

WATER MATTERS

VICTORIAN WATER INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION NEWS

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Suite 1, Level 6
2 Collins Street, Melbourne,
Victoria 3000
T: (03) 9639 8868
F: (03) 9639 8860
E: vicwater@vicwater.org.au
www.vicwater.org.au

If you'd like to have an article considered for inclusion in Water Matters, email the finished article to vicwater@vicwater.org.au
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BARWON WATER CELEBRATES 100 YEARS SERVING THE COMMUNITY

This year is set to be one of the biggest in Barwon Water's history as it celebrates 100 years serving the local community.

On January 18, 1908, the Victorian government handed over the water supply role to the Geelong Municipal Works Trust for 265,000.

The Trust assumed responsibility for managing headworks, transferring water to Geelong and expanding the reticulation system to supply more households.

The first official meeting of the Geelong Municipal Waterworks Trust was held in the Water Supply Office in Geelong's old post office on Saturday, Jan 25, 1908.

In those days, commissioners were appointed by the Geelong councils to preside over the Trust including two from the Town of Geelong, one each from the Borough of Newtown and Chilwell, and the Borough of Geelong West and one representing the shires of Corio, Bellarine and South Barwon.

James Sharland, who helped steer the Geelong Water Supply committee, was appointed engineer and secretary of water supply in 1908, and remained with the Trust, later as engineer-in-chief, until 1935.

The first decade after the Geelong Municipal Waterworks Trust was established saw frenetic

activity which led to many major works including construction of the Korweinguboora Reservoir and Geelong's sewerage system.

Over the past 100 years, there have been numerous name changes, mergers and expansions in the service area managed by what is now known as Barwon Water. Celebrations throughout the year will acknowledge their achievements and recognise the many hundreds of people who, through their dedication, hard work and initiative have made Barwon Water one of the leading water authorities in Australia.

Barwon Water kicked off its centenary celebrations on January 25, 2008 with an event for employees. The morning tea was held on the 100th anniversary of the first meeting of the Geelong Municipal Waterworks Trust.



Parliamentary Secretary for Environment and Water, Michael Crutchfield; Barwon Water's longest serving current employee, Terry Mulroyan; and Barwon Water Chairman Roger Lowrey cut the 'centenary cake'.

“from the CEO’s desk”



Welcome to the summer edition of Water Matters. I am sure that most people took the opportunity for a break over the Christmas period and have returned fresh and ready for an exciting 2008. As expected, there will be a range of challenges to keep us all well occupied during the year.

The start of 2008 sees a general continuation of water restrictions across the State as the traditionally dry summer months have an impact on the already low water storages. It is certainly a difficult time for water businesses and their customers and reinforces the importance of clear customer communication.

2008 looks like being a year of ‘construction’ with all businesses planning to undertake significant capital projects to secure and improve the State’s water supply. Even though substantial rainfall in the catchments would be welcomed it is essential that the State’s water

infrastructure is improved to ensure that supplies can be maintained in the long term. The development of a State Water Grid will further ensure that water can be provided to the most critical areas.

A quick reminder of the dates for the main VicWater conferences planned for this year:

- ◆ Sustainability Seminar
May 2008 (to be advised)
- ◆ Finance Managers Conference
29 and 30 May 2008
- ◆ VicWater Annual Conference
2 and 3 October 2008

These three major events continue to grow and are a valuable source of information and networking opportunities within the industry.

We have recently released the inaugural ‘Industry Summary Report’ which highlights the key initiatives, achievements and innovations in the Victorian water industry in the past year (2006/2007) under the triple bottom line headings of social, environmental and economic performance.

This report also includes a number of case studies that draw attention to innovations and initiatives undertaken by water businesses over the previous 12 months. The Report will be provided to the Victorian water industry and its stakeholders and is available on the VicWater website.

I hope that you find the Industry Summary Report an interesting and valuable reference.



