

# Tapping In



GWMWater

Newsletter 3 2025/2026

As the days heat up, our region comes alive with families, friends and visitors making the most of our beautiful recreational lakes - right on our doorstep!

Pictured: Ouyen Lake

Making a splash!

## Lakes bring summer to life...

This summer, we are proud to continue our long-standing commitment to supplying water to the lakes and weir pools that make our region such a fantastic place to live and visit.

Thanks to careful water management and a community focus, locals and tourists alike can enjoy swimming, boating, fishing and picnicking at their favourite spots.

### Supporting local life and tourism

Our recreational lakes aren't just for fun. They boost local economies, attract visitors and create memories for families year after year. In fact, a recent study found that 10 key pipeline-supplied lakes contribute \$8 million to the economy yearly.

### Keeping the good times flowing

GWMWater has transferred 1,850 megalitres from its urban and rural water holdings to supply 12 popular lakes and weirs this season. 680 megalitres of high-reliability water is being made available from our Murray River water holding to supply Ouyen Lake and Green Lake (at Sea Lake).

These transfers are carefully managed so they will not impact the water supply for other customers. It's all about balance - supporting recreation while ensuring everyone's needs are met.

### A community effort

GWMWater's commitment goes beyond water delivery. We work closely with local groups and recreation users through our Regional Recreation Water Users Group, making sure everyone's voice is heard and our lakes continue to meet community needs.

Importantly, community members also contribute to our region's lakes by volunteering to maintain and improve the amenity of these special places.

### Where's the water going?

This summer, the following lakes and weir pools are set to benefit from GWMWater's allocations:

**Beulah Weir Pool - Brim Weir Pool - Donald Caravan Park Lake - Green Lake (near Sea Lake) - Lake Lascelles (Hopetoun) - Lake Marma (Murtoa) - Ouyen Lake - Rainbow Lake - Tchum Lake (Birchip) - Walkers Lake (Avon Plains) - Warracknabeal Weir Pool - Watchem Lake - Wooroonook Lake - Yaapeet Lake**

Deliveries are made during late winter through to early spring so water pressure for farmers is not impacted.

And remember, it's not just the dedicated recreation lakes that offer opportunities for fun - nine GWMWater reservoirs that are part of the water supply network are also open for recreation.

Here's to a fantastic summer by the water!

## WHAT'S INSIDE

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▲ ENTER OUR PHOTO COMPETITION

▲ OUR NEW BOARD MEMBERS

# Photo competition now open!



## Our Summer Photo Competition is now open!

The theme is 'What do you enjoy most about the region's lakes, reservoirs, and weir pools?' Share your best photo of your favourite spot or moment for a chance to win some great prizes!

### How to enter:

- Email us your photo to [allcomms@gmwwater.org.au](mailto:allcomms@gmwwater.org.au) and tell us what makes that place special to you.

### Prizes:

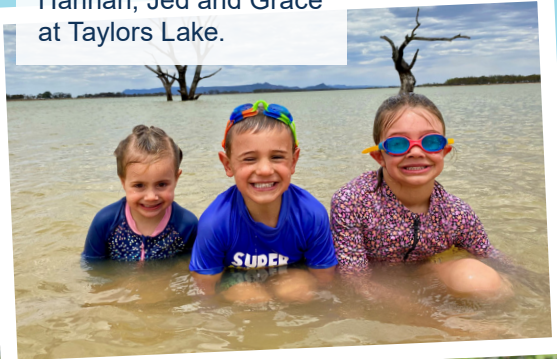
- Major Prize: \$500 voucher – announced 16 March 2026
- Photo of the Month Recognition Program: Prizes 2–10 win a \$100 gift voucher, announced on the first of each month

Entries close on **Saturday 28 February 2026**.

For eligible lakes and other criteria, check out the Terms and Conditions via the QR code (right).



Hannah, Jed and Grace at Taylors Lake.



## Welcome

# Jess & Stuart



The Minister for Water appoints GMMWater Board Members for a period of four years. The Board's role is to guide our organisation towards a strong future by setting clear goals and strategies. Their focus is on improving the services we provide to our customers and wider community.

Stuart Read, who calls Castlemaine home, brings a wealth of experience in governance and leadership, with roles across health, water, superannuation and renewable energy. He's passionate about helping organisations adapt and thrive.

*"I'm excited to join GMMWater and to be contributing to its work. I am looking forward to meeting more of our staff and community as we work together to build a prosperous and sustainable future for this region."*

Jess Adler is a proud Wimmera local with a passion for strong communities and sustainable regional growth. Jess brings years of experience in governance and finance, working across industries such as water, local government, community support and economic development.

*"From the Millenium Drought through to the 2011 floods, water has shaped our landscape, our economy and how we live. It's exciting to have the opportunity to work alongside the GMMWater team to contribute to supporting its careful and sustainable management."*

We thank our outgoing Board members David Jochinke and Elisa de Wit for their contribution, dedication and energy. Their leadership and commitment, 10 years and eight years respectively, has made a lasting difference to the Grampians, Wimmera and Mallee regions. To find out more about our board members, visit [gmwater.org.au/about-us/the-board](http://gmwater.org.au/about-us/the-board)

# Digital upgrades bring smarter water management to our region

GWMWater is continuing to invest in technology that makes managing water easier and more efficient for customers. Two major digital upgrades are currently underway: the installation of new digital water meters in Kaniva and improvements to standpipes across the region. Upgrades for rural pipeline meters are also underway.

