



Volume 1, Issue 5 – May 2008

TURNING WATER WISE IS A WINNER!

Lower Murray Water is delighted the **TurningWaterWise** initiative has been so embraced by the community. If we are all more aware of our household water use, we can find ways to reduce it; and make better use this precious resource, such as using greywater on our gardens.

Saving and using greywater will now be much easier for Mr Trevor Battye of Mildura, who won a "Greywater Gator" in Lower Murray Water's **TurningWaterWise** competition. Mr Battye said "I use greywater as much as I can, and this wonderful device will make it so much easier for me to get the water to all parts of my garden. Valued at over \$500, the Greywater Gator has a pump fitted which enables water to be used from the Gator's storage area via a hose or sprinkler. Mr Battye entered Draw 2 of the **TurningWaterWise** competition by recording his water meter readings at the same time each week for six weeks, completing the entry form and submitting it to Lower Murray Water. "It's so easy to enter, every LMW customer should have a go." Mr Battye said.

Sharon French of Swan Hill was also a major winner in Draw 2 – winning a Ariston Aqualtis front-loading washing machine, valued at over \$1,100, kindly donated by Competition Partner – Harvey Norman, Swan Hill.



Pictured here are LMW's Leesa Corless (left) and Trevor Battye of Mildura, with Trevor's prize of a "Greywater gator" kindly provided by Justwater Solutions.

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

"I go to nature to be soothed and healed, and to have my senses put in order"
John Burrough 1837-1921, American Naturalist, Author

SEASONAL OUTLOOK & CARRYOVER FOR THE 2008/09 SEASON

Carryover will again be offered for the 2008/09 season. The season will again start at 0% allocation with carryover available prior to an announcement on allocation. An increase to 5% early in the season to assist the market and permanent plantings is expected. No priority will be given to permanent plantings to make water available. It is expected that the Minister will announce Qualification of Rights for urban essential consumption including internal use and domestic stock watering at the beginning of the season.

BEING WATERWISE IN THE FUTURE - THE NEXT GENERATION

Lower Murray Water has a strong focus on water education and actively participates in a wide range of educational activities.

Activity Sheets

We have a number of Activity Sheets that contain fun things for the kids to do, while they are learning about where our water comes from, the environment and water saving. Designed for lower primary school children, there are things for the kids to do on their own, or with a parent or other "big kid". We are currently compiling activities for upper primary and these will be on our website soon! One of the activity sheets is about the Lower Murray Water's "Waterwise Garden" display here at our Fourteenth Street Office. You are most welcome to visit the garden sheet and bring it with you for the kids to complete as you go. Another of the activities on the website is a "Home Water Audit". The kids earn "fish" as they record the water saving things happening around the home. Younger children might need a hand with the counting and recording – but it's a great family activity to do. Follow the link to the activity sheets: <http://www.lmw.vic.gov.au/html/education/publications.html>



Events

Recent events we have participated in include World Wetlands Day and the Mallee Environmental Schools Festival (MESF). Another MESF is to be held in the Swan Hill region in July and we will again participate.

World Wetlands Day

World Wetlands Day 2008 was held at Pysche Pumps on Sunday, 3rd February and included interactive displays, macro invertebrate and water quality testing, arts and crafts, a free lunch, goody bag give away and much more. Designed as a family activity, the day aims to educate local communities about the value and importance of wetlands, and to encourage the protection and preservation of these important environments. The LMW activity involved kids creating artwork that had an environmental theme, encouraging protection of our wetlands.



Mallee Environmental Schools Festival (MESF)

This festival is aimed at the Grade 3-4 students and was well patronized with over 500 children attending. Lower Murray Water's activity this year was designed to get the kids thinking about what happens when we flush the toilet, pull the plug in the sink or bath, and where the washing machine water goes. A number of interactive demonstrations were set up and various "goodies" and "baddies" were their way to the water treatment plant. Trade waste was simulated with some great looking goo (oil with food colouring; a goopy mix of flour, baking soda, citric acid and food colouring) and household sink "baddies" were made up of peas and corn, day-old milk (fresh milk mixed with some flour), cooking oil etc. Washing machine "baddies" were simulated with dirt and oil, and toilet no-no's included cotton buds, small toys and coins. Kids saw first hand how the "baddies" blocked up the various systems and (we hope!) left with a better appreciation of just what happens when the wastewater is out of sight.



Tours

Tours of a number of Lower Murray Water's infratstructures can be arranged for schools, or other organisations (such as a hobby club or similar). These tours are tailored to the age group attending and provide an insight into how our water and wastewater is treated. Leesa Corless, Customer Relations Officer, can be contacted on 50513427 or via email at leesa.corless@lmw.vic.gov.au for more information.

