



MEDIA RELEASE

22 February 2018

Prep Students Choose Tap

Water bottles were once again waiting for all new prep students on their first day of school, thanks to Westernport Water's Choose Tap campaign.

This year's preps from Newhaven College, Cowes, Newhaven, San Remo, Bass Valley, Powlett River and Our Lady Star of the Sea Primary School all received a free reusable water bottle, to help them stay hydrated throughout the school day.

Westernport Water started the initiative last year to teach children of the health and environmental benefits of drinking tap water.

Westernport Water's Managing Director Peter Quigley said "Last year's program was such a great success, we definitely wanted to continue it this year.

"We've received great feedback about the initiative from both teachers and students. We're told the students love filling their bottles up and teachers notice the difference when their students are well hydrated," said Mr Quigley.

The initiative is part of Westernport Water's ongoing Choose Tap campaign, which promotes the benefits of drinking tap water and encourages people to choose water over sugary alternatives.

"We want to encourage healthy habits amongst children as early as possible. Tap water is good for your health, it's environmentally friendly and much cheaper than the bottled alternative.

"By partnering with local schools and giving prep students a water bottle to keep in their classroom or school bag, we hope to give them the best start possible for their new school journey," said Mr Quigley.

Studies show that a two per cent drop in body water can cause a 13 per cent decrease in concentration, so keeping kids hydrated throughout the day is imperative for their learning and overall health.

With 16 per cent of Gippsland adults now consuming sugary drinks on a daily basis and over 25 per cent of Australian children being either overweight or obese, it's imperative we get in early to educate and change unhealthy habits to benefit long term well-being.

Understanding the need for water to be available in convenient and easy to access locations, Westernport Water is continuing to install water fountains across the area so that adults, children and even pets can get a drink when they need it.

To find a Water Refill Station near you, download the Choose Tap app on your phone, or go to the Choose Tap page at www.westernportwater.com.au.