## Kaniva's new digital water meters

As part of the drinking water upgrade, Kaniva customers now benefit from the same technology used across our urban towns since 2019. Late last year, ASG Civil and Industrial installed new digital meters, replacing the old ones.

These meters provide near real-time water usage data via our free Customer Portal, leak alerts to prevent unexpected bills, and pressure monitoring to help us detect issues early and improve services.



An example of the new water meters for Kaniva

## Standpipe system upgrades

As part of our regional upgrades, standpipes are moving to a more secure and reliable system. The old swipe cards are being replaced with a user code and PIN, making access simpler for rural and industrial customers.

This change improves convenience and security and reflects our commitment to better water services across the region.



Horsham's upgraded standpipe

## Our people: Michael Schneider

**Born and raised in Horsham, Michael Schneider knows the Wimmera well and is passionate about improving water services for communities across the Grampians, Wimmera and Mallee.**

After finishing school in Horsham and earning an engineering degree at RMIT University, Michael built experience outside the water sector before joining GWMWater in 2017 as a Project Engineer.

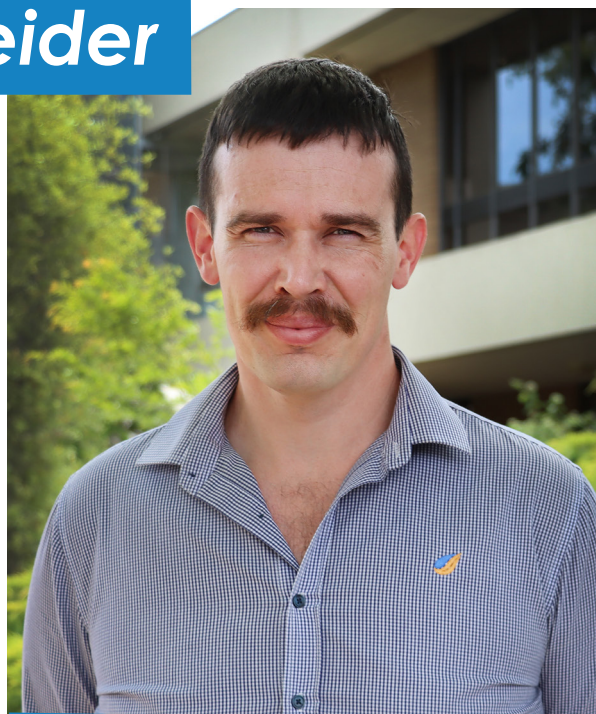
His leadership and expertise led to a promotion to Manager Project Delivery in 2019, and this year he stepped into the role of Executive Manager Service Delivery.

Today, Michael leads a team of 90 dedicated staff, managing urban and rural water supply (including headworks reservoirs), wastewater and recycled water, ensuring services for homes, farms and businesses.

One of Michael's proudest achievements is involvement in the delivery of the South-West Loddon Pipeline, which has greatly improved water security for rural customers.

Looking ahead, Michael is driving service delivery into the digital age by using smart data from water meters to detect leaks early and resolve issues faster to improve customer service.

Away from work, Michael enjoys DIY projects, home renovations, gardening and playing volleyball with the GWMWater team, the 'Waterhammers'. Life at home is busy and rewarding with his wife Elsbeth and their two young sons.



Looking for your next career move?

Sign up to job alerts at  
[gwmwater.org.au/careers](http://gwmwater.org.au/careers)

# Your rural pipeline water allocation

If you are a rural customer, did you know that with GWMWater, you can trade part or all of your allocation — either temporarily or permanently.

- **Buyers:** Water trading helps you cover usage during dry spells or avoid excess charges.
- **Sellers:** Earn extra income from unused water.

You can trade between your own properties or with other pipeline customers.

Use the new online broker or reach out to us directly — we're here to help.

Learn more about water trading at [gwmwater.org.au/trading](http://gwmwater.org.au/trading)



## VCE awards

For several years, GWMWater has celebrated outstanding VCE students who demonstrate excellence in science or innovation across our region's secondary colleges.

Participating schools select one student to receive a certificate of achievement and a book voucher in recognition of their efforts.

Expanding on our support, and now in its second year, we also offer Year 12 graduates the opportunity to apply for one of five \$1,000 book sponsorships.

These sponsorships are designed to assist students as they begin university studies in science, engineering, innovation or environmental fields by helping cover the cost of essential textbooks.

GWMWater is proud to invest in our community and support the next generation of professionals. Congratulations to all recipients!

Pictured: Maddie Carracher with her VCE award.



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## 2026 Rainfall Record

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1												
2												
3												
4												
5												
6												
7												
8												

## 2026 Rainfall Record

Keep track of the rainfall across the year, all in one place, with our handy rainfall record.

Collect your copy from our office at 11 McLachlan Street, Horsham or download from [gwmwater.org.au/rainfallrecord](http://gwmwater.org.au/rainfallrecord) to print at home.

If you are unable to make it into our office, please call our friendly team on 1300 659 961 for assistance.

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!

Name a lake or weir pool which has benefited from the 1,850 megalitre recreational water allocation.

Your answer \_\_\_\_\_

Your GWMWater account number \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Make sure your entry gets to us no later than:

**4 pm Friday 6 March 2026**

Entries can be:

- > posted to us at PO Box 481, Horsham 3402
- > completed online at [gwmwater.org.au/competition](http://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](http://gwmwater.org.au/competition)