

WATERMATTERS

VICTORIAN WATER INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION NEWS

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YARRA VALLEY WATER WINS TOP ENVIRONMENTAL HONOUR

Yarra Valley Water has been awarded Victoria's top environmental honour in the Premier's Sustainability Awards, for its work in delivering Australian and world-leading sustainable water and sewerage solutions.



Tony Kelly, Managing Director YVW, at the Awards ceremony.

The Award recognises Yarra Valley Water's integration of sustainability right across its business, from marketing programs, community engagement and an internal Green Office strategy, to engineering designs for new water and sewerage infrastructure and upgrades.

Examples include the Kalkallo Integrated Water Management project, undertaken in the township of Kalkallo north of Melbourne, where a 1,200 hectare industrial precinct development is planned for construction over the next 10-15 years. Yarra Valley Water is working with Hume City Council and Melbourne Water to merge design of the development's water supply, sewerage services and stormwater system. Each of these is interlinked through the water cycle, nutrient cycle and carbon cycle, and designing them together seeks to achieve a more sustainable solution than that which could be achieved via the traditional methods of designing them separately.

Yarra Valley Water's depth in industry-leading water conservation work encompasses Water Conservation Kiosks in major shopping centres (an Australian first) to provide the public with face-to-face water saving support; its globally award-winning Smart Account which educates households on their water use and links them to their water usage behaviour; and leading the Schools Water Efficiency pilot program to help schools improve the efficiency of their water use.

The theme of this year's Premier's Sustainability Awards was 'Innovation - a new Thinking'.



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If you'd like to have an article considered for inclusion in Water Matters, email the finished article to vicwater@vicwater.org.au
Due dates: 15 January, 15 April, 15 July and 15 October or call T: (03) 9639 8868



YVW showerhead exchange ambassador & ex-Collingwood footballer, Shane Wakelin, exchanging a showerhead with YVW customer, Kristy, and baby Reece.



“from the CEO’s desk”

Welcome to the autumn edition of Water Matters.

On behalf of the VicWater Board I am pleased to announce the establishment of an annual industry ‘Leadership Development Award’. The Award aims to recognise and encourage emerging leaders from within the Victorian water industry and to provide the successful applicant with additional training and support in a leadership program.

The award is open to all Victorian water industry employees (i.e., employees of the Association’s member businesses) and nominees are invited to submit a written application (500 words) before applications close on 1 July 2009. An application form can be downloaded from VicWater’s website www.vicwater.org.au

Congratulations to all at Yarra Valley Water for taking out Victoria’s top environmental honour at the Premier’s Sustainability Awards. The Award recognises Yarra Valley Water’s work in delivering Australian

and world-leading sustainable water and sewerage solutions. Well done everyone.

Finally, a quick reminder about the VicWater conference, which will be held in September at the Novotel Forest Resort Creswick. This year’s theme is ‘A climate of opportunity – planning ahead’ and we recently distributed the ‘Call for Papers’. Further information is available on the Association’s website:

www.vicwater.org.au

HAMILTON PIPELINE PROJECT AHEAD OF SCHEDULE

Minister for Water, Tim Holding officially launched the construction phase of the 52 kilometre Hamilton-Grampians Pipeline on Wednesday 29 April 2009.

The pipeline is a key part of Victoria’s state-wide water grid which will secure water supplies for the Hamilton region and create 33 new jobs.

The project is ahead of schedule and under budget. The project was originally costed at \$30 million but Wannon Water now expects to deliver the pipeline for \$21.3 million.

The Victorian Government is contributing \$10 million to the project to reduce the impact on customers’ water bills and Wannon Water will fund the remaining amount.

Once complete, this project will secure the Hamilton region’s water needs for at least the next 50 years - taking into account population growth and the impact of climate change on future rainfall.

The 375mm diameter pipeline will transfer up to two billion litres each year from Rocklands Reservoir in the Grampians to Hamilton’s water supply system. The project also includes the construction of a pumping station at Rocklands Reservoir.