SANDHURST CLUB GETS ACCESS TO RECYCLED WATER

South East Water recently connected residential properties at Sandhurst Club, in Melbourne’s south east suburbs to Class A recycled water. South East Water Acting Chief Executive Officer, Kate Vinot said that the use of Class A recycled water is a great alternative to using drinking water. “The use of recycled water in residential homes for non-drinking purposes like garden watering, washing the car and toilet

flushing will help to reduce demand on our drinking water supplies. “Recycled water is not subject to the same restrictions as drinking water, so residents can water their gardens all year round,” she added.

Class A recycled water is now connected to 600 homes at the estate, with another 1200 sites to be connected. The substitution of recycled water for drinking water at Sandhurst will help save

approximately 300 million litres of drinking water each year. The unique Class A recycled water purple taps, pipes, hoses and metres help residents to easily identify recycled and potable water.

In collaboration with the State Government, over the next 25 years, South East Water will connect more than 40,000 homes to recycled water along Melbourne’s south eastern corridor.

DEMAND FOR RECYCLED WATER CONTINUES TO SOAR

The demand for recycled water continues to increase and the recycled water standpipes at the Western Treatment Plant will provide another bumper year's supply in 2008.

The two standpipes managed by City West Water at the Western Treatment Plant have supplied almost 114 million litres of class A recycled water in their first year of operation, with estimates that supply will increase to 150 million litres this year.

Since November 2006, City West Water has been supplying Class A recycled water from the standpipes to relieve the pressure of drought on commercial businesses, sporting clubs and the community.

Anne Barker City West Water's Managing Director, said supply over the summer months is expected to be at full capacity. "With the prospect of another dry summer and continued water restrictions, we expect the standpipes to be extremely busy from December through to April," Ms Barker said. "Recycled water has become a vital solution for many businesses and councils in Melbourne's CBD and

western suburbs to keep their gardens, parks, sports and recreation grounds green. "Recycled water is now a smart alternative to using drinking water for irrigation and watering sports grounds. Without it, many sports clubs and businesses would find it difficult to operate."

Graeme Clark, owner of Statewide Water Cartage who supplies recycled water to a number of diverse customers, has predicted that as awareness of recycled water increases, so will the demand. "We have four or five trucks a day filling up with recycled water at the standpipe, and we expect demand to increase ten fold this year," Mr Clark said. "More and more businesses are becoming aware that recycled water can be used for a number of uses, including irrigation. But a lot of people still don't know what recycled water is

so we regularly talk with businesses to change their attitude. "Without recycled water, a lot of our clients would be in a lot of trouble. They'd need to source mineral spring water or bore water – which is too expensive."

There are around 50 water carters approved by City West Water to access recycled water from the standpipes supplying to almost 140 customers. The standpipes can supply a total of 25 million litres per month. The Class A recycled water is high quality water recovered from wastewater and treated to strict quality standards.



Graeme Clark from Statewide Water Cartage, filling up his tanker at the Western Treatment Plant Recycled Water Standpipes.

WATER MINISTER VISITS THE COMPLETED \$30 MILLION PLANT UPGRADE

The Ballarat North Water Reclamation Plant has recently completed construction of the \$30 million upgrade and commissioning has commenced. The works for the upgrade include Primary treatment via screening and settling of solids; biological nutrient removal and tertiary filtration and ultraviolet disinfection. Wastewater from the plant will meet stringent Environmental Protection Authority standards providing immediate benefits for the environment discharging tertiary standard water down the Burrumbeet Creek.

The upgrade ensures capacity for future growth and is a key step towards providing a major source of recycled water for the region. The Ballarat North Water Reclamation Plant is scheduled to have a Class A plus recycling water plant completed by the end of 2008. This plant will produce and deliver recycled water to Lake Wendouree for the Lake Wendouree Water Supply project. The Class A plus recycling plant will not only deliver up to 600ML per year of recycled water to Lake Wendouree but it provides the

opportunity for sportsgrounds, industry and botanical gardens to benefit from it.

