



This issue of Spouting is sponsored by:



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# Spouting

Issue 7

Newsletter Date: February 2012

## "It's Time To Clean Up The Bay"

Written by Greg Hunt and Andrew Macleod

It's time for a ten year Plan to Clean Up the Bay. Fish kill, sewage leaks, pollution blooms. These have been the reality of the last few weeks. And while there are seasonal factors involved, the time has come to replicate the great clean up of the Yarra which occurred during the 70's and 80's. The key to Cleaning up the Bay is a Decade of Action with clear targets, actions and responsibilities. Just as importantly though is a full community partnership which draws in both the different tiers of Government and the community.

In our view the starting point is a simple three part Clean Up the Bay campaign.

First, we need the people. In real terms we should be creating a Port Phillip Partnership. This would ideally comprise representatives from Federal and State Parliaments on both sides of the political divide. There should be representatives from Councils within the Bayside catchment and the key bodies such as Parks Victoria, the Committee for Melbourne, the Port of Melbourne and Environment Victoria.

Much more importantly, we could create a network of local beach keepers and bay keepers inviting participation from life saving clubs, yacht clubs and school groups, not to mention general citizens. The purpose of the Partnership is to create a groundswell of practical action to help design and deliver the Action the Bay needs to be cleaner and more sustainable on a permanent basis.

Second, there needs to be an overarching ten year Plan itself for the Bay. The Plan should look out over the ten year, three year and one year time frames. It should also consider both the global health of the Bay as well as individual hot spots such as Elwood Beach. In particular, the Clean up Plan should consider the threats and actions on a series of levels. The heart of the Plan is of course pure environmental management which is about nutrient run off, sewage and local litter. However, we should also look to a deep community education program through our school and our community in terms of what each group or individual can do.

In addition, we should finally add bay tourism to our core list of local assets. Around the coast, on the water and in particular under the water, Port Phillip Bay is an asset which has not been sufficiently shown to the world. The completion of a National Centre for Coasts and Climate at Point Nepean would be a showcase for the Bay's unique marine values.

Beyond the Bay Plan, the third step in our campaign is a Practical Action Program.

Continued on page 2 ...

# CHAT AROUND THE TRAPS

## Left to Swim in Apathy

Editorial: Oakleigh Monash Leader  
10 Jan 2012

THE filthy stormwater washed into Port Phillip Bay beaches is a disgrace.

The Christmas Day storms washed tonnes of pollutants into the bay and images of toddlers paddling in brown water were disturbing.

Overseas visitors would have been appalled and Melburnians ought to be ashamed.

Decomposing leaves caused the discolouration but levels of bacteria were up to 40 times the acceptable limit sanctioned by the Environment Protection Authority.

But here we are in 2012, and still 19th century practices of allowing untreated sewage flow into the bay continues unabated.

Sewage overflow meant Mt Martha beach was closed on New Year's Eve, for goodness sake.

The undisputed fact is the health of the bay is better than it was 10 or 20 years ago.

Even so, considerable investment to upgrade Melbourne's sewerage is urgently required.

The infrastructure cannot cope with high volumes of water caused by heavy deluges and storms.

Surely, someone will take the lead to fix the problem?

Perhaps our state and municipal leaders will listen to Flinders MP and federal Opposition environment spokesman Greg Hunt, who is launching a 10-year action plan to clean up the bay?

He deserves our support.

## “It’s Time To Clean Up The Bay”

Continued from pg.1 ...

Practical Action begins with community ownership of monitoring, of knowing what is right and what is wrong with our waters.

The single best Australian example of urban accountability is perhaps the Queensland Government’s Healthy Waterways initiative. Under the Healthy Waterways program, physical benchmarks for river, estuarine and bay health are identified for each of 21 sub catchments in South East Queensland. Individual tests are then carried out across a series of indicators such as phosphorous or algal presence. The Initiative then issues a report card with letter grades for each indicator in each region, as well as an overall letter grade for each waterway more generally. The results for each indicator are published next to the previous year’s results so as communities can easily see whether their local creek or waterway is making progress or going backwards. Beyond monitoring, practical action could involve the following:

A Bay infrastructure Plan to be delivered over a decade. This could be updated every three years. Obviously this is the stuff of governments but it is a critical component. An annual Bay Day, perhaps on the 1st Sunday in December when local groups help in beach and water way clean up. Ongoing working bees as part of the overall Bay Plan in local areas around the catchment.

Despite coming from different political heritages, we have come together to outline what we think is an achievable goal of both cleaning up the Bay, permanently, and also turning our policy making towards the Bay.

The very act of building a Port Phillip Partnership can help create community. It is also the vehicle to long term planning and practical action for the Bay. As such we are delighted that perhaps the Bay’s premier marine educator Sharee Maris, and author of Melbourne Down Under, has agreed to join us as a founding partner.

The next step is for an initial Forum, to bring together potential partners and to help set the vision and consider possible governance mechanisms.

Above all else, by setting the vision of making Port Phillip the cleanest urban waterway in the Southern Hemisphere by 2022, we give ourselves the chance of polishing the gem in our own backyard while working jointly towards a higher community goal.

Hon Greg Hunt MP is the Shadow Minister for the Environment and Federal Member for Flinders

Andrew Macleod is the Chief Executive Officer of the Committee for Melbourne

## Call for Speakers: Tasmania Stormwater Symposium



### Call for Speakers

AWA Tasmania is seeking expressions of interest for presenters at the upcoming  
**Stormwater Symposium**  
 to be held at the Country Club Resort, Launceston on  
**Friday March 23 2012**

The Symposium's central focus will be  
**‘Managing the Future of Stormwater in Tasmania’**

Please send your expression of interest, project outline or abstract to  
[tasbranch@awa.asn.au](mailto:tasbranch@awa.asn.au) by Tuesday February 7 2012



enquiries:  
[tasbranch@awa.asn.au](mailto:tasbranch@awa.asn.au)

## Stormwater12 - Registration Open

The 2nd National Stormwater Conference will be held from the 15th - 19th October 2012 in Melbourne.