Wannon Water will source this water from some of the water savings generated by

the \$688 million Wimmera–Mallee Pipeline, which is Australia’s biggest pipeline project.

Padbury Amber Civil Contractors are constructing the project. Work crews will start laying pipes in May and expect to complete the project early in 2010.

Up to 27 horizontal bores will be drilled to carry the pipeline beneath sensitive environmental areas, including under the Wannon River and through the Claude Austin State Forest.

The new pipes for this project are being made by Tyco Water in Broadmeadows, helping to protect manufacturing jobs for Victoria.

Mr Holding said he was looking forward to seeing additional water flowing to Hamilton and congratulated everyone involved with the project particularly Wannon Water.

Victoria’s Water Grid includes the Goldfields

Superpipe to secure water supplies for Bendigo and Ballarat, the Geelong-Melbourne Pipeline to connect the Geelong region to Melbourne’s major water projects and the Sugarloaf Pipeline.



Minister for Water Tim Holding launches the construction phase of the 52 kilometre Hamilton-Grampians Pipeline.

RELATIONSHIP AGREEMENT SIGNED

The Chairman of the Northern Victoria Irrigation Renewal Project (NVIRP) Richard Guy and Goulburn-Murray Water (G-MW) Chairman Stephen Mills have signed an agreement which establishes the cooperative working principles by which the irrigation renewal project in northern Victoria operates.

“Having this formal commitment signed by both organisations enables us to continue with the planning, design and delivery of this major infrastructure project,” Mr Guy said.

Initially the two organisations developed the operational requirements for the project works including access to the irrigation network taking into account the need to deliver the project while working with local communities and irrigators to achieve the best solutions individually and for their regions.

“NVIRP is currently working with our G-MW customers and its own Modernisation Consultation Committees to consolidate



At the relationship agreement signing between NVIRP and G-MW are left to right (front) G-MW Chairman Stephen Mills, Water Minister Tim Holding, NVIRP Chairman Richard Guy, and (standing) G-MW Managing Director David Stewart with NVIRP Director Barry Steggall.

the best irrigation infrastructure upgrade delivery arrangements to secure the future of irrigation in this region and to strengthen the economic wellbeing of these communities and our whole region,” G-MW Chairman Mr Mills said.

The Victorian Government’s contribution has underpinned the \$2 billion Irrigation Modernisation Project along with substantial contributions from Melbourne Water, G-MW and the Commonwealth.

A NEW ALLIANCE

Barwon Water will form an alliance with the private sector to deliver the largest capital investment program in the corporation’s history. The alliance will be responsible for more than 100 projects worth \$355 million over the next five years. Total investment in water and sewerage infrastructure during this period will be \$600 million.

The move will create opportunities for local contractors and suppliers and improve regional and Barwon Water capabilities. Managing Director Michael Malouf is driving the initiative, which will deliver “better than business-as-usual” outcomes.

“Through this new approach, we will be encouraging innovation, better technical and quality results, value for money and timely delivery of projects. This means better outcomes for our customers, Barwon Water

and our partners,” Mr Malouf said.

It is a significant step in an organisational and cultural overhaul, which targets high performance, water security and closer relationships with customers and stakeholders.

Barwon Water is currently reviewing a shortlist of potential alliance partners with design and construction expertise. A decision is expected in June. The new entity will run for four years, with a two-year option depending on performance and Barwon Water’s business needs.

Half of the 100 projects in the alliance’s capital program relate to pipeline installation. The balance comprises storage, treatment plant and recycled water work. About 25 Barwon Water personnel are expected to join the alliance, which will be housed in a yet-to-be identified dedicated office. The total team of professionals will number around 80.

While the alliance will operate independently, it will maintain close links with its owner, Barwon Water. The corporation will play an essential role by accelerating strategic planning to ensure projects are delivered on time by the alliance.

Mr Malouf said the new framework would “keep on track” an ambitious works program. “We conducted an extensive review of delivery options, including advice on legal, commercial, governance and strategic issues and consultation with agencies that had established similar partnerships.

