

# News

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Above clockwise from left: Members from the research and development industry attend the information seminar on the funding available from the Smart Water Fund and the Victorian Water Trust; Barbara McLure officially launches Round 4 of the Smart Water Fund; Dennis Cavagna, Managing Director, South East Water and spokesperson for the Smart Water Fund encourages guests to apply for funding.

## Round 4 Funding now open

The Smart Water Fund is now calling for applications for Round 4 funding.

In total, \$6 million worth of grants is available for innovative water conservation, water recycling and biosolids management projects.

The funding available includes \$1 million that will be administered by the Smart Water Fund on behalf of the Victorian Water Trust and up to \$3 million available for Victoria wide urban community and business innovations. Up to \$2 million will be made available for research and development to address key challenges facing the water industry.

Barbara McLure, Manager Regional Engagement at Victoria University and member of the Smart Water Fund Independent Assessment Panel, launched the Round 4 funding by drawing on the success of past and current projects and encouraging all Victorians to apply for funding and bring their innovative ideas to life.

Specialists from Melbourne's metropolitan water industry presented information on some of the key challenges facing the water industry which the Smart Water Fund is seeking innovative solutions for through the research and development and consultancy industry.

"Everyone with a water saving idea, from individuals, community groups, business and the research and development community, are encouraged to apply," said Dennis Cavagna, Smart Water Fund spokesperson.

This year, the Fund is offering an advisory service for community groups and individual applicants who require additional guidance and advice in completing their funding application.

**To obtain an Application Pack or for further information freecall 1800 882 432, visit [www.smartwater.com.au](http://www.smartwater.com.au) or email [info@smartwater.com.au](mailto:info@smartwater.com.au)**

**Applications close 6 September 2006.**

## Inside | 2

Smart Water Fund Regional Roadshow

## 3

Car wash operators win with WIM

## 4

Jandaro to store and re-use stormwater



## Smart Water Fund Regional Roadshow

With funding from Round 4 available across regional urban Victoria, the Smart Water Fund took to the road to present public information sessions throughout the state.

Smart Water Fund Manager, Chris Lee and Contract Manager, Simon Lees co-presented with the CEOs from Barwon Water, Central Highlands Water, Wannon Water, Lower Murray Water, Grampians Wimmera Mallee Water, Coliban Water, Western Water, Westernport Water, South Gippsland Water, Gippsland Water, East Gippsland Water, North East Water and Goulburn Valley Water.

The sessions were well attended and provided the opportunity for the community to hear about the Fund and grants available, learn how to apply for funding and ask lots of questions.

Attendees also heard about past funding recipients on how they turned their idea into reality.

"Regional Victoria faces an ongoing water crisis and we're looking to invest in projects that will encourage people to think smarter about the way they use water," said Chris Lee.

Up to \$3 million will be made available for innovative urban community and business ideas Victoria-wide.

The Smart Water Fund and the Regional Roadshow was well supported by the local newspapers and local radio stations, helping to ensure that all Victorians were aware of the funding opportunities available.



From top: Neil Brennan, CEO, Central Highlands Water (left) with Chris Lee, Fund Manager; Attendees at the Gippsland Water session; (From left) Chris Lee, Fund Manager, Felicity Kelly, KR Castlemaine – a Round 3 Funding Recipient and Geoff Mitchell, CEO, Coliban Water; (From left) Steve Evans, CEO, South Gippsland Water, Simon Lees, Smart Water Fund Contract Manager and David Mawer, CEO, Westernport Water.



## Designer recycled water will prove a fine drop

A Victoria University research team is about to embark on a project to "design" recycled water for specific agricultural and horticultural needs.

The 'Opportunities for Designer Recycled Water' project involves changing the way water is filtered during the treatment process so the recycled water is lower in salt content and higher in nutrients.

The new process will be tested in field trials using wastewater from the Western Treatment Plant.

Victoria University's Associate Professor Linda Zou said that high levels of salt in recycled water often prevented its use in agricultural and horticultural irrigation.

"Conventional treatment systems commonly produce high purity water but strip valuable elements from the final product. This results in recycled water that is not well matched to user needs.

"This project has the potential to make recycled water more appealing – especially to farmers and vegetable growers – because it will have less salt content and the nutrient concentration can be changed to suit their crops," Associate Professor Zou said.

The process also has the potential to be used at soil-less horticultural sites to remove salt from water created during the hydroponics process.

"In this process the removed salt could be dried and reused as an additive for animal feed or as industrial raw material which would further promote nutrient recovery and lower environmental impacts," she said.

The project is supported by the Smart Water Fund and will be carried out by a team of collaborating researchers at Victoria University with assistance from the University of New South Wales and Arris Pty Ltd.

**Further information about the Designer Recycled Water project, contact Associate Professor Linda Zou from Victoria University on 03 9919 8266.**

# Car wash operators win with WIM

Car wash operators can save over one million litres of drinking water per year by recycling and treating water on-site, thanks to new research and the improvement of water recycling equipment undertaken by WIM Industries (trading as H2O Cleanawater).

"We analysed responses from a vehicle wash survey for recycled water quality and proposed target standards, then used this target to develop recycling equipment to efficiently and cost effectively remove solids and trace organics such as oil from car wash operators' wash water to enable its reuse," said WIM Industries owner, Mike Watt.

