



2009 Melbourne Water Youth Conference Report

Creating water smart cities

4 – 5 June 2009



About the Conference



The 2009 Melbourne Water Youth Conference brought more than 400 students and teachers together from across Victoria to explore ideas and share information around this year's theme – 'creating water smart cities'.

Ethiad Stadium in Melbourne's Docklands played host to the conference's first day, with students examining issues such as drought, water recycling, supply and conservation, stormwater, population growth and the planning and design of cities in the future.

Fittingly, World Environment Day set the scene for day two as participants descended on Melbourne Zoo to take part in a variety of 'hands on' activities from mural design to planting water sensitive gardens.

This report provides a snapshot of the conference through the eyes of the students, their learnings and the activities they undertook to give you an important insight into what they think about one of the most crucial issues affecting our way of life – water.

Message from Melbourne Water Chair, Cheryl Batagol and MC Arron Wood

Well done to all of the teachers and students who participated in the 2009 Melbourne Water Youth Conference. In an action-packed two days, we witnessed colourful, energetic and informative presentations, and undertook some fun-filled educational workshops at Melbourne Zoo. But most importantly, we learnt some important ways to create more water smart cities that will ultimately help to protect our environment.

Melbourne Water places great emphasis on listening and learning from our youth and we were impressed by the

creative ideas expressed during the conference to help make our cities water smart.

We look forward to hearing about the water-saving initiatives you have been inspired to undertake at your school and in your local communities and we hope to see you all again at the 2010 Melbourne Water Youth Conference.

Thank you to all of our sponsors, volunteers and conference staff who together have helped make this year's conference such a fabulous success.

Congratulations.



The emissions produced to manage and host this event will be carbon offset through ClimatePositive (www.climatepositive.org) using projects with a renewable energy component.



Welcome to Wurundjeri country

MC's Arron Wood and Shae Brewster from Saturday Disney opened the conference introducing Bill Nicholson and an Aboriginal dance troupe Jindi Worabak (which means join and unite). We were officially welcomed to Wurundjeri country and asked to respect Aboriginal beliefs, customs and land. Dances included the telling of the 'creation story' and the 'hunting and gathering' story that taught us not to overuse the earth's resources. "I'd never seen Aboriginal dancing live before," said Tiffany T. from Patterson Lakes Primary School. "I really liked it."

An enthusiastic rendition of the Australian National Anthem followed and then an amazing music video produced by students from Silverton Primary School was played. Featuring a performance by the 1950s inspired 'Silvertones', students changed the lyrics of 'Splish Splash' into an environmentally-friendly song encouraging people to save water.



Expert Walk



Alongside experts from Melbourne Water, EPA Victoria and the City of Melbourne, we explored the Docklands looking at the landscape and creating ways to transform it into a water smart city. Water recycling, community gardens for people who live in skyscrapers, vertical gardens and planting more trees were just a few of the ideas discussed.

Sarah from St Thomas the Apostle Primary School wanted to make water tanks an artistic part of buildings including making them transparent so water storage levels could be easily seen.

While students from Doncaster Secondary College were so inspired they were going to go back to school to pitch ideas for installing a rain garden. With their school about to undergo multi-million dollar works, they were also keen to find out if water-smart ideas had been incorporated into the building designs.



Let the learning begin... what is a water smart city?



Melbourne Water staff Jamie Ewert and Emily Kaye officially launched the conference and explained the concept of water smart cities. "When we talk about 'water smart cities' we're talking about our towns, suburbs, farms, factories, streets, schools, rivers and bays – not just cities!" said Jamie.

"We need to think about the way we use, manage, treat, protect and conserve our water and our waterways. Creating water smart cities is about bringing all these things together – water supply, sewerage, rainwater, stormwater, development, people and more," said Emily.

Jamie and Emily shared what they had learned from a recent study tour to Europe. Like Melbourne, Spain is also suffering a long drought. In Zaragosa, a city in Spain, they saw a community that had come together to develop new ideas to save water. By working together, sharing water saving tips and encouraging their neighbours to get involved they reduced their individual water consumption to just 90 litres of

water per day! Jamie and Emily explained that this shows the power of sharing sustainability ideas and being actively involved in these issues. They opened the Youth Conference by setting the challenge for each of the participants to be creative, be leaders and to swap their ideas so that we can make each of our cities and towns the world's most water sensitive cities!

