

# Onkaparinga Waterwatch Snapshot 6

2006 LOWER ONKAPARINGA sites monitored		
Code	Group Name	Site Description
ONK604	Echunga P.S.	On Strathalbyn Rd where Eastern branch of Echunga Creek crosses
ONK606	Echunga P.S.	Echunga PS grounds, Western branch of Upper Echunga Creek
ONK703	Scott Creek P.S.	Under bridge Scott Creek Rd Nth Woolcock Rd intersection
ONK706	Scott Creek P.S.	Scott Creek next to Kurla Lane Oval
ONK708	Scott Creek P.S.	on Lightburn's property, done by Scott Ck P.S.
ONK710	Scott Creek P.S.	Scott Ck X's Scott Ck Rd, 2km SW of Scott Ck PS.
ONK730	Scott Creek P.S.	Near MacKreath Cottage in NP picnic area, Matthews Rd
ONK740	Scott Creek P.S.	MacKreath Ck bridge Dorset Vale Rd, 1km S Matthews Rd
ONK788	Clarendon P.S.	D/strm Formby rd Bridge after 2 creeks have joined
ONK800	Clarendon P.S.	Clarendon Weir - boat ramp
ONK803	Clarendon P.S.	Clarendon Creek at footbridge next to kindy
ONK809	Clarendon P.S.	Clarendon Creek mouth, down side of main road
ONK811	Clarendon P.S.	Main Onkaparinga River in River Bend Park at ford
ONK816	Clarendon P.S.	Onkaparinga River by pump & netball courts downstream from Riverbend Park
ONK835	Clarendon P.S.	Trueman dam, Reid Creek in Angel Gully just south of Easton Rd
ONK838	Clarendon P.S.	Reid Creek downstream side of Angel Gully Rd bridge
ONK911	Kangarilla Landcare	Ck coming into confluence from south
ONK912	Kangarilla Landcare	Ck near shed where planting project is being done
ONK913	Kangarilla Landcare	Creek crossing Hillyfields Road from N into confluence
ONK918	Friends of Onkaparinga Park	Ford on Onka River in gorge in Onka CP u/strm of Kanga Ck
ONK922	Kangarilla Landcare	Kangarilla Ck where it crosses Cut Hill Rd
ONK924	Kangarilla P.S.	Creek in Kangarilla Primary School grounds
ONK930	Kangarilla Landcare	Peters Ck Rd W of bridge after 2 branches joined
ONK935	Kangarilla Landcare	Downstream of convergence of 3 creeks
ONK940	Friends of Onkaparinga Park	Kanga Creek just before it enters Onka River in Onka CP
ONK941	Friends of Onkaparinga Park	Onka River in pool below entry of Kanga Creek in Onka CP
ONK960	Hackham East P.S.	Hackham Creek where it passes under Collins Parade
ONK970	Friends of Onkaparinga Park	Main Onka River in Onka CP below ck drain quarry area
ONK975	Friends of Onkaparinga Park	Pipeline crossing main Onkaparinga channel (formerly ONK983)
ONK980	Noarlunga Primary School	main river channel behind school
ONK984	Debbie Dunn Home School	Patapinda bridge on Patapinda rd Old Noarlunga (formerly ONK888)
ONK990	Friends of Onkaparinga Park	Fleming Bridge, Onkaparinga Estuary

*Lower Onkaparinga catchment*  
 Incorporating: Kangarilla Creek, Clarendon Creek and main Onkaparinga channel



What does your fish mean?		
Good water quality	Possible problems	Poor quality water

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Once again a blue fish this month...  
 Elevated salinity and some phosphate levels are the only concern.



## Catchment overview

### Salinity

Salinity levels this month are reasonably high. All but four sites had levels that are of possible concern. Overall the sites in the upper part of the 'lower Onka catchment' tended to have slightly lower salinity results than sites further downstream. Of the estuarine sites they all recorded salinity levels in the range that would be expected. There is one point of interest in that ONK980 for the first time this year recorded salinity levels in excess of what their salinity meter could read. Previously the results were well below this threshold.