The range and scope of tests completed during the project demonstrated that, depending on the size of the car wash plant, the benchmark standard for key water quality requirements for recycled water can be met or exceeded.

"It's a continual learning process," Mr Watt added, "but, we have gained a tremendous amount of technical knowledge thanks to the Smart Water Fund grant which will characterise the implementation of wash water recycling systems in the future."

Ultimately, improvements in recycled water technology could increase the cost effectiveness of reclaimed water use in the future, encouraging more car wash operators to install equipment.

Operators who adapt water-recycling systems could have the opportunity to gain a competitive edge in the marketplace by targeting consumers who are dedicated to preserving our waterways.

Since completing this project, the Australian Car Wash Association (ACWA) has undertaken further research through the Smart Water Fund to develop, test and launch a car wash water rating scheme to help consumers choose a water efficient car wash operator.

"The mindset is beginning to change," Mr Watt explained, "as customers are realising how scarce water is and want to do their bit to save it by choosing a water efficient car wash."

In addition, by treating the water on-site, not only would less demand be placed on the sewerage system and the environment, but operators could save as much as \$120,000 per year.

"With a wash water recycle system, the operator, consumer and environment wins," says Mr Watt.

**For further information contact Mike Watt, WIM Industries on 03 9878 3888 or [info@cleanawater.com](mailto:info@cleanawater.com)**



Left: An installation of the water recycling technology developed from the Smart Water Fund research.

# Making music, saving water!

The Dandenong Ranges Music Council in conjunction with The Patch Primary School have received a grant from the Smart Water Fund to produce a musical education kit for sustainable schools.

The kit will have two components, a CD containing songs about the water cycle and a case study showcasing the school's environmental wetlands project.

The Dandenong Music Council held a community forum to decide the themes of the two songs and will now hold song-writing workshops for students and parents with Community Music composer, John Shortis. The songs will then be recorded to CD, and provided with sheet music and lyrics so that students can receive valuable lessons on water conservation through the use of music.

The Patch Primary School students learnt about the water cycle through their school's environmental project. The school's environmental groups, Gang Green and Scrub Club, as well as parents and teachers, have reclaimed and revegetated an on-site wetland, transforming it over five years into a diverse and healthy wetland ecosystem.

Environmental Education teacher, Michelle Rayner said the wetland acts as a filter to treat stormwater runoff from the school and surrounding valley and is a valuable real life classroom for the students to learn about the water cycle first hand.

The environmental music kit will be integrated into the water industry's existing education programs such as *Water – Live It! Learn It!*.

**For further information on the project, contact Jane Scott, Project Officer at the Dandenong Ranges Music Council on 03 5968 6120.**



Above: The Patch Primary School students, (clockwise from left) Alanna, Chris, Luke, Hamish, Keade and Tonaya warm up their instruments for the Water Cycle CD.

Securing Our  
**Water**  
Future  
Together

## Tap into a wealth of information with the Smart Water Fund

The Smart Water Fund has supported over 75 projects. All of them provide unique learnings on innovative water conservation, recycling and biosolid management solutions.

Newsletters, case studies and comprehensive project information on a wide range of innovative sustainable water use projects are available from the Smart Water Fund website at [www.smartwater.com.au](http://www.smartwater.com.au)

### Case studies are available for:

- Sporting Facilities
- Waste Water Treatment
- Building and Renovating
- Educational Programs
- Food and Beverage Manufacturing

Do you know someone who would benefit from receiving the Smart Water Fund Newsletter? Contact 1800 882 432 or email [info@smartwater.com.au](mailto:info@smartwater.com.au)

### Visit our website

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# Jandaro Pty Ltd creates opportunity for innovative stormwater re-use

Jandaro Pty Ltd is investigating the potential to develop an unused sand quarry in Huntingdale into an innovative stormwater storage and reuse site using a grant from Round 3 of the Smart Water Fund.

Similar in concept to creating an artificial aquifer, the quarry would be filled with a permeable layer of material that could hold stormwater pumped into it from the surrounding area. The stored water could be retrieved on demand to irrigate the adjacent Huntingdale golf course and future nearby residential development.

If successful, the project has the potential to save around 50 ML of water per year and over ten years would deliver a cost saving of around \$60,000.

Still in the design stage, the Smart Water Fund project is expected to be complete by 2008.

Once complete, Jandaro plans to include the results of the project along with information on sustainable water practices in an educational kit for the whole community.

**For more information on this project, contact Karl Rogers, Engineer and Director, Brown Consulting on 03 9813 4000.**



An aerial view of the quarry redevelopment site in Huntingdale with the adjoining golf course that the water will be supplied to.



## Smart Water Fund story told through film

A new DVD telling the Smart Water Fund story was unveiled at the launch of Round 4.

The DVD features footage from a variety of projects and includes interviews with Minister for Water, John Thwaites, Smart Water Fund spokesperson Dennis Cavagna and Chair of the Funds Independent Assessment Panel, Terry Laidler.

The DVD shows project footage from a cross-section of the community including industry associations, research and development organisations, the health care industry, sporting clubs and households that have converted their innovative ideas into reality.

Projects featured come from the Australian Car Wash Association, Deakin University, Barwon Health, City of Boroondara, Western Health, La Trobe University, State Netball Hockey Centre, Victoria University and the Laundrette, Baking and Victorian Golf Associations.

The video can be viewed online at the Smart Water Fund website at [www.smartwater.com.au](http://www.smartwater.com.au)