Students from Caulfield Grammar then performed a fantastic dance routine followed by a presentation based on a 'Big Brother' style competition for water smart cities. Students playing the roles of three mayors explained to 'Big Brother' about the water-saving initiatives each of their cities had implemented to improve water conservation. After judging each city's presentation, the winning city was presented with a bouquet of shower roses! "We want to ensure the message of water smart cities gets across and that everyone is aware," said Alex from Caulfield Grammar.

Media stars

With drought a crucial issue affecting all of our lives, media were keen to cover the conference to find out what students think about water in our environment. Kira from Vermont Primary School spoke confidently to a Channel 10 news crew. "It was very exciting," she said. "I spoke about why the environment is important. I'm going to call mum and tell her to tape the news."





Media Monitors

For the first time, Melbourne Water and Firestarter engaged students as the official 'media team' for the conference. Students from St Monica's Secondary College teamed up with professional film company, Global Vision Media to provide a lasting visual of the 2009 Melbourne Water Youth Conference.

Designed, shot and produced entirely by the students with the help of GVM's equipment, learning materials and mentorship, the video aimed to capture conference participants' beliefs for what a water smart city should, and could look like as well as demonstrating the value of peer-to-peer learning.

melbournewater.com.au/youthconference



Other media covering the conference included:

- ABC Country Hour Victoria
- 9am Kim and David, Channel 10
- 11am News Channel 10 National News, Emily Rice report
- Mentions as part of World Environment Day on Magic 1278, Mix 101, 3AW, 3CR, 3MA Mildura, Star FM Mildura and ABC Statewide Drive
- Triple J Hack Current Affairs
- Triple J Heywire
- ABC Radio (Rural Victoria)
- S-Press Student Magazine
- Jetstar Magazine (June edition – page 43)
- OUTthere Rex Magazine (June edition)

To view or listen to our media stars in action, visit the Melbourne Water website at melbournewater.com.au/youthconference



Presentation Time

'Kids teaching kids' was the emphasis on the first day of the conference as students from 15 schools calmed their nerves and presented a broad range of topics from the benefit of vertical gardens to protecting endangered marine life. The confidence, professionalism and passion from both presenting and participating students are a credit to all schools involved in the conference. Congratulations on all of the fantastic presentations.

Beaconsfield Upper Primary School

What on Earth?

Ethiad Stadium was visited by extra-terrestrials during this presentation, as aliens from Planet Sedna descended to Earth looking for their environmental god 'Big Red'. The benefits of rain gardens and vertical gardens were demonstrated during this play with the aid of fabulous visuals and handouts. Teacher Rhonda Clifford said her students had learnt to work as a team as they prepared their presentation. "The kids have increased in confidence and knowledge," she said. Drew from Kinglake West Primary School said, "I knew about vertical gardens because I read about them in the Herald Sun, but I didn't really know how it worked so I liked learning that stuff."

Bentleigh West Primary School

Celebrating Thinking Smart for Sustainability

Michelle from Bentleigh West Primary School wants other schools to follow their water-saving example. Students explained the different water-saving ideas implemented in their own school, while a fun play featuring characters such as Biodiversity Bob, Wanda Waste and Great Aunty Green highlighted how our views and water usage have changed over the years. Activities such as insect twister, a water-saving card game and a quiz reinforced their message, while lemon-scented bottlebrush seed papers were given out to plant in our own schools or back yards. "We learned about water percentages and how much water we use around the house," said Nela from Williamstown Primary School. "It was teaching while being entertained."

Brunswick Secondary College

Vertical Gardens

Students from Brunswick Secondary College gave an information-packed presentation on how to build a vertical garden and why they are a great option for cities that don't have access to vast tracts of open space. "It's great to see everyone participating and listening to all the information," said Jenny from Brunswick Secondary College. While Rebecca from St Thomas The Apostle thought vertical gardens were a great idea for improving cities and saving water.

Camberwell Grammar School

The Curious Case of Waterville

"Zippety Door, water waster no more," cried Aquaman, as he transformed the mayor and citizens of Waterville into water savers with a wave of his magic plunger. This play demonstrated easy ways to save water such as using a water-saving showerhead and not over-watering gardens. We then broke up into groups to write and perform our own plays on how to save water. Oliver from Camberwell Grammar School wanted people to see that water-saving can be fun. "There are lots of ways to waste water, but there are lots of ways to save water too," he said. Alex from Caulfield Grammar said, "It was a really entertaining way to show people that water-wasting is an issue. I learned that plants really don't need too much water."