**REGISTER NOW**

For all Conference enquiries contact  
 GEMS Event Management on  
 P: +61 2 9744 5252  
 F: +61 2 9744 5252  
 PO Box 1221, Burwood NSW 1805



**Stormwater**  
 INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION LTD.



## WSUD2012 Conference (Water Sensitive Urban Design )

Building a water sensitive community cannot be achieved with traditional urban water management approaches alone. To meet to this challenge, an integrated approach is necessary; we should strive to effectively link the myriad design and implementation cultures of the different disciplines involved in urban water management.



**Registration Are Now Open !!!**

[REGISTER NOW](#)

## STORMWATER VICTORIA



## LAWN BOWLS SOCIAL EVENING

Come and join us for an evening of fun and networking  
Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> February, 2012  
5pm onwards

Camberwell Central Bowls Club  
1 Bowen Street, Camberwell  
\$15 per head (+ \$10 to Play)  
Bar service and Canapés

RSVP Kate 0409 978 453  
[office@stormwatervictoria.com](mailto:office@stormwatervictoria.com)



## Stormwater Victoria Mini-Seminar Schedule

Save the dates !!! Our Mini-Seminar dates this year are on Wednesdays, from 10am-12noon as follows:

March 7th - Flooding

May 2nd - Topic to be Finalised

July 4th - Topic to be Finalised

Look out for further information, or call Kate in the office

## Dates for the Calendar

### **February 20th, 2012:**

Gaining Institutional Capacity  
for WSUD - Clearwater  
MCG Melbourne  
8.30am-5.30pm

### **February 21st, 2012**

SV Networking  
Kick-Off Event - Lawn Bowls  
Camberwell Bowls Club  
5pm Onwards  
[Flyer](#)

### **February 21st-23rd, 2012:**

Water Sensitive Urban Design  
(WSUD) Conference  
MCG, Melbourne  
[Wwww.Wsud2012.com](http://www.Wsud2012.com)

### **February 24th, 2012:**

2012 WSUD Technical  
Site Tour - Clearwater  
MCG, Melbourne  
9am - 4.30pm

### **March 7th, 2012:**

SV Mini Seminar I  
Flooding

EVENTS

## Clearwater Program

[Clearwater](#) offers a number of capacity building initiatives that can help broaden your skills and knowledge in sustainable urban water management

There are currently two unique development opportunities being delivered in conjunction with the [7<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Water Sensitive Urban Design](#).

### **Gaining Institutional Capacity for WSUD**

Monday 20 February

### **2012 WSUD Technical Site Tour**

Friday 24 February

### **WSUD Tour – Stonnington and Port Phillip**

Friday 23 March

### **Growth Area WSUD Tour**

Friday 20 April

### **Raingarden Essentials course**

Thursday 10 May

For a full listing of Clearwater events please visit :

[http://www.clearwater.asn.au/events\\_and\\_training](http://www.clearwater.asn.au/events_and_training)



## STORMWATER V I C T O R I A



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### Have Your Say!

We would love to hear from you!  
Do you have some comments or feedback  
about an article published in the newsletter?  
A suggestion, or an interesting piece  
of information for the community?

Please forward to:

[office@stormwatervictoria.com.au](mailto:office@stormwatervictoria.com.au)

For further information, please call  
Kate Dunn on 0409 978 453

### Win Win Win!

This year we have several hot topics coming up in our mini-seminar schedule that you won't want to miss. As a valued member of Stormwater Victoria, we'd love to shout you a free registration to a mini-seminar of your choice this year.

Go into the draw to receive 2 registrations to our March, May or July mini-seminar (\$60 minimum value) by answering the following question:

**Q: "What is the purpose of the Port Phillip Partnership in relation to the Clean Up the Bay campaign"**

Please forward to:

[office@stormwatervictoria.com.au](mailto:office@stormwatervictoria.com.au)

For further information, please call

### IN THE OFFICE

### Meet the Committee ...

#### Treasurer



Andrew Allan (Manningham City Council)

Andrew is a former President of Stormwater Victoria and is in his second year as the organisation's Treasurer.

Andrew works for local government in Victoria in a strategic, water focussed role and has overseen the development of stormwater management plans, stormwater harvesting projects and integrated water planning projects with partner water agencies.

Andrew has served on the national committee (Stormwater Industry Association) since 2010, and is currently on the Board of Director's, with the role of Treasurer. He was actively involved in the joint 2009 SV/ SIA NSW conference in Albury/ Wodonga, Stormwater 2010 and a reinvigoration of the national awards program.



### Stormwater Victoria .... in the News

Following up on our feature article in the last edition of *Spouting*, "The Dirty Truth about Car Washing", Channel 10 news requested an interview with Dianne Ross, CEO of the Australian Car Wash Association (ACWA), and our Stormwater Victoria President, Rod Wiese.

With the recent ease on water restriction throughout the state, the increase in vehicle owners washing their cars at home once again, has been significant. Commenting on the importance of washing cars responsibly & disposing of runoff water in the most environmentally friendly way, Dianne and Rod highlight the impact that pollutants have on our waterways.

To view the footage from the Channel 10 news piece, please visit:

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=5IGJ\\_2P7D0](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5IGJ_2P7D0)

For a copy of the footage, please email Kate at: [office@stormwatervictoria.com.au](mailto:office@stormwatervictoria.com.au)

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