

## ■ melton growth grows recycled water

Western Water has received an encouraging response to calls for expressions of interest from Melton South landowners to use excess recycled water from the Melton wastewater purification plant.

Recycled Water Business Manager, Les McLean, said sustained growth of the Melton township meant recycled water had become available from the plant, which already supplies Class C recycled water to extensive agricultural operations on site at Surbiton Park.

The availability of excess recycled water at the Melton purification plant will create new agri-business opportunities in the area.

Western Water has an ongoing contract to supply recycled water to Surbiton Park, which produces more than 80,000 bales of high-quality Lucerne each year as well as grazing prime sheep", Mr McLean said.

## ■ western water wins savewater! award

Western Water has won the 'Efficiency in Government – Agency or Department' category at the 2003 *savewater!* awards for the Sunbury Melton recycled water project, Victoria's most innovative recycled water scheme to date.

Winners were announced across eleven categories at a gala ceremony on 28 March.

The *savewater!* awards were introduced two years ago to recognise and reward outstanding and innovative achievement in water conservation by Victorian businesses, schools and government departments and agencies.

A number of potential recycled water customers, including Melton Council, have expressed interest in the excess water. Western Water held an information session in late March to discuss the opportunity.

"We receive enquiries about recycled water on an almost daily basis", Mr McLean said.

Landowners can still express their interest by contacting Western Water on (03) 5421 9461 or via email at [mail@westernwater.com.au](mailto:mail@westernwater.com.au). Please provide contact details and relevant information including:

- Where the property is located
- The proposed use for the recycled water
- The approximate volume of recycled water required

## ■ recycling beats the drought



Stephanie Gillespie, Western Water Recycled Water Adviser and Tim Goddard, Hume City Council Parks Manager with Sunbury's new recycled water rig. Read over the page for details on this innovative joint venture.



## ■ learning by doing at romsey

Sunbury's Salesian College will expand its agricultural course selection after securing the Western Water farm lease alongside the Romsey wastewater purification plant.

The 160-hectare farm around the Romsey plant will enable students to work with recycled water to irrigate for pasture and fodder production as well as some stock grazing.

Western Water Chief Executive John Wilkinson said new opportunities would be opened up for farm studies students to learn about water recycling as a result of the lease.

"Western Water has been working with Salesian College for some time to connect their on-site training farm at the college to the Sunbury Melton pipeline, and more recently on this latest venture at Romsey", Mr Wilkinson said.

## ■ recycling beats the drought

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Recycled water from Sunbury's wastewater purification plant has replaced precious freshwater reserves as the source for Sunbury's three hundred street trees, some of which are over one hundred years old.

A special new watering rig hit the streets in February, the result of an innovative partnership between Western Water and Hume City Council.

Western Water Chief Executive John Wilkinson said the new trailer-mounted rig, believed to be a Victorian first, was a mobile advertisement for Western Water's water conservation campaign.

"With water restrictions in place throughout most of Victoria and 2003 being the Year of Freshwater, Western Water has been working with local councils and other community organisations to find alternatives to using precious freshwater supplies," Mr Wilkinson said.

Mr Wilkinson said the recycled water rig had been developed in accordance with Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) guidelines for best practice in the use of recycled water.

Macedon Ranges Council has also adopted recycled water as a dust suppressor on road repair and reconstruction projects in the shire.

"The result is a partnership that will spread the recycling message to farms and rural businesses through education and practical application as well as creating a showcase for different irrigation methods and techniques, particularly as more Victorian developments invest in recycled water.

"The lease also presents another example of Western Water and its communities working together to find new recycling opportunities", Mr Wilkinson said.

The partnership will provide an exciting niche education opportunity for graduates entering a growing market for recycled water.

Salesian College is also keen to develop student involvement in the ongoing Deep Creek Landcare Group project, to which Western Water is also committed. The Landcare Group is undertaking major streamside revegetation and water quality improvement works along Deep Creek, which is part of the Romsey farm site.

Western Water has fenced off and replanted local plant varieties in 30 hectares of paddocks abutting Deep Creek as part of these works.

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