Mill Park Secondary College

Stop bugging our bugs

Eugene Snail and Freddy the Frog were just some of the characters featured in this funky puppet play about why animals need clean water and the different ways we can do our bit to improve the environment. A rap song about phosphate, testing for phosphate in water samples, getting up close and personal with bugs and doing a quiz to learn about water smart cities were among the activities used to support their message. We also had the opportunity to take salinity and temperature readings to learn about the effects of abnormal readings on animal and marine life. "We learnt a lot of new skills and confidence from doing this workshop," said Darcy from Mill Park Secondary College. "We learnt how to work as a team which was really good." The workshops ended with students making a pledge they would commit themselves to keeping in 2009. Adelle from Copperfield College pledged to educate her school about the environmental dangers of litter.



Mother of God Primary School

Stormwater! Where is it going? How can we catch and use it?

A choreographed 'Singing in the Rain' routine complete with a rainbow-coloured assortment of umbrellas launched the Mother Of God Primary School presentation about harvesting rainwater. We visited three activity stations where we investigated the collection, storage and use of water in the home and school grounds. To conclude the session, we were given plasticine and icy-pole sticks and challenged to make our own water smart school. Karmen from Silverton Primary School liked making the models. "It was a good way to show what we have learnt," she said. Felicha from Mother of God Primary School said it was difficult to decide which topic to choose for their presentation. "But once we chose stormwater we learnt so much and had lots of fun along the way."



Overnewton Anglican Community College (Keilor)

P.L.A.N.E.T Homes

According to Overnewton Anglican Community College, P.L.A.N.E.T stands for Please Look Ahead Now Especially Today, and after explaining how much water is used in the lifecycle of everyday items such as 8000 litres to make a pair of leather shoes, it's clear we need to do everything we can to conserve this precious resource. We were treated to a colourful and vibrant presentation of water facts before breaking into small groups to examine water-saving devices and to learn how to change a tap washer. Presenters finished with a quiz giving water-saving devices as prizes. Liam from Overnewton Anglican Community College thoroughly enjoyed his presenting role. "The audience was really good. It really helps when the audience is responsive and interested," he said. "The game was fun because it was interactive. We learnt how much water we can save," said Olivia from Mother of God Catholic Primary School.

Presentation Time

Overnewton Anglican Community College (Taylors Lakes)

A Frog's Life

Jessica from Overnewton Anglican Community College wants to protect endangered frog life. "We want people to stop hurting frogs and make a stand on litter," she said. A play highlighting the plight of endangered frog species such as The Growling Grass Frog and Peron's Tree Frog was performed, as students aimed to raise awareness about the environmental problems caused by littering. We also participated in activities such as endangered frog bingo, a word guessing game and watched a video the school had produced. "I didn't know pollution was so bad," said Ivy from Williamstown High School. "It's good to know where help is needed."

South Gippsland Secondary College

Desal by the Sea Shore

With just one week to prepare their workshop, students from South Gippsland Secondary College created an energetic presentation on the pros and cons of the desalination plant being built in Wonthaggi. In simple terms, they explained reverse osmosis and how the desal plant will work, the reasons for its location and gave alternative options for increasing Melbourne's water supplies. Learning the science behind the desalination plant helped Marnie from South Gippsland College form her own opinion on the subject, while Patrick from Mordialloc College found the presentation interesting and illuminating.

Spotswood Primary School

The Water Smart House

Interactivity was the key to this presentation, as we raced to be the first to find people who did certain water-saving activities such as using a bucket to catch water in the shower. A fantastic soundtrack featuring the Batman theme song accompanied Spotswood's play and introduced us to characters such as Water Wally and the Drip Drop Sisters. It featured a series of scenarios asking us to determine which was the most water sensitive, while 'the Waterwatchers' also gave tips on water saving for all areas of the house and garden. "I enjoyed presenting," said Riley C. "Saving water is very important because we need it for the future." After watching the presentation, Liam from Teesdale Primary School said he was motivated to start using a bucket in the shower.



St Mary's Williamston

Where has all the water gone?

Once a month, students, parents and teachers from St Mary's Williamstown rode their bikes to local wetlands to study insect life living in the water. These study tours formed the inspiration for their colourful play, as they acted out the challenges faced by different insects such as boatmen and dragonflies. Meanwhile, "Professor Know It All" kept us informed about the effects of pollution, the drought and what we can do to stop insects from dying. "We wanted to teach the audience about why bugs are important. Bugs are dying due to lack of water and then this affects the food chain as other animals depend on bugs as a food source," Caitlin from St Mary's Williamstown said.

