

Tapping In



GWMWater

Newsletter 4 2025/2026

Celebrating the **beauty**
of our **region**



Julia Pearse from Donald's winning photo entry taken at Wooroonook Lakes.

Our 2026 Community Photo Competition winner is...

From peaceful sunrises to vibrant lakeside moments, our communities have shown how special our region's lakes, reservoirs and weir pools are.

We are pleased to announce the winners of our community photo competition, themed 'What do you enjoy most about GWMWater's lakes, reservoirs and weir pools?'

The competition invited people to share what they enjoyed most about our local water bodies. Fifty-six entries were received, each capturing the unique beauty, character and connection people have with these much-loved places.

Julia Pearse from Donald has taken out the major prize, receiving a \$500 gift voucher for her standout image taken at Wooroonook Lakes, which impressed judges with its creativity and strong connection to the competition theme.

The competition highlighted just how valued our waterways are – not only as vital water assets, but as places for relaxation, recreation and connection.

We thank everyone who entered and helped showcase the role our lakes and reservoirs play in bringing communities together.

Congratulations also goes to our honourable mentions, who will receive a \$100 gift voucher for each of their entries.

To see the honourable mention photos, visit gwmwater.org.au/photocompetition

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Water trading made simple for rural customers

Water trading gives GMMWater rural pipeline customers the flexibility to manage their water allowance as needs change throughout the year.

If you need more water, or have surplus you won't use, trading helps you stay in control.

Our rural pipeline customers hold tradable water allowances, registered with the Victorian Water Register.

These allowances can be managed in several ways to help avoid excess usage charges and better match water supply with on-farm demand.

To avoid excess usage charges, customers must ensure they have sufficient water allowance before 30 June each year.

We encourage you to contact our Rural Customer Accounts Team on 1300 659 961 for more information or assistance.



Benefits for buyers

As a buyer, water trading helps you to cover water use above your standard allowance to avoid excess charges.

Buying additional water can provide peace of mind during periods of higher demand and help ensure your water needs are met for the remainder of the financial year.

Water can be purchased on a temporary basis (for the remainder of the current financial year) or permanently, depending on your long-term needs. Temporary trades do not affect your ongoing capacity charge, while permanent trades transfer ownership of the water allowance and may affect future charges.

Benefits for sellers

As a seller, trading water you don't expect to use can help offset water costs and ensure your allowance is working for you.

Selling surplus water, either temporarily or permanently, provides a practical way to manage unused water while supporting other rural customers within the GMMWater system.

Trading part of your allowance may also help reduce the financial impact of water charges when on-farm water requirements are lower than expected.

How water trading works

Water can be traded between your own properties or with other GMMWater rural pipeline customers, either directly or through Water Partners, an independent online water broker.

If trading through Water Partners, customers can view water availability and pricing listed on their website, including the brokerage fees, at waterpartners.org.au/gmmw-pipeline

Trades can be temporary or permanent, depending on what works best for your needs. The minimum volume of water allowance able to be traded is 100 kilolitres, and customers must retain a minimum standard allowance to remain connected to the rural pipeline system. All trades are subject to approval based on pipeline system capacity.

Helpful tips...

- ✓ Check your water use via our Customer Portal at gmmwater.org.au/portal
- ✓ Review your allowance early!
- ✓ Explore buying or selling options at gmmwater.org.au/trading

Fees and conditions

All trades are subject to GMMWater rules and conditions, including minimum allowance requirements and payment of any outstanding water rates.

Application and processing fees may apply, as outlined in our *Schedule of Tariffs, Miscellaneous and Other Charges* available at gmmwater.org.au/charges.

Customers are encouraged to review applicable fees before lodging an application.

Contractor, Utilstra, has begun trenching works for the pipeline that will connect Moyston to Ararat's drinking water supply.



Moyston Drinking Water Upgrade Project

Trenching works are well underway for the new pipeline that will connect the township of Moyston to Ararat's drinking water supply as part of the Moyston Drinking Water Upgrade Project.

Further works will follow near Moyston, including the construction of new water storage tanks and a chlorine booster system to support the safe delivery of treated drinking water. In Ararat, a new pump station (adjacent to the Ararat Water Treatment Plant) will also be constructed as part of the project.

Construction for the project is expected to finish later this year, after which GWMWater will begin the process to have the water declared fit for drinking.

This project forms part of our ongoing commitment to provide drinking (potable) water to townships across our region.

