

■ 2002 – the year of a pipeline, from start to an end



■ Spencer Flint, Olive Hill Estate

Situated in Sunbury, Olive Hill Estate is the largest plantings of table and oil olives in the region. Estate Manager, Spencer Flint has plans to further grow Olive Hill Estate into a larger olive grove complete with a restaurant and processing plant to extract the precious golden green nectar of virgin oils.

Some 30km away in Melton is one of country Victoria's best golf courses, set amongst ancient River Red gums along the Toolern Vale heritage trail. Originally, Melton Valley was a sand course, built in the early 1930s. Converted to grass in 1979 the course underwent a major redevelopment in 1989, with all trees, fairways and greens now fully irrigated.

Olive Hill Estate and the Melton Valley Golf Course are two of many properties connected to the Sunbury to Melton recycled water pipeline.

Western Water's new recycled water pipeline is providing landowners in the Sunbury and Melton regions with a sustainable and reliable recycled water supply, opening up new opportunities for the region. Wrapped around the metropolitan fringe, the \$3.5 million, 30km pipeline directs more than 2000 million litres of recycled water annually, from the Sunbury Wastewater Purification Plant to properties along the pipeline route.

Farmers and landowners hooking up to the pipeline include barley and pasture growers, vineyards, tree farms, Landcare and recreational sporting groups. The Sunbury Melton pipeline is Victoria's longest recycled water pipeline to date. It represents the culmination of many years of meetings, plans drawn and redrawn, frustrations at times and, in the end, a work in progress, a pipeline that will bring new wealth and a wealth of new opportunities to Melbourne's north west frontier.

Spencer Flint and Olive Hill Estate will feature on ABC New Dimensions when the current affairs program returns in February 2003. Stayed tuned!

See overleaf for the year in review.



■ Ken Doggett, Manager Melton Valley Golf Course

■ expression of interest – Surbiton Park Purification Plant

Western Water is calling for Public Expressions of Interest for recycled water that could be made available from the Surbiton Park Purification Plant in Melton South.

Potential recycled water users located within close proximity to the plant in Greigs Road, Melton should contact Western Water via email mail@westernwater.com.au or call 5421 9400.



■ the year that was...

One year on from receiving the go ahead on the Sunbury Melton pipeline project, farmers and landowners are already hooking up to the pipeline for a sustainable and reliable recycled water supply.

Just months after receiving approval to proceed with the \$3.5 million project, work commenced on the pipeline. Over the next nine months, storage basins, trenches and branch lines were dug, pump stations were built and telemetry systems fitted out in preparation for the many kilometres of lilac-coloured pipes to be laid along the route.

In March 2002, potential pipeline users kick-started six months of planning, working through the issues of managing recycled water and developing site management plans that suited individual situations.



■ Former Minister for Environment and Conservation, the Hon. Sherryl Garbutt, MP, launches Stage One of the pipeline.

In October 2002, the Minister for Environment and Conservation, the Hon. Sherryl Garbutt MP, launched the recycled water pipeline, recognising the hard work and effort put in by all vital stakeholders.

This Christmas, as drought threatens the prosperity and lays bare the crops of farmers around the state, the Sunbury Melton recycled water pipeline users are putting their plans into action.

Christmas 2001 pipeline works established
March 2002 user groups established
May Former Minister for Environment and Conservation, the Hon. Sherryl Garbutt, MP, launches Stage One of the pipeline.

June Water Summit 2002 The government unveils plans for a new food technology precinct as part of its Werribee Vision project, which aims to develop high-value export-based intensive agriculture on some 300 square kilometers of under-used rural land on Melbourne's western fringe. Recycled water hits the state agenda.

August Sunbury Melton wine show is bigger and better than ever!

September Western Water named CPA Public Sector Organisation of the Year for its efforts and innovations in water recycling and for implementing a Balanced Scorecard approach to drive business performance. The pumps at Jacksons Hill storage basin are tested for the first time and worked brilliantly! Plans for the grand opening hot up.

October It's all systems go and the pipeline is flowing! Happy Christmas 2002! And watch this space in the New Year 2003!

■ sunbury street greening despite restrictions

A NEW truck will hit the streets of Sunbury this summer period as the latest and very public ambassador for recycled water.

The Hume City Council Water Wise initiative will cruise the streets of Sunbury on its summer mission to keep the significant street trees and public gardens alive.

The truck driver underwent training last month with Western Water about how to use and manage recycled water and this month will take to the road with brochures to distribute to residents wanting to find out more about their latest parks and gardens survival strategy.

■ new minister for environment and water

The Premier, Steve Bracks recently announced Deputy Premier John Thwaites as Minister for Environment and Water.

Mr Thwaites will now head the Government's \$320 million Victorian Water Trust to fund major infrastructure upgrades and minimise water wastage. This will include the Bracks Government's NEWater initiative to maximise the use of recycled water.

As announced by former Minister of Environment and Conservation, the Hon. Sherryl Garbutt, NEWater will develop water recycling schemes that could lead to 1000 jobs and an economic benefit of \$590 million over the next 20 years.