Water Minister Mr Tim Holding said "with the ongoing drought and record low inflows into our catchments, it is vital that we diversify our water supplies and use more alternative water sources such as recycled water and stormwater. It is vital that we continue to invest in major water infrastructure which will help to boost water supplies in the region."

TASK GROUP TOPICS

FINANCE ISSUES

STEERING COMMITTEE (FISC)

The FISC Group met on December 7 and discussed the future of the 'Puddle Accounts' and the annual Finance Issues Workshop. VicWater, on behalf of the water businesses agreed to manage the 'Puddle Accounts' provided that the technical input is provided by the AG's office. Michael Almond (Auditor General's Office) attended the meeting and confirmed that the new AG is happy for VicWater to sponsor the issuing of the 'Puddle Accounts'. The AG will provide secretarial support and will hold onto the 'Puddle Accounts' template. This year's workshop will be held in Hepburn Springs on 29 and 30 May 2008.

SUSTAINABILITY TASK GROUP (STG)

The STG met on 14 December with John Barnes as new Chair. The group heard Professor Roy Jackson speak on the research conducted by the Centre for Green Chemistry at Monash University.

Erik Ligtermoet (Melbourne Water) spoke about the Triple Bottom Line guidelines developed by Melbourne Water for projects. The task group discussed the themes and potential speakers and program for the annual sustainability seminar to be held in May.

VICTORIAN WATER EDUCATORS TASK GROUP (VWETG)

The group met on 30 November 2007. The group received an update on the Water Learn It Live It (WLILI) program which has been completely updated to suit the Victorian Essential Learning Standards (curriculum outline for school teachers). The WLILI will include resources for secondary students.

GREENHOUSE EMISSIONS REDUCTION WORKING GROUP

The group met on 28 November. Fraser Chitts (Sustainability Victoria)

spoke about the introduction of the Emissions Trading Scheme and its impact on the water industry, current renewable energy certificates and the voluntary carbon trading market. Paris Nicholls (EPA) spoke about the National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Bill and abatement incentives. Nathan Smith (WSAA) gave an overview of research being conducted on the water industry greenhouse emissions in particular the uncertainty of calculating fugitive emissions and their underestimation.

Glenn Marshall (Goulburn Valley Water) and Peta Maddy (Western Water) gave presentations on their water business' respective Greenhouse Action Plan. The task group sees a lot of benefit in sharing information on GAPs and will have other members making presentations in future meetings. The task group has finalised the definition and methodology for the new 'recycled water' indicator and members will assist one another in understanding the transition phase of wastewater to recycled water along the treatment train.

\$20 MILLION RECYCLED WATER PROJECT ANNOUNCED FOR NORTHERN HOUSING ESTATES

Yarra Valley Water's plans for a new dual pipe system will deliver recycled water to around 50,000 residents in Melbourne's northern growth corridors.

Mr Tony Kelly, Yarra Valley Managing Director said this \$20 million investment over the next 5 years will supply recycled water to new developments in the areas of Hume, Whittlesea and Mitchell. In the longer term over 50,000 residents will be supplied with recycled water over the next 25 years. "Yarra Valley Water's plans for a dual pipe supply for several other new developments in the areas of Hume, Whittlesea and Mitchell is estimated to deliver around 1500 million litres a year by

2015, and once full development is achieved, deliver around 3400 million litres a year to households.

The recycled water will come from Yarra Valley Water's Aurora Recycled Water Treatment Plant in Epping North and a new recycled water treatment plant to be built near Beveridge. The water will be treated to Class A standard in accordance with Environmental Protection Authority Victoria and Department of Human Services requirements that outline suitable applications for recycled water.

Stockland's Highlands Estate is just one of several new estates across the northern metropolitan area that

will benefit from the project, and will see recycled water flowing via the dual pipe system by 2010.

More than 15,000 Highlands' residents will successfully achieve 5-star home-rating compliance because of being connected to the recycled water. Residents will be able to use the water for a variety of domestic uses including washing cars, watering plants and the garden, and flushing toilets. Recycled water is not subject to the same water restrictions as drinking water allowing residents to use it all year.

