

AN UPDATE FROM AQUASURE



With 2013 rapidly coming to a close it is a time of endings and new beginnings.

The project passed another key milestone last month when the balance of Design & Construction activities required to be completed by TDJV following Commercial Acceptance, including rectification of minor defects and finalisation of landscaping, were confirmed to be completed.

With close out achieved the majority of TDJV staff have now left the project and our operations and maintenance contractor, recently renamed Watersure, has full responsibility for management of the plant site.

At the end of October we were pleased to have Ken Smith, Member for Bass, and now former Bass Coast Shire Council Mayor, Clare Le Serve, help us out with the final planting on the VDP's ecological reserve.

The creation of the reserve has been a huge task: millions of plants, trees and shrubs have been installed in the 225 ha area, and a series of new dunes have been formed using the 1.45 million cubic metres of soil excavated during the plant's construction.

Eight kilometres of walking, cycling and pedestrian trails have also been created and viewing decks, boardwalks, a bird hide and picnic shelters constructed for the enjoyment of the community.

Although the reserve has not yet officially opened it has been great to see local walking groups and horse riders making use of the facilities over the past few weeks.

We do encourage people to take care to stick to paths so that the newer plantings can properly establish themselves.

We are looking forward to "formally" unveiling the ecological reserve to the local community at a special open day on Sunday 2 February 2014, which coincidentally is also World Wetlands Day.

In order to streamline traffic and parking for the event, and ensure local residents aren't inconvenienced we will be bussing people to and from the site on the day, as we did previously with the two construction open days.

Further details on these arrangements, as well as the program of activities for the opening will be provided early in 2014.

I am also pleased to announce that the VDP was awarded the Australian Water Association (Vic) Infrastructure Project Award last month. The award is intended to recognise significant and innovative infrastructure projects and initiatives within the water industry. Judging is based on five key criteria:

- Innovative, unique or other outstanding features of the initiative which sets it apart from common practice
- Relevance to the Victorian water industry
- Demonstrated or strongly anticipated environmental and/or water resource benefits
- Demonstrated and/or strongly anticipated social benefits
- Sustainable design social, economic, environmental) considerations

We are proud of the industry's recognition of the project's achievements in these areas.

In other industry-related news, the National Centre for Excellence in Desalination (NCEDA) recently hosted an International Desalination Workshop in Melbourne, which was attended by more than 80 international specialists. AquaSure and Watersure were pleased to have the opportunity to host a site visit for a number of delegates as part of the program.

Finally I'd like to farewell and acknowledge outgoing Mayor, Clare Le Serve for her input into the project on behalf of the local community, including her involvement with the Community Liaison Group.

I'd also like to congratulate and welcome Neil Rankine as Bass Coast Shire Council's new Mayor. We look forward to continuing our engagement with Council under his leadership.

Wishing you all the best for a happy and safe holiday season.

Matt Brassington CEO, AquaSure

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