Teesdale Primary School

Live from Turtle Bend

Teesdale Primary School students became budding journalists and newsreaders as they presented stories about the challenges facing endangered turtles in their own 'Kids News' production. Games such as 'musical turtles', 'make your own turtle' craft activity and a trivia session helped emphasise the environmental messages of the play. "We wanted the audience to learn about the Eastern Long-necked Turtle because it is an endangered species," said Bridie. "I think the message was not to waste or pollute water," said Will from St Mary's Williamstown. "Making our own animals was fun."

The Grange P-12 College

Our River, Our Life!

Highlighting the plight of the Werribee River was the goal for students from The Grange P-12 College, as they performed a play from the point of view of a platypus. "We hope people leave this room and become better water smart people", said Thisun. Following the play, we split into groups to build our own water smart cities from craft supplies and were then invited to sign a petition asking the council to stop motorbike riders from destroying Werribee River. "I liked making the models and I learned that swales have plants in them," said Wyatt from Kinglake West Primary School. "There's a lot more to saving water than I thought and we need to be smarter," said Stephanie from Whittlesea Secondary College.

Williamstown Primary School

Top Blokk Designs

Williamstown Primary School created Top Blokk Building Company to help recruit new water smart builders at the conference. With the aid of diagrams, models and pictures, four interactive stations taught us about topics such as water smart building design using porous paving and rainwater tanks, water-saving tips for inside the home and water smart gardens. We then prepared for a job interview in the form of a quiz. Rachel from Oxley College had never heard of porous paving and was going to tell her parents all about it. While Elizabeth from Whittlesea Secondary College is going to look for 6-star appliances when she buys a home when she's older. "We learnt so much about the environment and native plants," said Chloe from Williamstown Primary School.

Williamstown High School

Water Action?

Saving Jawbone Marine Sanctuary from damaging stormwater pollution was the mission for students from Williamstown High School. In this presentation we learned how students built wetlands on their middle school campus to purify stormwater before it reached the neighbouring sanctuary. The wetlands not only helped to clean the stormwater, but also provided new habitat for birds and gave students the opportunity to further their environmental education in an interactive format. Demonstrations displaying the water cleansing process, a detailed scale model of the wetlands and planting grass seeds to take home helped explain how to build our own wetlands. Patrick McCormick from Melbourne Water was impressed with the interactive nature of this presentation. "This has to be the first time that I have seen the benefits of a stormwater quality wetland explained in such an accessible way," he said.



Congratulations

While all of the presenting schools were fantastic, four schools gave outstanding presentations and have been chosen to show them at the MDBA International River Health Conference in Canberra (October 18 – 21). Congratulations to Williamstown High School, Spotswood Primary School, Silvertown Primary School and Overnewton Anglican Community College, Taylors Lakes. "When our name was called to say we had won we didn't realise at first. Then when it sunk in we were so excited. We can't wait to present in Canberra," said Shahnae from Williamstown High School.

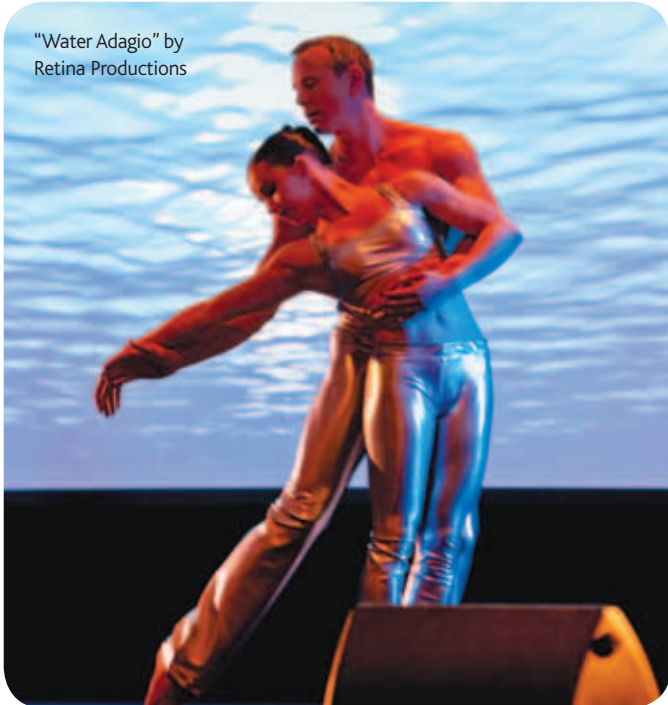
In addition, students from Melbourne Girls College have also been selected, after they were quarantined due to swine flu and forced to withdraw from the conference. Based on their stellar presentations over the past two years at the conference, Melbourne Water believes they have earned the opportunity to present their water smart views in Canberra. Good luck to all of you when you head to our nation's capital later in the year.