An immediate cost-saving benefit would be removing the need to issue and administer more than 100 separate project tenders. Barwon Water will continue to manage significant projects such as the Northern Water Plant, the Melbourne-Geelong interconnection and the Anglesea borefield.

NORTHERN WATER PLANT PROJECT MOVES FORWARD

Barwon Water has completed tender evaluations and is entering contract negotiations with a preferred proponent for the Northern Water Plant.

Chairman Roger Lowrey said selection of a contractor to design, construct and commission the plant was an exciting step forward.

"We expect to announce the contract in May, with detailed design and pilot trials scheduled to begin in May," he said.

"The Northern Water Plant is a vital link in developing an integrated water supply system for the region. Not only will it boost

the reliability of our water supplies, which is crucial as we adapt to climate change, but it will significantly increase water recycling."

Construction of the plant is expected to be completed in October 2011, with commissioning in early 2012.

The Northern Water Plant will recycle sewage and trade waste from homes and industry across Geelong's northern suburbs. Most of the Class A recycled water will be used by Shell, but the resource also will be available for community facilities, including sporting fields.

The plant will save 2,000 million litres of drinking water a year currently used by the

refinery. This is equivalent to five per cent of Geelong's total current annual water consumption, or water used in 10,000 homes.

Incorporating state-of-the-art technology, the plant also will cut treated water ocean discharges at Black Rock by ten per cent a year.

The Federal Government has committed \$20 million to the project and the State Government \$9.2 million. Barwon Water will contribute about \$16 million while Shell will invest about \$45 million.

YARRA VALLEY WATER CUSTOMERS MEET 30L CHALLENGE ON WORLD WATER DAY



Tony Kelly, Chairman WaterAid; Tom Mollenkopf, CEO Australian Water Association; Natalie Hunter, television presenter and ambassador; and Elijah and Max West-Testa at the launch of the World Water Day Challenge at OzWater on Tuesday 17 March.

Melburnians were asked to go beyond Target 155 on World Water Day, Sunday 22 March – using no more than 30 litres of water per person as part of the WaterAid World Water Day Challenge.

WaterAid Australia is a non-profit organisation dedicated to providing safe domestic water, sanitation and hygiene

education to the world's poorest people. Thirty litres, or three buckets, is similar to the daily usage of an average family in Africa, Asia and the Pacific.

'Here in Melbourne we are aiming to consume no more than 155 litres per person per day under the State Government's Target 155 campaign. In the developing world they have to make do with much less,

around 10 litres per person per day,' said Tony Kelly, Managing Director Yarra Valley Water and WaterAid Chairman.

The WaterAid World Water Day Challenge helped participants to really appreciate the value of water and experience what it's like to have only 30 litres for a whole day.

Most Melburnians go over 30 litres just by performing simple daily tasks. Showering for four minutes with a water-efficient showerhead uses 36 litres of water; running one load of a front loading washing machine uses around 75 litres; and flushing a toilet just once can use up to 11 litres. Over a day, this is around 44 litres.

Yarra Valley Water customers Dimity Hawkins, Dr Cath Keaney and their six-year-old son, completed the challenge and said it really made them think twice about how water is used in their household.

"To meet the challenge, we measured out water for drinking, cooking and cups of tea at the start of the day. We didn't do any washing and minimal cleaning," said Dimity. "We didn't have a shower, however our son had a small bath and we then used this water on the garden.

"I've spent time in Fiji so I know about the importance of water. This challenge was a good wake up call and highlighted that we really live in abundance here in Australia."

SOUTH GIPPSLAND WATER - SUPPORTING ART AND THE ENVIRONMENT.

South Gippsland Water has recently completed environmental audits on its environmental management system, treatment facilities and depots across the region.

The audits covered the many aspects of the Water Corporations operations; however, one problem occurred again and again - the amount of old, half full paint tins located on most sites.

