

# MEDIA RELEASE

## Derinya as good as gold in schools' water program

Immediate Release

1 December 2009

Derinya Primary School has earned itself a big gold star from Alistair Harkness, MP for Frankston, for achieving a 70 per cent reduction in its water use as part of South East Water's *Water- Learn It! Live It!* accreditation program.

Derinya will become the first school in the Frankston Federation of Schools and the City of Frankston to receive gold accreditation from Mr Harkness in a presentation at the school on Friday 4 December.

*Water- Learn It! Live It!* – an industry education program funded by South East Water and the other Melbourne metropolitan water businesses - encourages the inclusion of water conservation as a focus in the curriculum and recognises and rewards schools that are implementing water conservation education.

In order to win gold the Derinya school community demonstrated an ongoing commitment to increase their water awareness. The result is a consistent reduction in water use since 2007. The school's average water use per person per day has fallen from 7.5 litres in 2006/07 to just under 2 litres in 2008/08.

The average annual cost of Derinya's water bill has also fallen from \$2,548 in 2006/07 to \$728 in 2008/09 a reduction of over 70 per cent. These savings were made by installing half flush toilets, using water tanks to flush all toilets and water the gardens, collecting water under drinking fountains to water the garden and establishing an Environmental Committee and an Environmental Team.

Derinya Principal Jenny Roth said: "The results provide strong evidence that water saving measures and ongoing education has changed behaviour in our school community with regard to water use and we're not stopping here. In the future we plan to install more water tanks in our new hall and research other water saving devices."

In addition, students have shared their learnings about water conservation with other schools. Derinya showcased some of that learning in their winning entry for South East Water's National Water Week (October 18-24) competition *How Blue is Your School?* The school won first place in the documentary competition, which channelled student creativity into promoting water conservation, with a spoof documentary about its water saving activities. View the documentary on South East Water's website.

Schools committed to the *Water- Learn It! Live It!* Program receive various benefits, including:

- Regular teacher professional development sessions
- Access to hard copies of the *Water – Learn it! Live it!* Education Resource
- Water-saving merchandise for schools, including buckets that fit perfectly under bubbler taps
- In-school presentations and activities for students and staff
- Access to South East Water's community investment program, with a Hydration Station for events.

Schools wanting to learn more about the *Water- Learn It! Live It!* Program should visit [www.southeastwater.com.au/personal/education/forteachers/Pages/Water-Learnit!Liveit!AccreditationProgram.aspx](http://www.southeastwater.com.au/personal/education/forteachers/Pages/Water-Learnit!Liveit!AccreditationProgram.aspx)

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