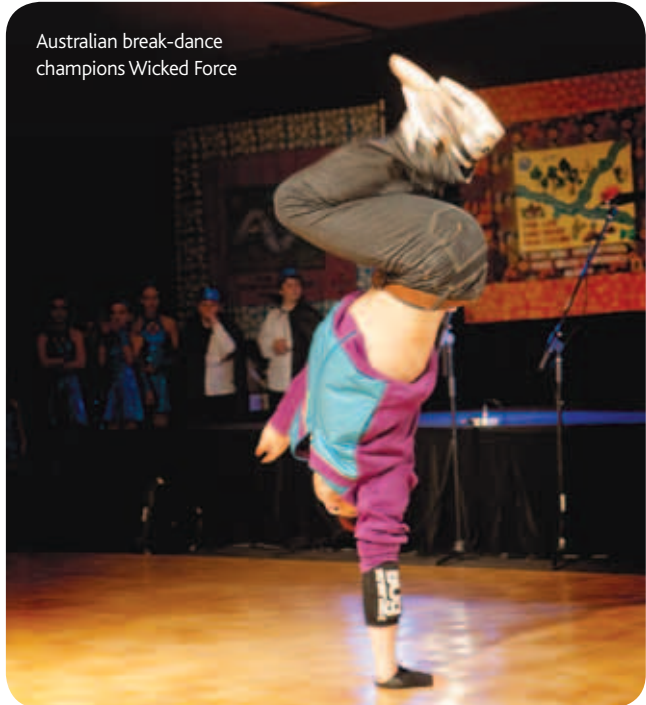
Mildura West Primary School
- A Rural Water Smart City



MCs Arron Wood (Firestarter) and
Shae Brewster (Saturday Disney)



"Water Adagio" by
Retina Productions



Australian break-dance
champions Wicked Force



Vermont Primary
School perform



The crowd!



Dale Thomas,
Collingwood
Football Club

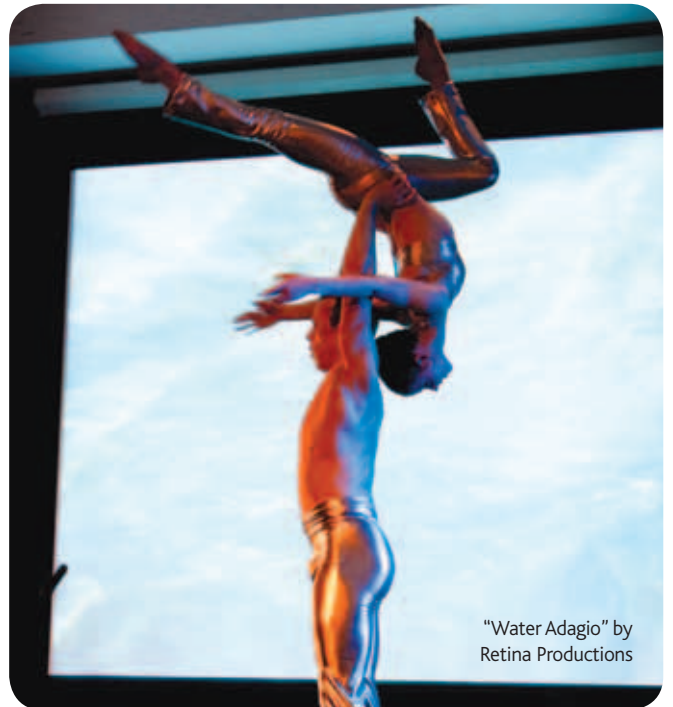


To JAKE
GOSPER.
2013.

Gala Dinner

Take one Saturday Disney star, one stellar AFL footballer, one inspiring TV journalist, an opening dance spectacular, two fabulous school presentations and music from FisherKing and you've got the recipe for an amazingly entertaining dinner. Check out these photos of how much fun we got up to.