Keen to abide by the 'reduce, reuse, recycle' slogan, Bridie Witchell, South Gippsland Water's Wastewater / Trade Waste Officer gathered and donated the old paints to the Local Coal Fields Art

Gallery in Wonthaggi. The Gallery quickly put the paint to good use by making them available to one of their art students, Ann Fogarty. Ann has created a Painting collection largely from the SGW supply, incorporating color and a touch of glitter which is a common trademark of her work. Ann describes her decor paintings as a similar style to the 1952 painting called "Blue Poles" by the famous American artist Jackson Pollock. An experienced artist and performer, Ann studied at Preston Institute of Technology (now called the Phillip Institute of Technology) in Bundoora and now works locally.

Ann Fogarty with two of her paintings created from South Gippsland Water's donation.

Coal Fields Art Gallery holds additional donated paints which it plans to make available to local school murals and other local projects.

The problem of unwanted paint for South Gippsland Water has turned into a successful community partnership which will be ongoing between the organisations.



SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS PUT WESTERN WATER ON PREMIER'S LIST OF STAR ACHIEVERS

Western Water has had a stellar autumn scorecard after recording its highest ever reuse of recycled water (97 per cent) in a growing season, then taking top marks from the Essential Services Commission for developing markets for biosolids and cutting stockpiles.

But topping it all off was its nomination as a top three finalist in the 2009 Premier's Sustainability Awards in April.

Managing director John Wilkinson said more than a decade of focus on sustainable business development was paying dividends at Western Water in profitable farm gate industry and good water business.

"More than a decade of drought plus supplying water and services to one of Melbourne's fastest-growing areas has been

a challenging environment in which to grow business and diversify our stakeholder base," "While Western Water has been among industry leaders in the reuse of recycled water over the past decade or so, having our work in finding sustainable reuses for biosolids featured in the ESC report's executive summary really is a milestone." Mr Wilkinson said.

Western Water reported the highest rate of reuse of recycled biosolids of all water corporations in Victoria, reusing 132.6 per cent of production over the 2007-08 year.

These results were in marked contrast to the overall decline in biosolids reuse in the Victorian water industry, which, at an overall rate of 36.8 per cent reuse, was down on the previous year's 44.2 per cent reuse.

When combined with the two percentage

points decline in harmful greenhouse gas emissions this result scores for Western Water, the indicators suggest that Western Water is tracking well against plans to have a zero net carbon balance and 100 per cent recycling of water by 2017-18.

The Premier's sustainability awards last month also recognised the hard work and innovation done by business and community sectors to reduce resource use and support innovation to cut harmful environment impacts.

Western Water's finalist position in the Built Environment category of this year's awards was determined by the Banksia Foundation and recognised Western Water's development of Class A recycled water services in urban developments at South Melton, specifically the new Eynesbury township.

GWMWATER INFORMATION SESSIONS PROVE POPULAR

Over 350 people have attended GWMWater's 'Saving water in the home and garden' information sessions.

The sessions include presentations from local gardening and waterwise experts, such as Ted Brown, a garden consultant

for the Grampians, Wimmera and Mallee regions, who delivers a session on choosing garden plants which are best suited to the region.

There are also presentations on water restrictions, using greywater, water rebates, water savings in the home and how to use

the GWMWater website to access a range of water saving ideas.

Information sessions have been held in Horsham, Warracknabeal, Woomelang and Stawell over the last few months. Other sessions are planned for Edenhope and Nhill in the near future.

TASK GROUP TOPICS

Water Efficiency Task Group

The Water Efficiency Task Group has been in a short hiatus due to the departure of Mike Paine as Chair. Keith Johnson from South East Water has been appointed as the new Chair and the task group will reconvene on 10 June.

Sustainability Task Group

The Sustainability Task Group and its three subgroups met on 5 March 2008.

● Performance Measurement Subgroup

The Performance Measurement Subgroup's role is to enable a more consistent industry approach to reporting. The group is currently developing a paper on Sustainability Reporting.

