

Media Release

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An initiative of the savewater!® Alliance

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Mitcham community water savers honoured at prestigious awards

Heatherdale Tennis Club and Mitcham resident Janet Steele, were honoured for their water saving efforts at the prestigious savewater! Awards®, held at the Plaza Ballroom Melbourne on Friday night 23 March.

Jos Wolfkamp of Heatherdale Tennis Club accepted the award for 'community action' on behalf of the club. It is saving more than one Olympic sized swimming pool* of water per year, having replaced its eight En Tout Cas courts with a water saving Classic Clay surface – which do not need to be watered.

Ms Steele accepted the 'individual action' award for her new two-storey water-smart home, which is saving 125,000L of mains water over 282 days of the year and has a 60 percent self-sufficiency.

Kevin Walsh of Castlemaine and Barbara Hallett of Wonthaggi were finalists with Ms Steele; Mambourin Enterprises in Sunshine was a finalist with Heatherdale Tennis Club.

The savewater! awards® recognise and reward outstanding achievement in water conservation. They are an initiative of the savewater!® Alliance Inc., an alliance of metropolitan and regional water businesses from Victoria and New South Wales.

Says CEO Mr Nigel Finney: "It is clear that the innovative thinking for which Australians are renowned is being used to address the water challenge. I congratulate Ms Steele and Heatherdale Tennis Club for inspiring every day Victorians to follow their lead by demonstrating practical ways to rise to the water saving challenge."

Chief judge of the awards, Mr Rob Gell led an expert panel consisting of academics and industry and government experts. He says Ms Steele was honoured for her dedication, community work and outreach, great initiatives and savings. And that Heatherdale Tennis Club Great has demonstrated a great commitment to innovation, impacting on other sporting clubs across Australia who can replicate their system.

Winners were announced in ten Victorian-based categories. The 'product innovations' category was open nationwide representing the first time in the program's five-year history that it has extended beyond Victoria.

Hume City Council won the night's top honour, the overall Award for Excellence, for its municipal-wide initiatives.

Other savewater! awards® winners for 2006/07 are:

Built Environment: Coles Group Limited for Target headquarters, Geelong.

Education Programs: Bentleigh West Primary School, for its wide-reaching and innovative program.

Garden Management: Greenmark Landscapes, for its self-sustaining garden.

Government: Hume City Council for its range of water saving initiatives across the municipality.

Manufacturing: Qenos for water saving improvements to its manufacturing system.

Primary Industries: Gippsland dairy farmers Darren and Michelle Berryman, for new irrigation technology trials.

Product Innovation: Muller Industries Australia, for the Muller 3C, a hybrid alternative to cooling towers.

Regional Business: Linencare, Geelong for the use of water saving technology in its laundry.

Service Providers: Fishprint (Small Business) for its waterless printing press; and Yarra Trams East Preston Depot (Large Business) for its Green Depot pilot program.

For more information visit savewater.com.au

The savewater! awards® are made possible through the generosity of the following sponsors:

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New Water

** Based on FINA-approved Olympic sized swimming pool of 2.5ML.*

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