

Media Release



Photo opportunity

Friday, 16 October, 3pm

Tuesday, 13 October, 2009

Recycled water gives grunt back to Riddells Creek Recreation Reserve

When it comes to how we use water, every drop of recycled water reused can be a drop of drinking water saved.

As part of its celebration of National Water Week 2009, Western Water will officially commission a new recycled water pipeline system to the Riddells Creek community this week, delivering back to the town's many recreation and sporting clubs the ability to train and schedule matches and to use their local reserves and skate park all year round.

Western Water Chairman Terry Larkins will join Macedon MP Joanne Duncan, Macedon Ranges Shire Council and community group representatives at the handover to Macedon Ranges Shire Council on Friday, October 16.

"This is a big moment for Riddells Creek and the many active people in its community for whom this precinct is home turf," Ms Duncan said.

"This is one of the most active recreation precincts in the region, with thousands of people passing through the gates on any given weekend."

Mr Larkins said the theme for this year's National Water Week is *Securing Our Water Future*, and around the country, efforts to cut water use and preserve Australia's most precious resource will be commemorated.

"Last week, the communities of the Macedon Ranges and Sunbury were recognised by Victoria's Water Minister Tim Holding for their fantastic efforts towards cutting consumption during the worst drought on record," Mr Larkins said.

"After meeting the challenges of the last 13 years, Western Water is proud to be supporting such engaged and aware communities through projects such as this at Riddells Creek."

The project received \$250,000 towards the \$536,000 revitalisation from the State Government's Small Towns Development Fund, with Macedon Ranges Council contributing \$80,000, the Federal Government putting in \$45,454 as a Community Water Grant, \$20,000 from the community and \$142,420 from Western Water.

Mr Larkins said the Riddells Creek project partnership will save drinking water for its best purpose and ensure community sports and outdoor activities can be maintained year-round with the connection to recycled water supplies.

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About Western Water

Western Water is one of Victoria's 13 regional urban water corporations. We provide water, recycled water and sewerage services to over 53,000 properties and 134,810 people in an area of 3,000 square kilometres. Our region extends from Lancefield in the north to Melton and Rockbank in the south and from Myrning in the west to Bulla in the east. We incorporate parts of Hume City Council and Melton, Moorabool and Macedon Ranges Shire Councils.

Media contacts

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Macedon Ranges Mayor John Letchford said the Riddells Creek Recreation Reserve is the 11th sporting ground in the Macedon Ranges to be connected to an alternative water source under Council's Sportsfield Irrigation Program.

"This has been a particularly important partnership with Western Water to support the Riddells Creek community, which has shown such passion for its sports and actively encourages junior sporting development," Cr Letchford said.

"This new connection to recycled water will improve both the safety and sustainability of this ground and enable further plantings and landscaping otherwise not possible in this popular precinct due to drought considerations."

National Water Week 2009 is always held in October and this year's dates are between October 18 and 24.

For more information, visit www.nationalwaterweek.org.au

Key Messages of National Water Week for 2009

- Water supplies are limited
- Our water comes from a number of different sources
- We all share water
- *We're all responsible for our water future!*

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Please join Western Water in a celebration of **National Water Week 2009** with the Riddells Creek community.

When: Friday, 16 October, at 3pm
Where: Sutherlands Road, Riddells Creek, Melways Ref 197,F8

Media inquiries also at:-

Macedon Ranges Shire Council:
Rod Clough, Manager Recreation and Cultural Services, tel: 5421 1470
Roslyn Handley, Public Relations Officer, tel: 5422 0310

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