

■ wastewater wanted

Western Water is testing the feasibility of accessing more wastewater from metropolitan fringe suburbs, to locally treat and recycle, for use on farms, parks and sporting grounds irrigation in the Melton and Bacchus Marsh areas.

Recycled Water Manager Les McLean said there had been an overwhelming response from growers and landowners to Western Water's call for expressions of interest to use recycled water generated by its purification plant at Surbiton Park, Melton South.

Mr McLean said while there had been 500Mg/L of recycled water available, responses had identified a demand well in excess of this amount.

"We simply don't have the recycled water to meet demand," Mr McLean said.

The Department of Sustainability and Environment recently conducted workshops with Western Water, Moorabool Shire Council and Bacchus Marsh growers and other stakeholders in an attempt to make recycled water available to this district.

"Surbiton Park is strategically placed for recycled water solutions for regional irrigation needs," Mr McLean said.

He said the all-time low water levels experienced across the region, had hit many growers hard and reliable long-term quality, water supply solutions were needed.

■ footy saved

Western Water and Melton Shire Council have been accredited for saving the junior football season at Melton South oval after recently connecting its severely drought-affected ground to recycled water.

"It's now an all seasons' oval," a club representative said.

Western Water provides recycled water to a number of ovals within the district including Diggers Rest oval and Gisborne's Gardiner Reserve.

■ the importance of pinkerton

The Pinkerton Forest is a little known but extremely special part of Surbiton Park, Western Water's irrigated farm at Melton South.

It is a grey-box woodland and includes precious remnant native grassland. It also includes the graves of the pioneering Pinkerton family.

Plains Grassland and *Grassy Woodland* are amongst the Port Phillip Region's most threatened ecological vegetation classes. Native grasslands once covered a third of Victoria, but have been reduced to a mere one percent of their original extent...*(see overleaf for more)*



■ Pinkerton Forest

■ founder farewellled

A founding member of the Sunbury Melton Recycled Water Pipeline Project Group, Lorenzo Galli, died last month at age 74.

Mr Galli, who migrated from Tuscany in 1952, formed a construction company, which became one of Victoria's leading road-making companies.

He later diversified into quarries, concrete plants, and housing and property development, including his beloved Galli Estate, a vineyard and winery established in 1997 by Lorenzo and wife Pamela, on 100 acres, at Rockbank.

Lorenzo was a great advocate for recycled water and all those associated with the Sunbury Melton Recycled Water Project regret the recent passing of one of its founding partners.

■ white paper shows new ways

The State Government's long awaited white paper, *Our Water Our Future*, has now been released. It details 110 new initiatives for water conservation.

Water Minister John Thwaites said if Victorians don't use water more wisely demand would soon outstrip supplies.

"Victoria's water challenges will not be met by simply building new dams," Mr Thwaites said.

Western Water Chairman Terry Larkins said the white paper created a comprehensive program for change and was very supportive of water saving initiatives, such as those generated through Western Water's recycled water services.

"Western Water already has a range of water initiatives in place, and we will continue to work with all of our customers to ensure that we remain waterwise and find new ways to conserve our most precious resource," Mr Larkins said.

For further information regarding the white paper, *Our Water Our Future*, contact the Department of Sustainability and Environment on 136 186, or visit www.dse.vic.gov.au.



PLANNED IRRIGATION PROJECTS

AGRICULTURE SPORTS TURF LANDSCAPE

For all your irrigation needs

Specialists in Recycled and Wastewater Projects

- Pumping
- Irrigation
- Filtration

Design Supply Installation

20 years experience

30 Lilydale Grove, Hawthorn East 3123
Phone 9882 8411
www.planned.com.au

■ the importance of pinkerton

(continued from previous page ...)

In 1992, 18Ha of the 50Ha woodland at Surbitan Park was fenced off to exclude rabbits and to control grazing. This was the beginning of the restoration of Pinkerton Forest.

As a direct result, grey-box seedlings started to grow and understorey and previously unnoticed shrubs started to reappear.

Lightwood and *Gold Dust Wattle* began to grow, rare fungi formed and native stipa grasses and wild flowers have flowered and set seed. Wildlife has also returned to the woodland.

From 1995, Western Water has assisted the Pinkerton Landcare and Environment Group with management of this restoration process.

Assistance has been provided from adjoining farmers, Conservation Volunteers Australia, The Werribee Uniting Church and a standby list of volunteers.

On the recent Queen's Birthday weekend, founding member of the Pinkerton group, Frances Overmars was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for her services over many years, to the conservation, environmental management and protection of the Werribee-Keilor Plains region, which includes Pinkerton Forest.

We congratulate and thank Frances on her efforts to save this region's unique flora and fauna.



■ Pinkerton Landcare members from left, Irene Cook, holding the group's Keep Australia Beautiful award, Frances Overmars and Ian Hehir.

You too can help save Pinkerton...

For every current subscriber that chooses to receive this publication via email, Western Water will donate \$1 to the Pinkerton Landcare and Environment Group to conserve the precious native grasslands and grassy grey-box.

To receive all future editions of this publication electronically, simply email your name to recycledwaternews@westernwater.com.au