● Driving Change Subgroup

The purpose of the Driving Change Subgroup is to improve awareness and understanding of existing approaches to driving cultural change towards sustainable practices, both within and beyond the water industry. A project is currently being implemented by the group which will provide information on resources and tools being used to advance cultural change and build capacity towards sustainability thinking.

● New Ideas Subgroup

At its last meeting the group developed the program for the Sustainability Seminar, which was held on 7 May 2009 at the Mercure Melbourne (13 Spring Street). The Mercure offer a Carbon Certificate to clients hosting events, they calculate emissions relating to the event and pay for the emissions to be offset.

Financial Issues Steering Committee (FISC)

Following on from the Asset Valuations Workshop in December, Maunsell was contracted to prepare a report regarding the appropriate adjustment indices, which will be used to adjust the asset values of the Regional Businesses to 'fair value'. Deloitte was also contracted to prepare a report for adjustment of the Metros asset values to reflect 'fair value'.

We are continuing discussions with PricewaterhouseCoopers and the Auditor General's Office to finalise the "Puddle Accounts" for 2008/2009. It is hoped that the accounts will be released by the end of May.

The Annual Financial Issues Workshop will be held on 21 & 22 May at the Silverwater Resort Phillip Island. Contact Sam Wilkinson at VicWater for more information.

Water Educators Task Group

Hosted by Central Highlands Water, the annual Educator's Forum was held at Ballarat on 12 and 13 February. The forum included presentations from:

- Ecolinc - a centre delivering sustainable environmental workshops to Victorian school students, teachers and the community
- A presenter who spoke of his background in educating the community through action orientated programs (LandCare), and how he moved into the private arena (Mining) and continues to be able to educate and bring about change
- Ballarat Grammar's Heinz Centre for Environmental Studies - a dedicated Year 9 complex that seeks to engage students through alternative and experiential learning with a focus on sustainable living principles
- The University of Ballarat's School of Education
- The Smart Water Fund

- Narmbool Lodge Environmental Discovery Camp - a Sovereign Hill program providing Victorian primary and secondary schools with environmental education programs that develop their understanding of biodiversity and what a sustainable environment means
- Various presentations from Education Officers in the water industry which provided insight on current projects and programs throughout the state.

This forum presents on the progress of water education programs in water businesses and other industries. In addition it provides a valuable networking opportunity for people working in education in the water industry. In particular, the "how I do it" sessions allowed for a sharing of ideas and/or programs that have been successful. It was also identified that the Forum provided a space for the group to generate new innovative ideas. All up, it was and will continue to be an integral part of the calendar for the VicWater Educator's Task Group and the wider VicWater Educator's Network.

The next major calendar event for the VicWater Educator's Task Group is the annual Poster Competition which takes place as part of National Water Week celebrations in October.

Biosolids Task Group

The next Biosolids Task Group meeting will be held on 28 May at Sustainability Victoria. For more information contact Sam Wilkinson - sam.wilkinson@vicwater.org.au



Attendees at the 2009 VicWater Educator's Forum visit the Ballarat Grammar Heinz Centre for Environmental Studies.

VICWATER ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2009 – CALL FOR PAPERS

Papers are invited from the water industry and its stakeholders that are relevant to the conference theme 'A climate of opportunity – planning ahead'. The changing and uncertain future of our water resources and the consequent compressed time frames for water resource-planning is the result of many changing factors such as: prolonged below average rainfall and inflows; climate change impacts; Federal and State Government water reforms; and community expectations.

The conference will focus on how water businesses and key stakeholders are

tackling the challenge of planning in such changing conditions, including the most significant barriers and opportunities on the new planning horizon.

Interested persons who would like to present a paper related to the conference theme are invited to email a one page abstract by Friday 15 May 2009 to
e: vicwater@vicwater.org.au

The conference brings together leaders from all of Victoria's water businesses, together with many other delegates who work, or have an interest in the industry.

The conference will be held on Thursday 10 and Friday 11 September 2009 at the Novotel Forest Resort in Creswick.



