waterbug Report: Edgars Creek at the Waterfall, Ronald St., Coburg

Site Code:

ME_YED030

DATE: 6/2/2022

TIME: 9.00 AM

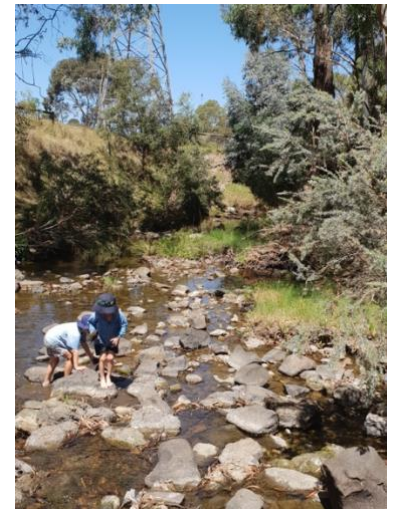
Surveyors: Trevor

Hausler and Irene

Baker




WatchWatch Portal:








https://www.vic.waterwatch.org.au/site_visit/2330807







Site Description

The sampling site on Edgars creek lies a few hundred metres upstream of its confluence with Merri creek. The site consists of a rock ledge with a pool approx. 1 m deep and 10 m across upstream and a downstream rocky riffle about 20m long and descending approx. 2 m in elevation. Below this the stream contains some edge vegetation and some woody debris. Some years ago, the upstream pool also contained good edge vegetation but most of this has been stripped away by erosion, The pool is frequently used by dog owners to allow their pets to swim. The weather was sunny and there had been rain in the preceding few days. The creek appeared clear and the level low with continuous flow of water connecting all stream habitats except over the rock ledge.

Name	Common Name	Quantity	SIGNAL 2 Score	Photos
Miscellaneous Phyla				
Phylum Annelida Class Oligochaeta	Aquatic Worms	2	1	
Phylum Mollusca				Image: National Waterbug blitz
Family Corbiculidae	Pea Shells	30	5	 Image: wikipedia.org
Family Physidae (<i>Physa acuta</i>)	European Pond Snail	30	2	 Image: A. Piesse

Phylum Arthropoda				
Class Crustacea				
Family Atyidae	Glass Shrimp	1	3	
Class Insecta				
Order Coleoptera				
Family Hydrophilidae	Water Scavenger Beetles	2	2	
Family Psephenidae	Water Pennies	1	6	
Order Diptera				
Family Chironomidae	Bloodworms	6	4	 Image: A. Piesse
Family Chironomidae	Chironomids other than Bloodworms	2	4	No image available
Order Hemiptera				
Family Notonectidae Genus <i>Enithares</i>	Robust Backswimmers	2	3	
Family Veliidae	Water Treaders	2	1	 Image: A. Piesse
Order Odonata				
Family Coenagrionidae	Damselfly Nymphs	30	1	

Corduliid/Libellilid Dragonfly Nymphs	Spider Mudeyes	5	4	
Family Ashneda	Couta Mudeye Dragonfly Nymphs	2	4	
Order Tricoptera				
Family Hydropsychidae	Net-spinning Caddis	6	6	
Family Leptoceridae Genus <i>Notalina</i>	Headbanger Caddis	30	6	
	Totals	151		
		Weighted ALT SIGNAL Score	3.69	
		Meaning	Severe Pollution-mainly caused by stormwater inflows.	

***Explanatory notes on SIGNAL Score (from the [Waterwatch Victoria](#) website)**

Each aquatic macro invertebrate is given an ALT (Agreed Level Taxonomy) SIGNAL2 score depending on their sensitivity to pollutants. SIGNAL stands for Stream Invertebrate Grade Number - Average Level. In 1994, a new version of this method, known as SIGNAL2, was developed and is available on the [Federal Government website](#). By knowing the SIGNAL2 grade for every family, the SIGNAL2 score of a site, and therefore its health, can be assessed. For example a site that has abundant diversity and many sensitive aquatic invertebrates will have a high ALT SIGNAL2 score.

To manually calculate an ALT SIGNAL2 score for a site:

Step 1. Collect, sort and identify the creatures found at the site

Step 2. Calculate the sum of the individual ALT SIGNAL2 grades

Step 3. Divide the sum of the individual ALT SIGNAL2 grades by the number of different invertebrates collected to calculate the ALT SIGNAL2 score.

The Weighted SIGNAL Score shown above has been calculated in the Waterwatch Portal and takes into account a number of factors

A guide for interpreting water health according to the SIGNAL score of a site is given in this table
SIGNAL score ratings

Higher than 6	Healthy habitat
Between 5 and 6	Mild pollution
Between 4 and 5	Moderate pollution
Less than 4	Severe pollution

These ratings were originally developed for very “normal” freshwater streams and rivers, and do not work as well for wetlands or lakes.

This report has been added to the [Waterwatch database](#).

Trevor Hausler
Waterwatch Officer (MCMC)