### pH

All sites recorded a pH level within the acceptable range.



### Nutrients

Nutrient levels this month are quite similar to last snapshot. Most sites recorded Nitrate levels at or below the lowest detectable limit. Only a handful of sites had levels slightly above this. Phosphate results on the other hand were slightly higher overall. Levels at most sites were high enough to indicate a possible problem, with ONK975 in particular well into the poor category.



### Turbidity

The majority of sites had turbidity readings low enough to be considered 'good'. The exception being ONK809 with its elevated turbidity reading resulting in a poor water quality rating.



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**Frogs heard:**



Common froglet: ONK924

Spotted grass frog: -

Brown tree frog: -

Banjo frog: -

Bibron's Toadlet: -

Painted frog: -

Unspecified frog species: ONK803, ONK811

**Macroinvertebrates:**

Samples collected at: ONK918, ONK940, ONK941 & ONK975

**Macro of the month:**

Freshwater mites

Water mites are found in almost every aquatic habitat, but are more common in still waters than they are in running water. Mites can often be found among aquatic vegetation. They tend to be absent from extremely polluted or saline waters.

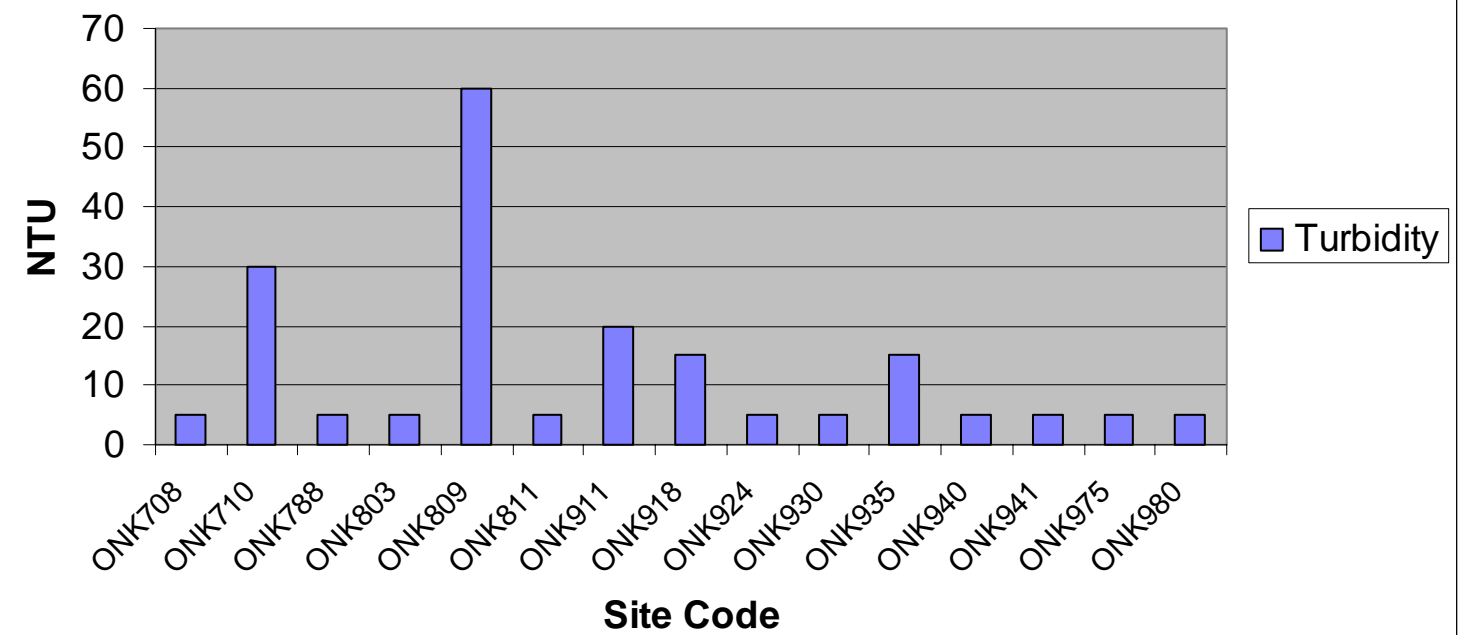


Aquatic mites vary in shape and colour. They have eight legs and most have spherical bodies. Many of these mites are brightly coloured-sometimes red, blue or green. Larger aquatic mites grow to 2.5 mm long and may be seen with the naked eye, but many species are smaller and may go unnoticed without the aid of a microscope.

Many mites parasitise larval or pupal insects that have terrestrial adult life stages, staying inside the insect as it pupates to the adult, and then travelling to other water bodies with the unsuspecting winged insect. This enables mites to colonise new water bodies.

Source: EPA Critter Catalogue & The Waterbug Book