Thanks to sponsors Melbourne Water, Bunnings, EPA Victoria, Australia Post and Melbourne Zoo for a fantastic evening. Thank you to our guests Shae Brewster, Dale Thomas, Emily Rice, Retina Productions, Vermont and Mildura West Primary Schools.



Emily Rice, Environment
Reporter Channel 10



FisherKing (Triple J Unearthed band)



World Environment Day at Melbourne Zoo

What better way to celebrate World Environment Day than surrounded by some of the most majestic and exotic animals in the world? Melbourne's Lord Mayor, Robert Doyle, Melbourne Water Chair, Cheryl Batagol and Melbourne Zoo Director, Kevin Tanner welcomed students to the Zoo and congratulated them as young environmental leaders, and encouraged them to have fun and enjoy the many activities on offer around the zoo grounds.



Drawing on culture

Jamie from the Kgnanai community taught us about the different uses for some Aboriginal implements such as the banksia flower used as water filters, a bullroarer for communication and dingo skins as bags. "We want to show the kids that indigenous implements have multi-functional uses and that we don't need to use as many resources from the environment," Jamie said.

Meanwhile Mandy from the Wurundjeri community, told us stories about where the platypus originated and how the Yarra River was formed. Using inspiration from what we had just learned, we then made our own chalk drawings on the main pathway inside the zoo's entrance to share what we had learned with the general public.

Water poo-llution

We never knew how important dung beetles are to cleaning up the environment until we took part in this activity from Melbourne Zoo. Led by the Melbourne Zoo team, we identified bugs that live in different ponds from around the zoo grounds and learned about things that pollute our waterways and what we can do to help preserve them. Each of us were given our very own dung beetle to release somewhere into our local environment to help get rid of poo before it reaches our waterways.

Donna from Melbourne Zoo said, "We want to let people know that everybody can do something to help save the environment. The fact that we can get kids excited about dung beetles, says it all."

"I learned that a lot of water is polluted by poo and carbon emissions and that plants can help us clean up our waterways," Brianna from Overnewton Anglican Community College, said.

The making of a masterpiece

Creativity, originality and fun were required during the creation of a 16-panel water smart city mural. We decorated large canvasses featuring silhouettes of a stereotypical city with ideas and inspiration from the conference to show how we would transform a current city into a water smart one. Water tanks, water-recycling plants, timed showers and native gardens were some of the features painted on the mural. Australia Post will turn our masterpieces into postcards and the finished mural pieces are available to our conference sponsors, councils and schools to host.

Janine from Future Canvas was impressed with the creativity on display. "Once they got started they didn't want to stop," she said.

Brian and Tom from Camberwell Grammar were looking forward to other people seeing their artwork. "It's really exciting that the mural is going to be made into postcards," they said.



Do you know what a water smart city is?

Believe it or not, there are plenty of people around who have never heard the term 'water smart city'. During this activity we split into groups and toured the zoo, surveying people about their thoughts on water smart cities.

The survey asked the public about their vision of a 'water smart city', how long it should take to achieve this vision, and what kind of water smart things they already did in their own homes.

The last question used a series of photographs (a street drain, a streetscape and a car park) to understand which option people would rather see in their community.

Year 9 students, Jen, Sophie, Kathryn and Darcy from Tintern Girls Grammar School, took on the job of analysing the 99 surveys and here's some of what they found:

- Recycling, lower usage, innovation and better catchments were just some of the words used by people to describe what a water smart city means to them
- 50% of people think it should take between 1–5 years to achieve a water smart city, an encouraging sign that most people understand that prompt action is required
- People seem to be willing to take a proactive role in saving our precious water resources even if it means spending money on installing water tanks (11%) or buying new water smart appliances (22%)

But despite some people demonstrating good knowledge of water smart cities, Amy from Mill Park Secondary College learned that we still have lots more to do to make people more aware about doing their bit to help save water. "We were shocked to learn that not many people know what a water smart city is," she said.



Water is life

Not taking water for granted was the lesson Parks Victoria wanted us to learn as we acted out the lifecycle of water. We explored the way we view water and how our attitudes have changed over the last 200 years. "It makes us think more and encourages us to change our behaviour," Sarah from South Gippsland Secondary College explained. "If we appreciated water more we'd have more of it," Emma from Spotswood Primary School said.



Bird and Possum Box Making

You heard this activity before you saw it with loud hammering echoing across the Zoo. We built and decorated more than 40 bird and possum boxes for animals whose habitats were destroyed by the Black Saturday bushfires. This activity was so noisy it even drew the interest of a clearly confused wombat that came out of his burrow to see what all of the noise was about. "Hopefully birds and possums will use the boxes for homes," said Thomas from Bentleigh West Primary School.