Each home connected to recycled water is expected to use about one-third less drinking water.

WIMMERA MALLEE PIPELINE PROGRESS

Almost 2,500 kilometres of the Wimmera Mallee Pipeline Project (WMPP) was 'in the ground' at the end of 2007. Nine towns are currently being supplied from the pipeline, with emergency supplies available to some farmers in the western part of the region. The original ten-year construction plan has been fast tracked to complete the pipeline within five years, due to the ongoing drought conditions. Water storage levels bottomed out at 3.5% early in 2007, providing GWMWater with significant challenges in balancing the allocation of scarce water supplies to customers during a major construction program.

Initial construction commenced in November 2006 on the main steel transfer trunk between Lake Bellfield and Taylors Lake, and the Supply System 1 PVC trunk and distribution network to supply Longerenong to Yaapeet. Construction of smaller lined balancing storages to service the urban communities and surrounding rural

customers will be completed within the next few months. As supply zones are pressure tested and meters installed, farmers are able to progressively access piped water, providing welcome relief to their water-carting program.

Construction of Supply System 5 (Culgoa) began in July 2007. This is the final section of the Wimmera Mallee to source water from the River Murray connecting the small Mallee towns and all farm enterprises in the area (820 kilometres of PVC and polyethylene pipeline). Pressure testing of the pipes and meter installation is targeted for completion in March, enabling supply to all customers.

In response to the critical water storage and drought conditions, Government approval for fast-tracking the construction of the Supply System 2 (Woomelang) trunk was announced in May. Water is currently being supplied from the trunk main to Brim and Beulah townships, with Warracknabeal's water supply

to be augmented by piped supply during summer. Construction of the network to supply farms in this area commenced in December and is targeted for completion in mid 2008.

The tender process is underway for Supply System 3 (Birchip) and Supply System 4 (Wycheproof), with construction targeted for completion in mid 2009. A total of 3,500 kilometres of pipeline will service the communities of Rupanyup, Minyip, Watchem, Birchip, Marnoo, Donald, Wycheproof and Charlton, as well as each farm business. Preliminary planning and consultation for Supply System 6, south of Horsham, has been initiated, to prepare initial design documents for tender in mid 2008.

The Wimmera Mallee community continues to be very supportive of the Wimmera Mallee Pipeline Project, with parallel planning, construction and commissioning activities impacting on the whole community.

GIPPSLAND WATER COMPLETES STAFF DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

The 2007 year saw Gippsland Water investing in its people and developing their potential with three major learning and development programs taking place. A total of 48 staff participated in the Diploma of Business (Frontline Management), Facilitation Skills and Adaptive Leadership programs, which were year-long commitments requiring them to test their new skills in the workplace, apply their knowledge through action learning projects and take part in a series of workshops throughout the year. The Diploma of Business (Frontline Management) is a nationally recognised and accredited program which develops management capabilities and builds skills in presenting, coaching, motivation and managing change. Gippsland Water partnered with other local organisations including Southern Rural Water and SGS that also had staff participate in the

program. The Facilitation Skills program provided participants with practical tools and skills to facilitate meetings and workshops and develop reflective inquiry skills. This program has proven to be a good return on investment with newly trained facilitators already applying their skills within the organisation and replacing the need to contract external consultants to deliver similar services.

The Adaptive Leadership program builds the skills of Gippsland Water's future leaders teaching them process improvement strategies, techniques to encourage staff engagement and commitment and how to develop capability in themselves and others. As part of each of the programs, participants identified and completed a workplace improvement project.

These covered a range of areas and included:

- ◆ Developing and implementing a five year Corporate Social Responsibility plan for the organisation,
- ◆ Strategic Intent' project which aimed to assist staff to understand how their role aligns to Gippsland Water's Strategic Plan,
- ◆ A project that looked at Gippsland Water's impact on climate change and identified ways to change both individual and organisational behaviours to reduce this impact,
- ◆ Assessing alternative courses of action and cost-benefits for a range of technical processes.

