



Autumn 2013



WESTERNPORT
WATER

Ripple Effect

Customer News

This issue:

- 2 Borefield's a reliable supply
- 3 Small Business Grants
- 3 Is your water meter clear?
- 4 Our water aware community

Securing our water future

Construction to double the storage capacity of Candowie Reservoir is well underway. Commissioned in 1964 the reservoirs original capacity was raised from 1,037ML (million litres) to 1,762ML in 1978, and then to its current capacity 2,264ML in 1982. Raising the dam wall another 3 metres will increase the reservoirs storage capacity to 4,463ML, further securing water for the region.

Why the upgrade?

The Candowie Upgrade project is a key component in Westernport Water's long term Water Supply Demand Strategy to provide adequate water supply to 2055, where our population is expected to increase 58% by 2030, and 166% by 2055.

Increasing storage capacity will enable Westernport Water to optimise the use of all locally available water from Tennent Creek, Bass River and the Corinella Borefield's. This effectively enables the capture of low cost water, reduce reliance on external water sources and future exposure to water restrictions.

The main elements of the project are to extend and raise the dam wall, the outlet tower and the spillway. Existing reservoir infrastructure will also be upgraded to improve earthquake safety. Perimeter works include constructing a perimeter track and raising the Grantville-Glen Alvie Road by one metre.

To further improve water quality, the perimeter of the reservoir will have fencing erected to stop animals and livestock reaching the waterline. Furthermore, 28.2 hectares of land will be re-vegetated with native species that naturally occur in the area to both act as natural filtration before water reaches the reservoir, as well as creating a buffer zone between the reservoir and surrounding farmland.



Aerial image Candowie Reservoir February 2013



www.westernportwater.com.au

From the MD



After a busy, dry, hot summer combined with below average rainfall Candowie Reservoir is now below 40% capacity midway through March.

This level however, has been necessary for the upgrade works, over summer and autumn which have been planned to align with the period when the reservoir is naturally at its lowest.

Community support for the Candowie Upgrade project has been reassuring. I would like to thank the 90 plus people who joined us for a briefing and site visit recently, to see first hand the reservoir upgrade. The project is

progressing well and works are scheduled to be completed by June 2013, ready to receive the winter rains...

The project delivers many benefits, primarily security of supply and improved reliability through greater holding capacity, plus improved water quality from increased buffer zones surrounding the reservoir.

In the event that we experience a prolonged period with minimal rain, we will be looking to recharge Candowie Reservoir using a range of water sources available to Westernport Water, including the Bass River and the Corinella Aquifer. In addition, Westernport Water has access to 500ML of Melbourne pool water from Cardinia Reservoir.

Reducing demand on the drinking water supply also comes from newly connected recycled water customers. I would like to congratulate those customers who have taken up Class A recycled water, not only for helping by reducing demand on the system, but contributing to a sustainable future by using a renewable water source and reducing wastewater discharged to ocean.

Is your water meter clear and accessible?

Most days our team of meter readers are out and about, walking from property to property, reading water meters to ensure your bill is accurate.

It is the responsibility of property owners to make sure your meter is clear of any debris, thick vegetation, heavy structures and dangerous objects so our field staff can

conduct their duties in a safe and efficient manner.

To avoid having your water usage estimated...

Please check the list below and ensure your meter is accessible and not difficult to find.

- The meter isn't buried under soil and or mulch
- The meter is not covered by vegetation
- Your pet isn't near the meter or preventing access
- No obstacles are preventing access to the meter
- Your gate isn't locked preventing access

Please contact our Customer Service team if access to your property needs to be arranged.

We would also like to encourage customers who own dogs that may seem threatening to clearly display relevant signs warning visitors to your property.



2 Boys Home Rd, Newhaven VIC 3925



1300 720 711



Mon-Fri 8:30am - 5pm

Small Business Grants a success in the community

During 2012 a number of local businesses took up the offer of Small Business Grant funding to receive up to \$5,000 towards projects that reduce their demand on drinking water. Collectively eleven successful applicants will save an estimated 155ML of water per year across Westernport Water. This equates to a saving of 65 Olympic size swimming pools!

