

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



Site Code: ME_YED030

DATE: 8/01/2023

TIME: 9.00 AM



Surveyors: Trevor Hausler and Irene Baker










Watchwatch Portal: https://www.vic.waterwatch.org.au/site_visit/2335763#


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 week. The creek appeared clear and the level normal with continuous flow of water connecting all stream habitats.

Name	Common Name	Quantity	SIGNAL 2 Score	Photos
Miscellaneous Phyla				
Phylum Turbellaria	Flatworms	4	1	
				Image: A. Piesse
Phylum Mollusca				
Family Physidae (<i>Physa acuta</i>)	European Pond Snail	30	2	
				Image: A. Piesse
Phylum Arthropoda				
Class Crustaea				

Order Amphipoda	Sideswimmers	1	3	
Class Insecta				Image: A. Piesse
Order Coleoptera				Image: National Waterbug Blitz
Family Dytiscidae	Little Diving Beetles	1	1	
Family Dytiscidae Larvae	Two-tailed Tigers	4	6	
Order Diptera				Image: National Waterbug Blitz
Family Chironomidae	Blood worms	4	4	
Family Chironomidae	Chironomids other than Bloodworms	10	4	
Order Hemiptera				Image: National Waterbug Blitz
Family Corixidae Genus <i>Sigara</i>	Striped Waterboatmen	1	4	
Order Odonata				
Family Coenagrionidae	Damselfly Nymphs	30	1	
Family Telephlebiidae	Telefleb Dragonfly Nymphs	1	9	
Order Tricoptera				
Family Hydropsychidae	Net-spinning Caddis	30	6	

Family Enomidae	Bandit Caddis	1	6	No image available
Family Leptoceridae Genus <i>Triplecides</i>	Stick Caddis	10	3	No image available
Family Leptoceridae Genus <i>Notalina</i>	Headbanger Caddis	10	6	
	Totals	137		Image: National Waterbug Blitz
		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)