30th MAY IS THE DEADLINE - LAST WEEKS TO ENTER !

Entries close for the last draw of Lower Murray Water's *TurningWaterWise* competition on 30th May 2008. This competition has given all Lower Murray Water customers the opportunity to win great water saving item, with major and minor prizes.

Win a 5,000L rainwater tank

A dishwasher, two front-loading washing machines, a "Greywater Gator" and lots of "Water Smart Packs" have already been won. You still have the opportunity to win a **5,000L rainwater water tank**, or one of our "Water Smart Packs".

Have you been recording your water meter readings? Entering entering our *turningwaterwise* competition by recording your water meter readings for 6 weeks is as easy as.....1, 2, 3.

The image shows a 'Water Usage Chart' and a calculation form. The chart has columns for 'Meter reading (kil) 7 digits' and rows for 'First reading', 'End of week 1', 'End of week 2', 'End of week 3', 'End of week 4', 'End of week 5', and 'End of week 6'. Below the chart is a section titled 'Calculate weekly average consumption' with the following text: 'Week 6 reading B minus first reading A x 1,000 (converts kilolitres to litres) equals divided by 6 equals weekly average C. x 1000 (converts kilolitres to litres) = 6'. There are three blue arrows pointing from the numbered list to the 'First reading' cell, the 'End of week 6' cell, and the calculation area.

1. Record your current meter reading
2. At the same time once a week, record your meter reading and continue to do this for the next six weeks
3. Calculate your consumption, complete the entry form and return it to one of the drop off points (or mail it to us)

Visit the *turningwaterwise* website for additional information:
www.turningwaterwise.com.au

AND THERE'S ANOTHER WAY TO WIN.....

You don't have to record your water meter readings to win. You can also enter the competition by purchasing selected water-saving appliances or products from our competition partners? Perhaps you are looking for a dishwasher, a water tank, and water-saving items for the home or garden? Visit our competition partners (as below) and see which items can earn you an entry in the competition.

- *Harvey Norman (Mildura & Swan Hill stores)*
- *Global RotoMoulding*
- *Bunnings Mildura*

You will be given a different entry form to complete (the one indicated on the right), no meter reading required!

Draw three closes on 30th May 2008

The image shows a promotional flyer for the 'Turning Water Wise' competition. It features a blue water drop logo and the text 'By turning water wise... you could win a washing machine, dishwasher, rainwater tank and many other water smart prizes!'. Below this is a section titled 'It's easy to enter!' with instructions: 'Purchase any water saving product and you will receive an entry form, fill in your details and return to the store of purchase or any Lower Murray Water office and provide to the draw on 30th May 2008'. It also mentions 'As part of the Turning Water Wise initiative, Lower Murray Water is seeking to encourage a continued positive change within our community to assist in decreasing water consumption and therefore reducing the strain on our catchments and river systems. Visit the website for more information about Turning Water Wise: www.turningwaterwise.com.au'. The form includes fields for 'Your water account no.', 'No. of people in your household', 'Name', 'Address', 'Phone', 'Email', and 'Signature'. At the bottom, it lists the draw dates: 'Turning Water Wise Draws: Draw 1: Close Friday 18 January 2008, Draw 2: Close Friday 02 March 2008, Draw 3: Close Friday 02 May 2008'. The logo 'TurningWaterWise' is also present.

DAYLIGHT SAVING ENDS; WATERING TIMES CHANGE

LMW moved to stage 3 water restrictions as of 17th of January 2008. New timeframes for watering started at the conclusion of daylight saving (1:00am on 6th April 2008). The change to the watering times take into consideration the cooler and darker conditions which are experienced in autumn and winter seasons. The new watering times apply to all Lower Murray Urban and Rural Water customers. Visit our website for additional information: www.lmw.vic.gov.au



Garden areas, watering by:

- [hand](#) - between 8am - 10am and 6pm - 8pm on your specified watering day, using a trigger nozzle only
- [dripper system](#) - customers are now able to use a dripper system to water their gardens. The watering of lawns under Stage 3 Restrictions is prohibited
- [bucket or watering can](#) - filled directly from a tap and is permitted at any time *on any day*

MANUAL WATERING HAND-HELD OR DRIPPER SYSTEM	AUTOMATIC DRIPPER SYSTEM
8.00am - 10.00am 6.00pm - 8.00pm	Midnight - 4.00am
On Specified Days	

Trees:



Trees (a woody plant with one main trunk and distinct elevated head and will generally grow to a height of 4m or more) can be watered via a sprinkler placed under the canopy of a tree during the specified hours on the specified days. The tree canopy is defined as the area that may be watered covers the root zone of the tree which is generally that area under the leaf canopy.