Westernport Water applauds all businesses involved in committing their time, resources and money to such an important water saving activity and we encourage the community to support these local sustainable businesses.

Congratulations to the following businesses for successfully completing their projects: Phillip Island Golf Club, RS & A Davie, Cowes Child Care Centre, Cleeland Pastoral Co. and Phillip Island Caravan Park.

Additional Grant funding has been made available and expressions of interest are invited from local businesses planning to become more water efficient. To discuss your project and eligibility, please contact our Water Program Coordinator Taylor Hammond, on 5956 4187 or email: thammond@westernportwater.com.au



Bob Davie - Small Business Grant Recipient

Borefield's a reliable water supply

Groundwater from the Corinella region was first accessed by Westernport Water back in 2006/07 as one of several augmentation projects that were used to supplement water supplies during the drought.

Westernport Water was issued a licence to Take and Use Groundwater from the Corinella Groundwater Management Area back in 2009 and will use its licence to access groundwater from April 2013, to assist the recharge of Candowie Reservoir.

The Corporation will closely monitor groundwater levels and water quality through a comprehensive monitoring program, in order to ensure the health of the aquifer and neighbouring bores.

Enquiries regarding Westernport Water's plans & groundwater licence should be directed to Jake Weir, Water Quality Officer on 5956 4189 or email: jweir@westernportwater.com.au



Groundwater level monitoring



New water charges from 1 July 2013

The five year Water Plan 3 comes into effect on 1 July 2013 for all water corporations throughout Victoria. All Westernport Water customers should expect to see some minor changes to water accounts, including the removal of an inclining block tariff structure which will bring some welcome relief to larger families. The inclining block tariff provided increased unit costs as volume increased. From 1 July 2013 all customers will pay the same unit cost.

Our customers have experienced small price increases over the last 5 years which have funded critical water security and water quality projects, including the under channel pipe line and Candowie Upgrade project. We are aware of cost-of-living pressures on household budgets and have committed to minimal increases (plus annual inflation) for the next 5 years.

For specific *Water Plan 3 information* please visit our website

Our water aware community

Water efficiency in 2012 has been a great success with customers upgrading over 1000 shower heads and 800 trigger nozzles saving significant amounts of water every year. Thank you to everyone for participating and being proactive water savers.

This year we continue to focus on water quality, coupled with raising the awareness of protecting our services and the environment. We will be providing support, resources, and education programs to local schools, businesses, community groups and customers. Keep an eye out for us at local community events over 2013 where we will be stocked with useful information, products and advice.

Training future leaders

This year a number of local students have been welcomed to the Westernport Water team. We would like to congratulate Thomas Lancaster who this year was awarded our four year engineering scholarship.

Westernport Water also provides practical work related experience and mentoring through the Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL) program which enables students to gain an accredited secondary certificate. Additionally, the Corporation has two new trainees and offers university students opportunities via an industry placement program.

If you are interested in any work experience with Westernport Water, register your interest by email: westport@westernportwater.com.au

Autumn events

KFP Annual Charity Golf Day

You Are My Sunshine Foundation
Friday 5 April

Phillip Island Golf Club
4 Person team Ambrose Event
Register now - 5952 1121 or
email judi3662@bigpond.com

Bass Coast – Relay for Life

Cancer Council of Victoria
Sat 6 April - Sun 7 April
Cowes Football Oval

Register your team contact:
Tina Leonard,
0438 033 889 or email
leonard.tina2@gmail.com

Design for Diversity Day

Sat 14 April 10am-3pm
Phillip Island Community &
Learning Centre
Presenters: Permaculture experts
& Westernport Water
Learn how to design water
efficient gardens & help design
the Cowes Community Garden
RSVP essential: Lisa Wangman
0409 366 914 or email
l.wangman@basscoast.vic.gov.au

Learn to collect & grow indigenous seeds

3 dates available
April 6, 10 or 11
Barb Martin Bushbank
Go on a seed and cutting
collection trip to local reserves
and learn to propagate
BBQ lunch included
RSVP essential: Lisa Wangman
0409 366 914 or l.wangman@basscoast.vic.gov.au