**Turbidity Comparison October 2006**



**Table of Results October 2006**

Code	Date	Depth (M)	EC (uS/cm)	Ammonium (mg/l)	Nitrate-N (mg/l N)	pH (Units)	Secchi Disk (M)	Temp (Degrees C)	Phosphate-P (mg/l P)	Turbidity (NTU)	Dissolved Oxygen (mg/l)
ONK708	30/10/2006		660		0.05	8.0			0.1	<10	
ONK710	30/10/2006		890		0.05	7.0			>0.4	30	
ONK788	26/10/2006		1310		0.05	7.5	12.0			<10	
ONK803	26/10/2006		1860		0.2	7.5	10.0		<0.025	<10	
ONK809	26/10/2006		1400		0.4	7.5	13.0		<0.025	60	
ONK811	26/10/2006		720		0.2	7.5			<0.025	<10	
ONK835	26/10/2006		0		0.	0.0	0.0		0.	0	
ONK911	24/10/2006		1600		<0.05	7.0	18.1		0.4	20	
ONK912	24/10/2006		0		0.	0.0	0.0		0.	0	
ONK913	24/10/2006		0		0.	0.0	0.0		0.	0	
ONK918	25/10/2006		710		<0.05	7.0	21.1		0.2	15	
ONK922	24/10/2006		0		0.	0.0	0.0		0.	0	
ONK924	26/10/2006		2010		0.2	7.5	13.6		0.05	<10	
ONK930	24/10/2006		2460		<0.05	7.5	18.8		0.2	<10	
ONK935	24/10/2006		2310		0.05	8.0	19.0		0.1	15	
ONK940	25/10/2006		2600		<0.05	8.0	21.5		0.1	<10	
ONK941	25/10/2006		2210		<0.05	7.5	20.7		0.2	<10	
ONK960	25/10/2006		0		0.	0.0	0.0		0.	0	
ONK975	25/10/2006		1040		<0.05	7.5	24.0		2.	<10	
ONK980	27/10/2006		>19990		0.05	8.0	20.5		0.025	<10	
ONK984*	1/11/2006	1.	53929	0.2	0.05	7.5	0.7	21.0	0.4		5.0
ONK990*	25/10/2006	1.5	47679	0.	0.05	7.5	0.6	18.5	0.2		

Sites with a '0' reading for all parameters were dry this month. \* indicates an estuarine site.

**How healthy is your site?**

	Good	Possible problems	Poor
<b>pH</b>	6 - 8.5		<6 or >8.5
<b>Salinity (ECUs)</b>	<1000	1000-2000	>2000
<b>Turbidity (NTU's)</b>	<20	20-50	>50
<b>Nitrate (mg/L)</b>	<0.1	0.1-1.0	>1.0
<b>Phosphatate (mg/L)</b>	<0.1	0.1-1.0	>1.0

This table is based on water quality criteria as recommended by the SA EPA (1998). This table should only be used as a guide to water quality. There are many substances and organisms which have not been tested for which may or may not be present in the water and which can have effects on the ecosystems.