

Tapping In



GWM Water

Newsletter 3 2024/2025



Full steam ahead...

Construction of the East Grampians Rural Pipeline is now well underway. Pipeline is being laid in Zone 2 of the project, near Ararat.

Contractors Mitchell Water Australia are working hard to get pipe in the ground as quickly as possible, so we can start supplying water to landholders. To see a live map of the project footprint, visit gwmwater.org.au/egrp



Drinking water for Elmhurst

Elmhurst customers are enjoying a fully treated drinking water supply straight to their taps.

Water sourced from a local catchment is treated in line with Australian Drinking Water Guidelines at Elmhurst's new water treatment plant. A reliable drinking water supply is essential for preserving the liveability of communities in our region.

This facility was Winner of the Australian Water Association Victoria Water Award – Regional Infrastructure Project Innovation Award 2024 and is our first fully off-grid water treatment

plant. During the planning phase of the project, a Stand-Alone Power System using renewable energy at the site was proposed to reduce land access needs and provide a more reliable water supply without increasing costs for customers.

Elmhurst residents will enjoy a community celebration in January 2025 to celebrate the town's new drinking water supply!

For further information on Elmhurst's water supply, along with other townships, please visit gwmwater.org.au/our-water-supply

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Celebrating our lakes and reservoirs

Water forum a success

About 40 representatives from state government, water organisations, partners and Traditional Owners gathered at Halls Gap for an inaugural statewide Recreational Values of Waterways Forum on 25 and 26 November 2024.

The forum showcased GMMWater's reservoirs, pipeline supplied recreation lakes and the Wimmera River. The group exchanged knowledge and ideas aimed at enhancing the recreational value of water resources throughout the state.

GMMWater hosted a tour where presenters from Grampians Wimmera Mallee Tourism, Lake Marma (Murtoa) Committee of Management, Wimmera Catchment Management Authority and our staff shared valuable insights into the management of regional water bodies in the interest of providing high-quality recreational facilities and opportunities for communities.



GMMWater's Bernie Dunn, Coordinator Water Resources and Recreation Strategy, presents at Lake Lonsdale as part of the waterways tour.

Rocklands report

Initially built to provide water for the now-decommissioned Wimmera Mallee Domestic and Stock Channel System, Rocklands Reservoir has since evolved into an important recreational spot for Victorians.

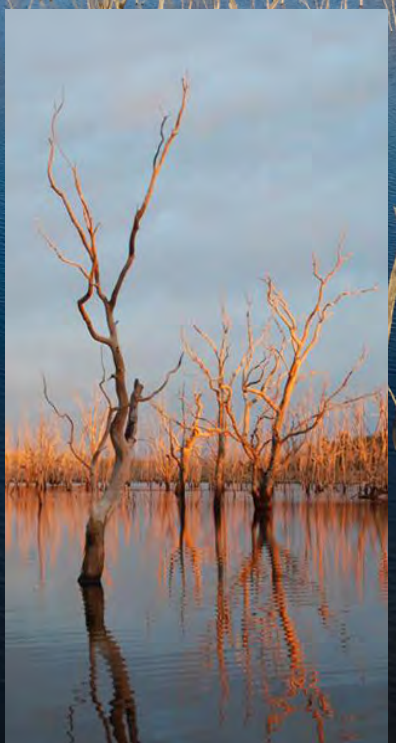
The reservoir is expected to contribute \$5.5 million to the regional economy this year according to a report developed through a collaborative effort involving the Wimmera Southern Mallee Development Association, Victorian Fisheries Authority (VFA), Wimmera Catchment Management Authority, and GMMWater.

While the reservoir attracts many visitors from Melbourne and interstate each year, over three-quarters of its 2023-24 visitors are from regional Victoria! To read the full report, visit gmmwater.org.au/our-watersupply/managing-our-water-supply

Out-and-about this summer!


With summer in full swing, now is a great time to not only visit Rocklands, but one of the many other great reservoirs in our region!

Visitors to reservoirs are reminded to check permitted activities at each lake on GMMWater's website and to observe all boating rules and exclusion areas. For more information about our lakes and reservoirs, including current water levels and the recreational activities permitted at each, visit gmmwater.org.au/using-lakes-and-reservoirs/ourreservoirs



Rocklands is a great place to visit this summer with plenty of activities to do!