Participation in these three training programs will create ongoing benefits for the organisation with each participant taking away skills they can implement in their professional and personal lives.

Gippsland Water is considering how this learning and development program will be progressed during 2008.

TRAINING AND OH&S MATTERS

OH&S

The OH&S Steering Group is currently working on the implementation of an on-line system for OH&S Network members to input and access OH&S Benchmarking statistics via the Members area of the VicWater website.

The on-line project has been developed by Bob McKay of Southern Rural Water and a group Monash University Master's Degree students and will build

on the good work of Con Mavrelis of City West Water who was instrumental in putting together the current Excel spreadsheet system for water industry OH&S statistics.

Planning is well underway for the next meeting of the OH&S Network which will be hosted by North East Water at Wangaratta.

TRAINING

After a long stint as Chair of the VicWater Training Consultative Committee, Les Mathieson, MD of East Gippsland has handed over the reins to Jeff Rigby, MD of GMMWater. Our thanks to Les for his guidance over the years and welcome to Jeff!

BROADFORD WATER SUPPLY PIPELINE BROUGHT FORWARD

In early January Goulburn Valley Water received approval from the Minister for Water and Treasurer for the \$15.2 million Broadford Water Supply Pipeline Project. The project was initially scheduled to commence in 2012, however with the continuing drought the Corporation has decided to bring the project forward with the objective of completing it by December 2008 and the need to transfer water to Broadford via road tankers for the third year in a row. The Corporation plans to construct a 12 megalitre per day raw water pump station on the Goulburn River near Tallarook and build a 23.5 km pipeline from the pump station to Broadford

The pump station will be constructed on the banks of the Goulburn River near Tallarook. It was one of several sites investigated and was selected as it is on Crown land and has readily available access to electricity and to the road. The pipeline will be constructed using a steel pipe. 21 km will be 450mm pipe and 2.5 km will be 600mm pipe. The 600mm section of pipe will be laid in the suburban areas of Broadford and will allow for the ultimate capacity while allowing the Corporation to minimise further disturbance to its customers. The 450mm pipe will be duplicated in the future.

The pipeline route follows the GasNet pipeline to Broadford. This alignment

was selected as the route is cleared of vegetation and the pipeline can be located within the GasNet easement which will minimise the impact on landowners. The route through the Broadford township will be along the existing water main easements and will reduce the construction impact on the Broadford community.

It is anticipated that construction of the pipeline and pumping station on the Goulburn River will commence in April 2008 and be completed by December 2008. The connection of Broadford to the Goulburn River will increase both the quantity and security of water supply for the Broadford/Kilmore water supply system.

WATER INDUSTRY DRIVES A GOOD CAUSE

The Water Industry was again well represented at Cystic Fibrosis Australia's Great Escape last year. The annual car rally attracts driving enthusiasts from all over the country, who drive through some of Australia's most rugged and picturesque landscapes while raising funds for research into Cystic Fibrosis (CF). Among them for the past two years has been a carload from North East Water, co-piloted by one of its senior managers, Craig Heiner, and sponsored by ITT Flygt, the VWIOA and EGL.

Craig's team raised an impressive \$9,555, placing them sixth on the rally's fundraising list. The total for

the rally was \$348,000, which was \$13,000 more than the previous year. Last year's rally took participants from Tamworth to Ballina via Longreach and the Whitsundays. This September it's on again, and will travel from Penrith to Barossa via Craig's own stomping ground of Bright and Albury.

The Water Industry car will again be there, and rumour has it there may be a spare spot in the car for anyone looking to see a bit of Australia and have some fun at the same time. Then, of course, there's the added feel good factor of raising funds for a very worthy cause – Craig has set the fundraising target at \$10,000.



Jon Coghill from ITT Flygt, Craig Heiner from North East Water, and Peter Tolsher from EGL, with the Water Industry car, an orange Ford XD Falcon.