Water Sensitive Gardens

Staff from Melbourne Zoo taught us how to grow water sensitive gardens by picking plants suited to the soil and environment of our local areas. We were encouraged to get our hands dirty by touching the different types of soil and we helped to plant some trees on the zoo grounds. Cinnamon wattle trees were also handed out to plant in our own schools.

"We're going to plant our tree at school, take a photo and then email it back to the Zoo as proof we are looking after it," Heather, from South Gippsland Secondary College said.

Miranda Armstrong, teacher from St Thomas the Apostle, was impressed with the gardening advice and her students were going to take what they learned back to school where they are re-vegetating an area of land. "You can't love the earth if you haven't touched it," she said. "It's crucial to learn how to plant water wise gardens so people continue to grow plants."



World Environment Day at Melbourne Zoo

Indigenous Hip Hop dancing

There were plenty of 'caterpillars' and 'emus' around during this activity, but not an animal in sight when Dion, Joel and Lucas from Indigenous Hip Hop Projects taught us some funky break-dancing and hip hop dance moves. Thumping music drew crowds from all over the zoo, as we learned moves like the running man, lawnmower and attitude pose.

Dion explained that we shouldn't worry about peer pressure and that we need to have confidence and be comfortable in our own skin. We learned about good sportsmanship and showing courage, as we competed in a 'dance off' in front of our friends. Showing strong leadership was also a key message for this activity particularly if we are going to go on to become young leaders for the environment and encourage others to save water.

Isabelle from Flemington Primary School liked doing the "random dancing." "We learned some new dance moves and my favourite was the sprinkler," she said.

Meanwhile after impressing everyone with his amazing moves, Leon from Overnewton Anglican Community College (Taylors Lakes) won a T-shirt for his efforts. "We're the youth and it's what you do that matters not what you look like," he said.

Leap Into Action

Frogs croak don't they? Well, the ones we listened to sounded more like geese honking than the noises we thought frogs made. Raelene, a keeper in the frog exhibit explained why frogs are so important to our environment, as well as teaching us to test water for acidity and alkalinity. "We hope to inspire you to help frogs," she said. Aimee from Oxley College loved this activity. "We learned that frogs are a great indicator for how healthy the environment is. The more frogs there are, the healthier the environment is," she said. To help protect our waterways we were each given a packet of environmentally sensitive washing powder that contained no phosphorus. We learnt that if we want to direct our washing machine water onto our gardens we need to use products that minimise the amount of phosphorus entering our waterways.

Water wise Aussies

Before the water treatment plant was built, all of the zoo's excess water was discharged into Moonee Ponds creek, which flows into the Yarra River and eventually Port Phillip Bay. Ben from Melbourne Zoo explained that since its completion in 2006, the Zoo has halved its mains water usage and recycled more than 123 million litres.

"It's good because they don't have to use tap water. The down side is that it uses a lot of electricity," said Jarrod from Whittlesea Secondary College. The Zoo is aiming to make the plant carbon neutral by 2012.

Afterwards we broke up into groups to conduct a scavenger hunt. We were given clues and had to work out which animal the clues referred to before visiting that animal's enclosure for the next clue. "It was good because they were teaching us to work together as a team," said Jarrod.



Hooks and Ladders

Have you ever wondered what life is like for a fish? Manningham Council aimed to show us the many dangers threatening the survival of the Australian Grayling by challenging us to make it through a 'hooks and ladders' obstacle course. Weeds, fisherman and predators were among the obstacles before we made our way up a 'fish ladder' used to help fish move upstream and over manmade barriers such as dam walls. "I learned about the challenges affecting fish. I'm going to try and find out more about it and see if I can do something to help when I get home," Chloe from Williamstown Primary School said.



We pledge for water smart cities...

At the conclusion of day two, student representatives from each school met with the mayors of 23 municipalities and Melbourne Water staff to sign a pledge agreeing to work together over next 12 months to implement at least one 'water smart' initiative featured on the Water Smart City mural. The 'water smart city pledge' is a symbol of the partnership between Councils, Melbourne Water and local schools on World Environment Day and our commitment to a sustainable water future.

Initiatives could include students making their presentation to council staff or installing a rain garden in a local park.



