

# MEDIA RELEASE



Monday, July 05, 2010

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## South Gippsland Water Supports our environment

World Environment Day is a time to reflect on the amazing area we live in and to join the world wide celebration of positive action in regard to the environment.

South Gippsland Water [SGW] are committed to our local region and also take this time to reflect on the recent environmental actions we have made.

The organisation is made up of a number of sections, one of the fastest growing areas being the 'Environment Team'.

Under the SGW Operations Improvement banner the group now has designated coordinators for Sustainability and Environment as well as employing additional Environmental Management System and River Health Officers.

Although working to understand and protect our local environment has been a focus for many years, SGW gained international certification for their Environmental Management System in 2009. Environmental audits are periodically carried out and evaluated to ensure the high environmental standard and mechanisms for continual improvement.

Sustainability projects currently being undertaken internally include; installation of solar panels to run pumps, reviewing office heating and cooling and improved plant efficiencies - all aimed to reduce the organisations 'foot print'.

South Gippsland Water projects that encourage our customers to live more sustainability include the water efficient showerhead program. The 'Hills to Ocean Grant' which assists in catchment improvement and 'Help for Water Efficient Organisations', a grant that assists community groups to include water efficiency in their activities.

Catchments and River Health are also in the spot light - a number of stream flow and fish studies have been undertaken on water ways. One concern raised on the Tarwin River lead to the installation of a fish ladder in partnership with The Department of Sustainability, West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority (WGCMA), and the Arthur Rylah Institute. The fish ladder provides conditions in the river to enable the migration of fish species upstream during times of low and medium flow.

South Gippsland Water's Managing Director Steve Evans Comment today, "In planning for the future South Gippsland Water understands the importance of sound environmental practice. World Environment Day is certainly a time appreciate our local environment look toward continual future improvements."

[Korumburra Water Treatment Plant Operator Jamie Walker conducting a schools environmental talk.]