



WESTERNPORT
WATER™

Ripple Effect

Customer News

This issue:

- 2 Funding received for study
- 3 Community garden
- 3 New water levels
- 4 Local schools help out
- 4 Business grants

Water storages hit record high

Water levels reached capacity at the recently updated Candowie Reservoir on 18 September 2013.
That's 4,463 ML of water!

Candowie upgrade now complete

Delivered on time and budget, the \$9.2M project is already paying dividends and thanks to the recent spring rain the reservoir has already reached full capacity.

Doubling the holding capacity of Candowie is an economical and efficient way to further drought proof the Westernport Water community and reduce the likelihood of restrictions in the future.

Speaking at the official opening on Friday 30 August, the Hon. Ken Smith MLA, said "doubling the capacity of Candowie is essential to secure a reliable and affordable local water supply for future generations.

"Development of sustainable infrastructure like Candowie is important for the region's growth and is fundamental to build resilience in the face of climate variability," Mr Smith said.

A larger reservoir has many other benefits, it will enable the corporation to optimise the use all locally available water

sources and provide regular environmental flows that will benefit the creek and river downstream of the reservoir.

An extensive revegetation program is underway to restore native vegetation surrounding the reservoir with an aim to further improve water quality inflows and help safeguard our water supply.



Managing Director Murray Jackson and the Hon. Ken Smith MLA officially open the upgrade



From the Managing Director



After many years of consultation, planning and construction we have finally doubled the capacity of Candowie Reservoir.

The upgrade moved into completion in July 2013, with the official opening ceremony held on 30 August 2013 by the Hon. Ken Smith MLA and attended by community members, local dignitaries, project members, as well as past and present Westernport Water employees.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the community for supporting this major undertaking which secures the region's water supply well into the future.

A number of community events surrounded the opening, including a successful community open day attended by

over 100 people, and a tree planting exercise where Landcare and local schools helped plant over 2,000 trees aimed at further improving water quality.

Our application to the Office of Living Victoria to secure grant funding towards an investigation into the 'Whole-of-Water Cycle Management' for the developing townships of San Remo & Newhaven was successful. This study aims to deliver smarter options towards the capture, management and utilisation of available water resources. During the study we will be liaising with the residential and business community to both inform and gain your important feedback.

It was a positive year for water quality also, with our improvement activities producing promising results. Our performance reported in the Corporation's 2013 Annual Report indicate a 54% reduction in taste and odour complaints.

Our Annual Report is now available, it documents the Corporation's performance throughout the year, and highlights our commitment and ability to deliver on key infrastructure and water security projects. Lastly, I would like to congratulate our team on another great year.

Success! Funding received for study

The Office of Living Victoria has made available funding for Victorian Water Corporations investing in innovative water management solutions.

A number of corporations applied for the funding, and with a rigorous submission and approval process, only very few were successful. We are pleased to announce that Westernport Water, the smallest Water Corporation in Victoria, is one of these successful applicants.

Over the following 12 months we will be conducting investigative research and feasibility studies on localised 'Whole-of-Water Cycle' solutions for the San Remo district considering the needs of the region, efficient use and management of the various water supplies, researching current and future technologies, and the ability to apply these solutions to other localised and remote areas.

With the significant development forecast in the next decade now is the time to begin planning to develop

sustainable solutions to meet the areas growing needs.

This is great news for San Remo and a unique opportunity for Westernport Water to become a leader in smart and innovative water management for all regional Water Corporations.



2 Boys Home Road, Newhaven VIC 3925



1300 720 711



Mon-Fri 8:30am - 5pm

Community garden contributing to healthy communities

With an emphasis on building liveable and healthy communities, the Phillip Island Community Orchard plans to be a community-run project that aims to share, inspire, educate and engage the local community. Located in Wimbledon Heights, this vacant one hectare parcel of land will be transformed into an attractive and sustainable orchard and garden, which will demonstrate how recycled water can provide for safe and healthy food production.

The concept and idea of a larger scale community garden was first introduced to Westernport Water by a small group of dedicated community gardeners known as the Island Orchard Co-op. In addition, other organisations and community groups have expressed their support and in particular Bass Coast Landcare Network and Phillip Island Landcare Group who are planning to setup a native and indigenous demonstration site.

It's only early days, however this is proving to be a very exciting community project. We will be consulting with the various stakeholders and the local community over the coming months for their ideas and input during the lead up to an official community open day.

Prospective gardeners and enquires about joining the community orchard and garden project should contact Geoff Russell at Westernport Water on 5956 4140, alternatively a copy of a volunteer registration pack will be available on the Westernport Water website in the coming weeks.



New sign - new water level


To aid in the education leading up to changing the reservoir level, we created discussion in the community by communicating the old water level on our billboard over 100%. Whilst many customers understood why it was over 100%, some were left wondering. The good news is everything over 100% was additional water.

Project completion and the official opening of the Candowie Reservoir upgrade were held on Friday 30 August 2013 marking the commencement of the new reservoir capacity of 4463 megalitres, a new billboard was erected and the percentage adjusted accordingly. And on the 19th of September water levels reached 100%, a momentous achievement for the community leading into the summer period.

Providing for the community, the new billboard has a designated space for **local not-for-profit** organisations to advertise events throughout the year, and is provided as a form of sponsorship for successful applicants.

Please contact Geoff Russell, Communications & Public Relations Manager on 5956 4140 or email grussell@westernportwater.com.au to discuss your promotional needs.





Newhaven Primary School tree planting at Candowie Reservoir

Local schools' help out to improve water quality

We'd like to say a big thank you to Bass Valley Primary School and Newhaven Primary School who recently visited Candowie for a tree planting excursion.

With the assistance of Bass Coast Landcare and their environmental detectives program the two schools were provided the opportunity to learn how to plant trees and the importance of vegetation in filtering water runoff.

Over the day the two schools planted an impressive 2,000 trees, out of 50,000 destined to be planted by the end of the year, and were thanked for their efforts with a BBQ provided by Phillip Island and San Remo Rotary.

Last opportunity to apply for business grants

Grant funding available for small businesses will come to a conclusion at the end of 2013. If you have been thinking of improving water efficiencies and reducing the overheads in your business, please don't hesitate to contact our friendly Water Program Coordinator on 5956 4187 to discuss ideas and options for your business.

Round 2 applications close 15 November 2013.

Can we help you?

Although Westernport Water has very minimal increases in water bills over the next 5 years, overall the basic cost of living is ever increasing. We are here to help! If you are feeling the financial squeeze and struggling to maintain your utility bills, please call one of our supportive Customer Relations Coordinators on 5956 4144 for a confidential discussion on how we can assist you.

We need your help!

To help our meter readers conduct their duties in a safe and efficient manner, please make sure your meter is clear of any debris, vegetation, dangerous objects and ensure your pet doesn't prevent access.

Under the *Water Act* 1989 customers have certain obligations, and must not cause or permit any structure to be built, or any filing to be placed, on land over which an easement exists.

Upcoming events

Get the Girls Out

A fundraising event for
Breast Cancer Network
Australia

Friday 11 October
San Remo Hotel
a fun night, a great cause
tickets available at
San Remo Hotel or
Alex Scott Real Estate



AWA National
Water
Week
20 – 26 October 2013



**Annual Report 2013
Available now!**

www.westernportwater.com.au



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