NEW FOR OLD

During April Lower Murray Water introduced a new initiative for customers to exchange their old-style twist nozzle for a free **TurningWaterWise** trigger nozzle. Under the current Stage 3 Water Restrictions, customers can hand water between 8am-10am and 6pm-8pm on specified watering days, provided a trigger nozzle is used. The exchange process is very simple, bring in your LMW account and your old twist nozzle, complete the **TurningWaterWise** slip and receive your free trigger nozzle. One trigger nozzle per household is being offered, and as an added incentive, all customers participating in the exchange will be entered into a special draw with some great water-wise products on offer. Trigger nozzles can be exchanged at your local LMW office, from 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday; while stocks last. Further information and exchange details can be viewed at the website www.turningwaterwise.com.au, or by contacting your local LMW office.

WATERWISE IN THE GARDEN

There are some good tips on the Our Water Our Future website, along with some brochures for downloading. Visit www.ourwater.vic.gov.au for more information.

OUR COMMUNITY'S SENIORS ARE TurningWaterWise

In conjunction with Mildura Rural City Council, Lower Murray Water has recently conducted a "Household Water Audit" with over 400 seniors in our area. Households were provided with a checklist that asked about what water-saving devices were installed (shower heads, dual flush toilets), if they had leaking taps or toilets and their greywater saving and use. A brochure providing information for the prevention of slips, trips and falls while watering was also supplied. Many seniors registered an interest in water-saving devices (shower-heads, cistern bags, greywater hoses, trigger nozzles etc) and these are being provided to households over the coming weeks. Mildura Rural City Council staff will be assisting with repairing of leaks reported and all seniors who participated were entered into the **TurningWaterWise** competition.

OUR WATER OUR FUTURE - WATER SAVING KITS AND MORE !

You may have seen recent television and press advertising regarding the Victorian Government's new initiative for [Saving, creating and sharing water](#). The following information is from the [Our Water Our Future](#) website. Visit the website to register for a free showerhead, claim money back, and get other tips by ordering your free water saving kit. www.ourwater.vic.gov.au

"Victoria's Water Plan is all about saving, creating and sharing our most precious resource in the face of drought and climate change. Modernising our leaky old irrigation system will save billions of litres of water every year, with over 80% going to farmers and rivers. Creating water through desalination and recycling will benefit millions of Victorians and ensure that we have water for the future. Expanding our system of pipelines and natural waterways improves how we share water with drought-affected towns, irrigators, rivers and wetlands, and households. Victorians are saving water in their homes, gardens and businesses. Let's make it a lifelong habit."

ALLOCATION FOR THE CURRENT SEASON

Increases of 2% for the Goulburn system and 1% for the Broken system were the only improvements announced for the final 2007/08 seasonal allocations. The seasonal allocations in all other systems remain unchanged.

The inflows to water systems have been severely limited by the dry conditions affecting northern Victoria. Savings created by efficient system operations and isolated showers allowed the Goulburn system to increase 2% to reach 57% of high-reliability water shares, and the Broken system to improve 1% to finish at 71% of high-reliability water shares. Operating efficiencies and very low inflows were not enough to improve the allocations in the other water systems. The Murray system seasonal allocation is 43% of high-reliability water shares, and the seasonal allocation in the Campaspe system is 18% of high-reliability water shares. The Loddon system seasonal allocation is 5% of high-reliability water shares. Bullarook Creek system customers can access water for qualified rights.

These figures are the final allocation announcement for the 2007/08 season. The water resources improvements that are received from now until the end of June 2008 will be used for system operations and allocations during the 2008/09 season

TOURISM IS TurningWaterWise

During Mildura Tourism Week (Monday 19th May – Saturday 24th May 2008), Mildura Tourism and Lower Murray Water conducted a workshop for the tourism industry. Leesa Corless, Customer Relations Officer, presented to industry regarding the water saving initiatives to create a waterwise business that are available through LMW. Anthony Robinson of Arthur Robinson Plumbing discussed how businesses can retrofit their properties to save water, and to become more efficient with their water use. Some very interesting and cost-effective devices were described by Anthony. Phillip Dixon from Sunraysia Resort discussed the fiscal return they have seen through implementing waterwise practices at the Resort and Rob from Mildura's Complete Landscapes outlined ways for the tourism operator to redesign their gardens to be more water efficient; and some tips on what to watch out for when using greywater. A gift pack was included for all participants, all neatly contained in a bucket; and all participants had the chance to enter into the **TurningWaterWise** draw to win a water tank! Part of the information provided was an Expression of Interest form for tourism operators to be involved with a major and minor retrofitting project. Tourism operators not able to be at the event can source the EOI from LMW's website.

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