ROOF WATER HARVESTING SET TO BOLSTER TOWN WATER SUPPLY

Plans to implement a unique form of roof water harvesting in the Victorian town of Warrnambool are well advanced following a grant of \$1.1M from the Australian Government Water Fund.

The aim of the project is to demonstrate the benefits of collecting rain water from roofs in a new subdivision and using it to bolster the potable water supply. The balance of funding for the \$1.9M project will come from the regional water corporation, Wannon Water (\$600,000) and Cove Land Developments (\$176,000).

Some 2.5km of dedicated roof water collection pipe will be constructed in the primary growth corridor of Warrnambool to form a network separate from other stormwater collection networks. In addition, 2km of dedicated trunk water main will be constructed to transfer the collected roof water from the new subdivision to an existing water storage and treatment facility, from

which water will then be supplied to Warrnambool's reticulation system.

The project will result in a working example of a subdivision that harvests water from roofs to a central storage and provides for the harvesting principle to be applied throughout this major growth corridor. The roof area of new subdivisions will provide dispersed catchments supplying centralised storage, treatment and reticulated water supply systems.

Each developed property in the new subdivision will have two stormwater connections – one for low quality surface runoff and the other for roof water. Because of the elevated location of the subdivision, the roof water will flow directly by gravity to the storage without the need for a pump station, it will then be pumped to the dissolved air flotation treatment plant prior to filtering and chloramination.

Roof water is commonly harvested for non-potable use on the householder's own property for purposes such as

garden watering, car washing and toilet flushing, but this project is unique in that it harvests the roof water, treats it, and then adds it to the town's potable water supply. Ultimately around 2000 houses could be connected to the roof water harvesting system in this part of Warrnambool resulting in approximately 300 Megalitres of water being harvested annually.

The Warrnambool subdivision will consist of 140 lots, and the estimated total resale value will be \$14-15 million. In view of the water saving benefits of the project, it is anticipated these property owners will receive dispensation from the requirement under the Victorian Government 5 Star Scheme to install either a water tank or a solar hot water system.

Doug Pittard at the National Water Commission (NWC) believes that the Warrnambool project is the first in Australia to harvest roof water and add it to the local water corporation's potable water supply system.

STUDENTS AUDIT HOUSEHOLDS TO SAVE MORE WATER

Civil and environmental engineering students audited 850 homes in Yarra Valley Water's service area over the past three months as part of a project to help households become more water efficient. To undertake the project, Yarra Valley Water teamed with Victoria University of Technology and Coomes Consulting. The results will form part of the students' assessment and will also assist the utility in continuing to provide its customers with accurate advice on household water saving measures.

Each audit took around 90 minutes and examined every water appliance in a customer's home. Water flow rates were measured; features such as household size noted and residents were asked in detail how they use different appliances. Data is entered into a laptop computer and innovative software determines how the home can best save water.

According to Yarra Valley Water Managing Director, Tony Kelly, the

water audits were specifically tailored to the circumstances of the individual occupants, yet results will have a positive and wide-reaching impact. 'The water audits provide a greater insight into how water is used in the home and how this can be reduced. For instance, the audit works out how much water can be saved by installing an efficient shower head based on the number of residents in the home, the flow rate of their existing showerheads and the average durations per shower. Our customers have responded exceptionally well to the challenges of drought,' says Mr Kelly. 'The good news is that these water audits will enable new water saving information to be less generic and more tailored to each household – helping us better equip our customers to save even more water.'

Suzanna Stonjanovska, one of the Victoria University students undertaking the audits, says the program is important as saving water is one of the greatest engineering tasks facing

Australia today and in the future.

One customer, "Barry", says he was astounded that someone doing a weekend job while studying would have so much commitment to customer service; the student not only completed the water audit but returned at a later date with more helpful hints.

'The results will be compared with previous surveys, so it will be interesting to see just how water savvy our customers are becoming,' says Tony Kelly. 'For example, we believe that customer behaviour and the appliances they buy has changed as a result of water restrictions and awareness of the drought. The results will give us a snapshot that can be compared with previous surveys and help to plan more effective water conservation programs.'

