

recycledwater news

September 2008

WESTERN
WATER



In 2007 / 2008, Western Water...

- Achieved 86% use of all recycled water for beneficial purposes including the irrigation of trees, crops, sportsfields and public spaces.
- Substituted a record 1,489 million litres of recycled water for drinking water (for appropriate non-drinking purposes), compared with the year's target of 1,000 million litres.
- Trucked a record amount (over 21 million litres) of recycled water from four filling points for uses including agriculture, municipal street tree watering and road construction, as part of an ongoing EPA Drought Relief initiative.
- Installed new recycled water standpipes at Macedon Ranges Shire Council's Romsey Depot and at Sunbury Recycled Water Plant.
- Began automating Western Water's standpipe facilities, to increase the efficiency and reliability of our processing system and prevent water theft.
- Continued to seek customers and plan for supplying up to 200 million litres of recycled water from Recycled Water Plants at Riddells Creek and Gisborne.
- Connected the Sunbury Bowling Club with recycled water to irrigate their bowling greens, saving up to five million litres of drinking water per year.
- Completed construction of the Class A Recycled Water Plant at Melton.



A purple meter for Class A recycled water is installed by a Western Water crew at a new house site at Eynesbury.

First residential connections at Eynesbury

Construction has begun on the first house at Eynesbury, Victoria's newest town. Located to the south of Melton, the town has a projected population of approximately 9,000 people.

Class A recycled water from the nearby Melton Recycled Water Plant will be supplied to nearly 3,000 homes for toilet flushing and garden watering. Each residence will have a dual pipe supply - one pipe for drinking water and another, colour-coded purple, for recycled water.

"It is anticipated that supplying recycled water to Eynesbury from our \$7 million Class A Recycled Water Plant could save up to 50% of drinking water per household," said John Wilkinson, Managing Director of Western Water.

The Eynesbury development features a championship golf course and other recreational spaces irrigated with recycled water. The Class A Plant is the result of a partnership between Western Water, the State Government and the Eynesbury Development Joint Venture Group.



Commencing in August, Stephanie Gillespie (pictured) replaces Peta Maddy as Western Water's Manager Renewable Resources. Western Water thanks Ms Maddy for her excellent service, particularly in developing the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Strategy (GHGRS).

Stephanie has six years experience as Project Manager in the Renewable Resources team. She will manage all recycled water and biosolids supply, as well as implementing the GHGRS.

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To receive recycled water news by email, please visit:
www.westernwater.com.au



recycledwater
bringing the region to life

Platypus near Melton Recycled Water Plant

Members of the Pinkerton Landcare and Environment Group (PLEG) were excited to sight a platypus recently in the Werribee River, where it flows past the Melton Recycled Water Plant.

In May, Daryl Akers and his son Richard saw a young platypus swimming in a pool in the river, about 100 metres from the Recycled Water Plant at Surbiton Park.

"It is a good sign to see a platypus here, especially at a site where we have done so much work over the last few years," said Daryl Akers, who is President of the Melton Environment Group as well as Secretary of PLEG. "It also shows that platypus are happy to live in proximity to the treatment plant."

Rabbit control and extensive clearing of boxthorn, serrated tussock, willow and other weeds has been done in this area by PLEG, Western Water staff, school groups and other volunteers. This was followed by natural regeneration and planting of indigenous species, as well as regular rubbish removal.

The work was predominantly funded by Western Water. Melbourne Water and the Port Phillip and Westernport Catchment Management Authority have also provided financial support. Western Water, in association with PLEG is continuing to care for the river environment.

"We were watching the platypus for some time and saw it surface repeatedly in the centre of the pool and under the tea trees," explained Mr Akers. "It would have been an easy photo, but we had no camera!"



Richard (left) and Daryl Akers near the spot where they saw a platypus in the Werribee River, below the Melton Recycled Water Plant.



The SolarBee™ is lowered onto Lancefield Basin on 19 August.

Busy SolarBee™ to reduce emissions

A wholly solar powered water aerator has been installed at Lancefield Water Filtration Plant, as part of Western Water's Greenhouse Gas Reduction Strategy. The floating, silent SolarBee™ will help to prevent algal blooms.

Lancefield Water Filtration Plant was commissioned in February 2008. The Plant's original aeration system consumes a significant amount of electricity from coal fired generation. Installation of the SolarBee™ is expected to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by around 65 tonnes CO₂e (carbon dioxide equivalent gases) per year.

"This is one of the first trials of the SolarBee™ in a drinking water reservoir in Australia," said Robert Franklin, General Manager Sustainability at Western Water. "If this trial is successful, we could achieve greater greenhouse gas reduction by replacing all applicable aerators used at Western Water's reservoirs with solar powered units."

The aerator draws up water from the depths of the reservoir and spreads it across the surface. This circulation controls algal blooms, and prevents the release of hydrogen sulfide, iron, manganese and phosphorus from bottom sediments, improving water taste, odour and clarity.

The project will cost approximately \$80,000, and is expected to reduce Western Water's electricity bill by around \$8,000 annually. The SolarBee™ has an expected 25 year life.

Remember to complete the reader survey enclosed with this newsletter to help Western Water provide a better communication service.

Return your survey by **19 September** and you could win a \$300 hamper of goodies produced in our region using recycled water irrigation!