Our people: Annie Felini

If you spot a GWMWater ute parked near a burst pipe or sewer main in Horsham, there's a good chance Annie Felini is nearby getting things back on track.

As a Water Services Operator, Annie works on both water and wastewater assets to keep services running as they should.

Her days start with what she calls a "very important step" — making coffee — before tackling scheduled work such as site inspections and maintenance checks.

From there, the day can quickly shift into reactive jobs like fixing leaks or clearing sewer blockages.

Annie joined the field crew after working in GWMWater's call centre. While she enjoyed the role and the friendships she built there, she knew sitting at a desk all day wasn't quite her style.

"I've always been a hands-on person and enjoy being on my feet," Annie says.

"When the opportunity came up to work in the field, I thought there would be no harm in applying."

Leaving the call centre meant stepping away from a comfortable environment and into a role where she was learning something entirely new — which she admits was a little daunting at first.

Annie's time in the call centre has given her a strong appreciation for the customer experience. It helps her understand where customers are coming from and how best to support them — whether that's explaining a repair or directing someone to assistance with bills or rebates.

For Annie, one of the best parts of the job is the quiet satisfaction that comes later.

"You get to drive past places and think — I fixed that."



Looking for your next career move?

Sign up to job alerts at
gwmwater.org.au/careers

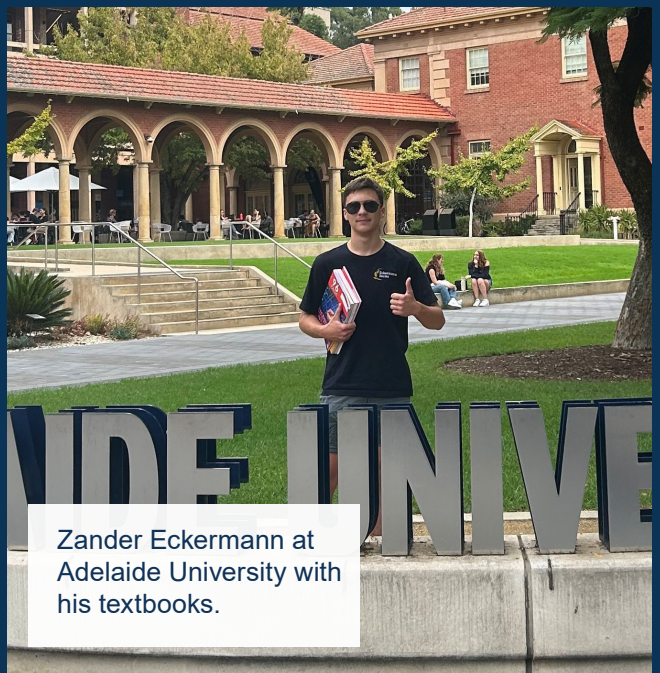
Supporting tomorrow's science leaders

GMMWater is proud to support high achieving VCE students across our region through our annual VCE Student Grants Program.

The initiative reflects our commitment to young people who show outstanding talent in science, innovation and community leadership.

We offer up to \$1,000 in student grants to five VCE students pursuing university pathways in science-related or innovative fields. This year, from 26 applications received, we are pleased to announce the five recipients:

- Samuel Jakobi, Horsham College
- Zander Eckermann, Rainbow P-12 College
- Lillian Stephenson, Wedderburn College
- Les Cooper, Birchip P-12 School
- Kayden Kues-Sales, Rainbow P-12 College



Zander Eckermann at Adelaide University with his textbooks.

Science/Engineering Challenge

We were proud to be involved in the Science/Engineering Challenge, hosted by the Rotary Club of Horsham East, which brought together more than 350 junior and senior students from across our region.

Over two big days on 19–20 March 2026 at the Allan Heard Pavilion in Longerenong, students put their Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) skills to the test—problem solving, collaborating, and thinking creatively as they tackled a range of hands-on challenges.

Our GMMWater team volunteered their time to facilitate and score the challenges. It was a great opportunity for us to support young people interested in science and engineering, give back to the community, and shine a light on the diverse STEM career pathways available right here in our region.

Being part of an event that brings learning, community spirit and future opportunity together is something we're incredibly proud of.



Will Taylor, GMMWater Senior Project Engineer, with Kai from Horsham Primary School.

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!

Which town's water supply will Moyston be connected to?

Your answer _____

Your GMMWater account number _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email address _____

Make sure your entry gets to us no later than:

4 pm Friday 29 May 2026

Entries can be:

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

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



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