Supporting our leaders of tomorrow!



GMMWater is dedicated to offering sponsorships that celebrate high-achieving VCE students who are excelling in science or innovation at our local secondary colleges.

Each year, one student per school is provided an award certificate and book voucher. Award winner Cameron Brito-Mutunayagam from Holy Trinity Lutheran College has just finished Year 12 and hopes to go on to study Medicine.

This year, we were thrilled to also provide students with the opportunity to apply for one of five \$1,000 book sponsorships, designed to help them purchase essential university books as they continue their studies in Science, Engineering, Innovation, or Environment.

We take great pride in supporting our community members and nurturing the leaders of tomorrow.

How much water are you using?

Did you know a garden sprinkler uses 1,000 litres of water an hour?

You can help save water by following the permanent water saving rules (below), when staged water restrictions aren't in place.

You can also monitor your water use with GMMWater's Customer Portal. The Customer Portal is an online system that allows you see your water usage down to the hour, and set up leak alerts using your smartphone, tablet, laptop, or home computer - and it's free! You can sign up at gmmwatercustomerportal.aqualus.com

Permanent water saving rules

- 1 Hand held hoses**
Use a leak-free hand-held hose fitted with a trigger nozzle
- 2 Sprinklers / water systems**
Use manual or automatic water systems between 6 pm and 10 am
- 3 Water features**
Use fountains or water features that recirculate the water
- 4 Hard surfaces**
No hosing of hard surfaces including paths, concrete, decking & driveways.
- 5 Public areas**
Rules apply to watering of playing surfaces, public gardens & public lawns

Our people: Beau Bennett

GMMWater's Mallee Operations Manager, Beau Bennett's day-to-day role involves leading the Mallee team to make sure our assets are running efficiently and providing the best service for our Mallee customers.

Prior to GMMWater, Beau studied in Ballarat and worked in farming before he joined the team in Birchip as a Water Service Delivery Operator in 2016. He was then relocated to the Swan Hill Group where he progressed to Team Leader, and then to his current management role.

Beau enjoys getting to know different people in the organisation and community as part of his role. He said his work was very rewarding.

"I've learnt a lot of skills along the way as well. My communication, people management and emotional intelligence skills have all improved since I've taken on this role."

"All our staff members get along really well. The culture is excellent," he said. "We have three women in our group now which has positively expanded our culture and I'm really proud to be part of the team."

In his spare time, Beau enjoys anything to do with sport and fitness. "I enjoy AFL, cricket, and golf."

"I have also been really enjoying landscaping my yard and trying to get my grass looking pristine for summer," he said.



Looking for your next career move?

Sign up to job alerts at

gmmwater.org.au/careers

Wimmera Machinery Field Days 2025



The GWMWater team is excited to be part of the Wimmera Machinery Field Days once again this year on 4, 5, and 6 March 2025.

We invite you to come and see us in the Alan Heard Pavilion. We can help you sign up for the Customer Portal or eNotices, or you can talk to our Customer Support Officer to find out how we can assist with managing your water bills.

Plus, don't miss your chance to win some fantastic prizes! We can't wait to see you there!

Annual reports are now available

Our 2023/24 Annual Report and 2024/25 Annual Water Outlook Report are now available online.

To read these reports and more, visit gwmwater.org.au/publications



Get your copy of our Rainfall Record!

Keep track of rainfall with our handy 2025 Rainfall Record.

Call into our office at 11 McLachlan Street in Horsham to collect your copy or call our friendly team on 1300 659 961.

You can also pick up a copy at the Wimmera Machinery Field Days in early March or download it directly from our website at gwmwater.org.au/rainfallrecord



Your chance to win \$100 off your next bill!



SCAN ME

Enter our competition by answering the below question for your chance to win \$100 off your next water bill!

How much water does a garden sprinkler use an hour?

Your answer _____

Your GWMWater account number _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email address _____

Make sure your entry gets to us no later than:

4 pm Friday 28 February 2025

Entries can be:

- > posted to us at PO Box 481, Horsham 3402
- > completed online at gwmwater.org.au/competition
- > submitted by scanning the above QR code

For terms and conditions, as well as recent winners, visit gwmwater.org.au/competition



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