Each of the 850 homes was invited to participate by Yarra Valley Water and represent a cross-section of its domestic customer base.

WESTERNPORT WATER'S 'WATER-WATCHA' WINS FRIENDS

A national group of water experts has backed a water auditing system proposed by Westernport Water's Managing Director, David Mawer. The Australia-first system, developed with backing from the Sydney University of Technology, has won support from the Savewater Alliance. The 'Water-Watcha' proposal involves water auditors judging the water conservation measures of large tourist events and presenting their data as a scorecard.

The audit is conducted one to two months before the event and awards it a star rating, much like fuel consumption stars on modern cars. The star rating

leads to an accreditation standard. Already the Savewater Alliance is hoping to apply the audit to the Port Fairy Folk Festival and the Pyramid Rock festival. The pilot will also be used to make a template that will be circulated to every water authority in Australia.

The Savewater Alliance is a not-for-profit group that works with water businesses, government agencies and companies to deliver water conservation nationally. Savewater Alliance CEO Nigel Finney said: "David Mawer came to us with the idea. The impetus came from Westernport Water after discussions over issues concerning water use at

temporary events. "David wanted to list all the things that could be done to get events operators away from using potable water. He devised this audit system. There's never been anything like it before in Australia."

Mr Finney said events organisers, tourism and accommodation operators and others in the leisure industry could also adopt the system and use it to promote their water-saving credentials.

Mr Mawer said: "It is satisfying to see industry-wide take-up of the idea. It shows that Westernport Water is a leader in water conservation nationally."

NEW BALMORAL WATER TREATMENT PLANT OPENED

Wannon Water completed construction and commissioning of the \$1.65M Balmoral Water Treatment Plant in December 2007. The new Plant provides high quality drinking water to customers in Southern Grampians township of Balmoral.

Victorian Government MP Kirstie Marshall officially opened the new Wannon Water treatment plant on behalf of Water Minister Tim Holding. "Providing all Victorian households with a reliable, safe and affordable water supply is a key aim of the Our Water Our Future action plan," Ms Marshall said. Balmoral is supplied with water from the Rockland's Reservoir through a water entitlement with Grampians Wimmera Mallee Water (GMMWater).

Ms Marshall congratulated the two water corporations for working together to help customers through the drought. "As a member of the Rural and Regional Committee I've seen that water is the lifeblood of communities throughout the state and all Victorians must work together during these hard times," Ms Marshall said. Wannon Water Managing Director, Grant Green said; "Wannon Water has delivered on an undertaking from the Department of Human Services (DHS) to provide high quality drinking water and bring Balmoral's water supply in line with Safe Drinking Water Act, 2003 and associated regulations."

The new Balmoral Water Treatment Plant utilises the state of the art treatment process, Dissolved Air Floatation and Filtration (DAFF) which removes the high levels of organic content found in the raw water supplied from the Rockland's Reservoir. The DAFF treatment process is a proven technology and is widely used throughout Australia and overseas to filter out organic material in raw water.

The new treatment plant can produce 0.6ML of clear water per day and a new 0.6ML clear water storage tank has also been built to compliment the DAFF plant. To maximise use of the available

water resources, back wash water from the treatment process will be returned to the raw water storage and retreated. Design of the new Plant was undertaken by GHD Pty Ltd and construction was undertaken by Water Treatment Plant Australia Pty Ltd. Wannon Water's continuing investment in capital projects for the 2007/08 financial year will see \$31M in works completed.

"Wannon Water is committed to developing regional infrastructure for the continued growth and provision of quality services to communities in south-west Victoria" Mr Green concluded.

Left to right: Wannon Water Chairman, Harry Peeters with Victorian Government MP Kirstie Marshall and students from the Balmoral Consolidated Primary School celebrate the opening of the new Balmoral Water Treatment Plant.

