



## Gardening

# STILL CREEK LANDCARE OUR LOCAL CREEKS: ARE THEY HEALTHY?

Recently the Covid-19 virus has disrupted many lives in many countries around the world, with tens of thousands of deaths. But a few years ago around the world, there were over a million children dying each year due to diarrhea from unhealthy water supplies. No such problems in Australia, although plenty of urban waterways are not swimmable.

How are our creeks in this area? Very good, not pristine but still very good.

How can we keep our creeks clean in this area? By:

- using low or nil phosphorus detergents
- maintaining our septic systems in good condition

and pumping out when required

- keeping grazing animals away from waterways to prevent erosion
- using fertilisers sparingly and collecting livestock manure

At Still Creek Landcare and at other citizen science groups in the Hornsby area, we test creek water monthly and you can see our results for the last 11 years on our website.

This is part of the Streamwatch program, now administered by Greater Sydney Landcare Network. The Hornsby Shire Council also tests water quality at many sites. Currently Council

and 4 local Streamwatch groups are jointly testing at 6 sites for 6 months to compare test results and then assess the accuracy of results to decide what to do next with this community citizen science monitoring and reporting activity. Currently, this joint work is suspended but will resume when normal life resumes.

For our water test results see [stillcreeklandcare.com.au/our-catchment/water-quality/](http://stillcreeklandcare.com.au/our-catchment/water-quality/)

Interested in doing testing? Contact Nick on 9653 2056 or [stillcreeklandcare.com.au/](http://stillcreeklandcare.com.au/)

*Photo: Courtesy of Ann-Marie Sieve a local waterfall.*



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*We wish you all good health.*

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