As a result of the conference here are a few things schools have suggested they will be doing to contribute towards creating water smart cities:

- "Make a computer screen saver for school reminding people to save water"
- "Plant native gardens"
- "Install water tanks"
- "Running water smart cities workshops for our whole school in term 4"
- "Our school is going to organise an environment day"
- "As a result of the conference our school is going to collect water from the sky and use it for the toilets"
- "I will plant more trees to save the environment"
- "Our school is going to design an eco-friendly cubby house with a water tank"

What we learned...

"I'm proud of my school, especially the way they embraced the whole learning process, were able to reflect on their learning and present with a passion for their topic and with enthusiasm."

Louis, (teacher),
Mother of God Primary School

"I thought the Water Smart City walk was very helpful because I learnt new words and ways to save water."

Mandy, Silverton Primary School

"The Water Smart City walk made me think about what we could do to change the city."

Charlie, Mother of God Primary School

I learned that kids have a right to change their world, and they can do what ever they want."

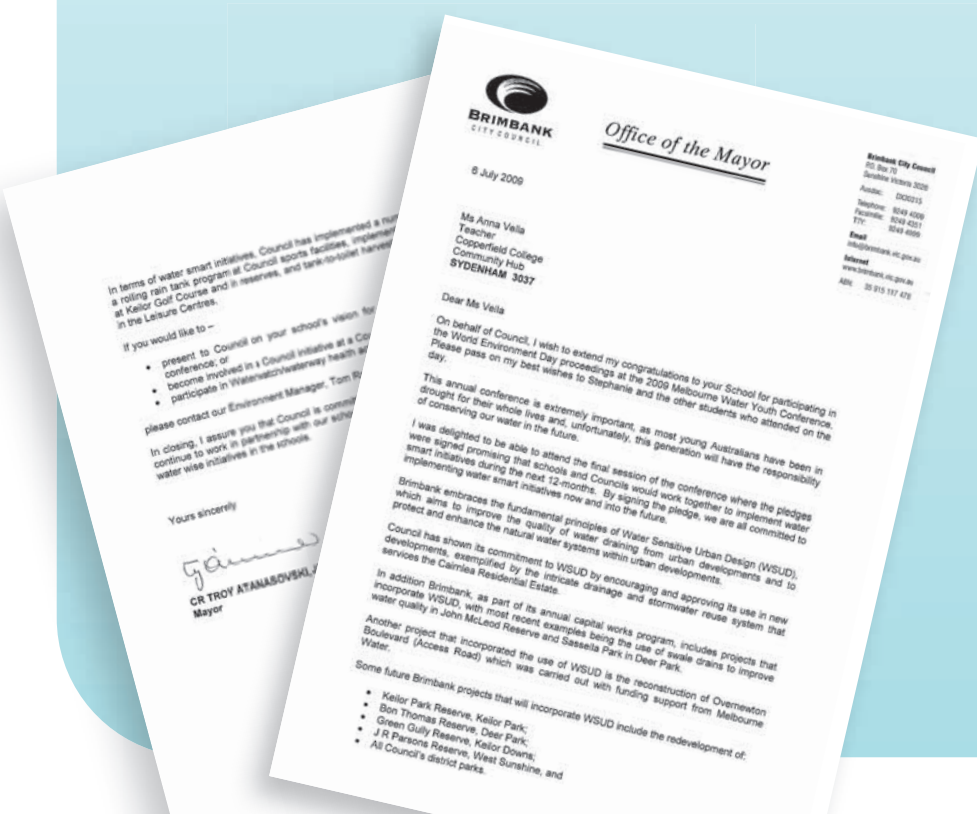
Claire, Silverton Primary School

"If you catch the water you can use it for other resources."

Felicia, Mother of God Primary School

"I learned that even though you live in the city, it doesn't mean you can't collect water you can use in bladders and water tanks."

Tara, Mother of God Primary School



Conference sponsors / supporters

Principal Supporter - Melbourne Water

Melbourne Water is owned by the Victorian Government. Melbourne Water manages Melbourne's drinking water catchments, treats most of Melbourne's sewage, and manages rivers, creeks and major drainage systems in the Port Phillip and Westernport region. Melbourne Water is committed to working in partnership to ensure a sustainable water future.

melbournewater.com.au



Conference Convenor - Firestarter



Firestarter is an award-winning organisation offering education, event and project management services for the environmental management industry. Firestarter developed the youth river health conference series using their kids teaching kids model and has extended this concept to coastal and environmental conferences, as well as professional development workshops for educators.

Firestarter

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Conference Supporters

