

MEDIA RELEASE

Narre Warren North's water warriors save with SWEP

5 September 2018

Narre Warren North Primary School (NWNPS) recently signed up to the Schools Water Efficiency Program (SWEP), thanks to South East Water sponsoring their program registration.

SWEP provides data loggers to Victorian schools to track their water usage which means they can detect leaks, save water and teach students about the importance of water efficiency.

Participating schools also receive access to a tailored curriculum program, which incorporates the school's water data in mathematics and sciences.

NWNPS's environment club were enthusiastic about saving water at their school. Environmental leaders Hayden, Luke, Oliver and Lyla recently spoke at their school assembly to encourage their peers to use water responsibly.

"We need to turn off the taps when we are not using them. Even if you see only a little bit of water dripping, please turn it off," said Hayden, Grade 3 student at NWNPS.

"Also, we could collect excess water and use it wisely – the environmental club will be looking into ways to reuse excess water, such as the water used from cleaning our compost tubs to feed the garden," added Luke, Grade 3 student at NWNPS.

With the help of their teachers, the environmental club have been proactive at checking their water usage on the SWEP portal daily and are hoping to see the school's usage decrease as they raise awareness about using water wisely.

On 5 September 2018, South East Water welcomed Beaconsfield Primary School as the 300th school in its service region to join to the SWEP program. Almost half the schools in Melbourne's south-east are now participating in the program.

In 2017–18, South East Water sponsored 40 SWEP school memberships and another seven schools over the last month.

Since the start of SWEP, South East Water's schools have saved more than 913 megalitres of water, worth an estimated \$3.7 million.

Some schools have even detected leaks on the first day after installing the data logger. St Brigid's Parish Primary School in Mordialloc was able to detect within a day that more than 850 litres per hour was being wasted – equating to 20,000 litres of water wasted each day or 2000 buckets of water.

The school was able to fix the leak which was found in their school hall, stopping the water before it damaged the foundations and floor of the building.

Schools interested in joining the SWEP program can visit <https://www.myswep.com.au/> or contact South East Water's Education Team on 9552 3231.

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