WELCOME – SAM WILKINSON



Sam Wilkinson joined VicWater in March 2009. As well as working on a number of specific projects, Sam will also project manage the Finance Issues Steering Committee, the Sustainability Task Group, Biosolids Task Group and the Water Efficiency Task Group.

Before joining VicWater, Sam was employed as a Business Performance Analyst with Yarra Trams, which involved managing depot reporting procedures, identifying trends, risks and opportunities relevant to

strategic focus areas in order to improve operational procedures.

Keen to pursue a career in sustainability and resource management, Sam successfully completed a Masters of Social Science (Environment and Planning) in 2008.

Sam brings to VicWater excellent presentation, communication, report writing and time management skills.

TRAINING AND OH&S MATTERS

The Occupational Health and Safety Network met on 2 April in Melbourne in conjunction with the Annual Safety in Action Conference.

The meeting was opened by Sue Pilkington, President of the Victorian Division of the Safety Institute of Australia. VicWater

recently became a Corporate Member of the Safety Institute of Australia, on behalf of the Victorian water industry and sees mutual benefits flowing from this new linkage.

Prior to the Network meeting, the Occupational Health and Safety Task Group met at VicWater on 4 March to plan its

activities for the year. A new sub-committee to take forward electrical safety issues, particularly in regard to water meter replacements was formed.

We should also mention that the water industry was well-represented at the Safety in Action Conference Dinner on the night of 1 April.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT AWARD

Eligibility

The annual award is open to all Victorian water industry employees (i.e., employees of the Association's member businesses).

The Application Process

Nominees are invited to submit a written application (500 words) addressing the award criteria. The application must clearly identify the extent to which the individual:

- Demonstrates leadership potential;
- Demonstrates high levels of professional performance and/or productivity;
- Demonstrates ongoing improvement and innovation in their current role; or
- Presents an inspirational role model for the Victorian water industry through leadership and achievement.

Entrants are encouraged to include any relevant material to support their entry. A referee list must also be included.

Award Prize

The Award prize will be in the form of financial support paid to the water corporation, to assist the successful applicant to undertake:

- Relevant training/courses
- Study/research tour

Additional assistance will be considered on a case by case basis.

Closing Date

Applications close on 1 July 2009. An application form can be downloaded from VicWater's website – www.vicwater.org.au



LAKE WENDOUREE RE-USE PROJECT MILESTONE

The final stage of construction of the Ballarat North Water Re-use Demonstration Plant has now been completed.

Central Highlands Water contractors completed the installation and pre-commissioning testing of the Plant prior to Easter. The Water Re-use Demonstration Plant can produce up to two million litres per day of Class A re-use water and during testing it was operated at capacity so that water quality sampling and analysis could be undertaken by CHW and an independent assessor.

During the testing phase the water was returned to the treatment plant, pending approvals by the Department of Human Services (DHS) and the Environment Protection Authority (EPA), which are

required before the water can be delivered to Lake Wendouree.

Further testing has also been undertaken from the Demonstration Plant to Swan Pool in Lake Wendouree to check the delivery system's compatibility with the existing Paul's Drain Storm Water Diversion.

In February this year, Council and CHW signed an agreement detailing the conditions under which the re-use water can be fed into Lake Wendouree. The agreement defines acceptable water quality and volumes of water, and stipulates that it will be blended with storm water and inflows from rain or alternative fresh water sources.

Once confirmation has been received from DHS and the EPA that the re-use water meets the standards required, it

is expected the system will be officially commissioned and re-use water will begin to flow into Lake Wendouree. The new plant will deliver 600 mega litres per year of re-use water to Lake Wendouree.

Considered an Australian first, commissioning of the system and delivery of re-use water to Lake Wendouree will mark the completion of the three year, \$7 million Lake Wendouree Water Supply Project. The project is being jointly delivered by the State Government, City of Ballarat and CHW.

The re-use water will be a supplementary water source for the Lake accounting for approximately 20 per cent of its annual total water inputs.

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