



Garfield Golf Club **tees up** huge water savings

THE FUTURE LOOKS SECURE FOR GARFIELD'S GOLF CLUB (THE CLUB) THANKS TO THE TIRELESS EFFORTS OF THE LOCAL GOLFING COMMUNITY.

BY WORKING TOGETHER TO overcome the greatest challenge in the Club's 80 year history, the course is now effectively drought proof, eliminating the need for mains water irrigation.

HARVESTING AND STORAGE OF STORMWATER TOGETHER WITH IRRIGATION IMPROVEMENTS, HAS DELIVERED AN AMAZING 81 PER CENT REDUCTION IN MAINS WATER OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS.

Since 2004 the Club has been actively addressing water efficiency, starting with the planting of Legend couch turf on the fairways and completely replacing pipework to eliminate leaks and improve water distribution efficiency. In 2007 the Club combined two small dams that increased storage capacity -to two million litres. The Club then raised the height and extended the perimeter of the main dam on the first hole. This resulted in a further 10 million litres of storage.

An electric pumping station and a new efficient irrigation system have been installed to ensure efficient irrigation.

The reconstructed dams have a total capacity of 14 million litres, supplemented by water pumped from an adjacent drain. This delivers a top quality green course for the enjoyment of members, ensuring the Club continues to be a focal point of the local Garfield community.

The required upgrades to drought proof the course took two years and were undertaken by volunteer labour from Club members and the local community, with financial support from the Australian Government Community Water Fund. All the new pipe work and control wiring was installed by volunteers, even the trench digger was supplied free of charge.





*Justin Lewis
(left), South
East Water and
Charlie Barnes,
Secretary
Garfield Golf
Club*

Charlie Barnes, Secretary of Garfield Golf Club comments,

“WE ARE A SMALL COUNTRY GOLF CLUB WITH A LIMITED CAPACITY FOR CAPITAL WORKS. TO IMPLEMENT A STORM WATER HARVESTING PROGRAM, ELIMINATING THE NEED FOR MAINS WATER IS A REMARKABLE ACHIEVEMENT INDEED, AND WOULD NOT HAVE HAPPENED WITHOUT THE DONATION OF VOLUNTEER TIME. WE ARE ALL VERY PROUD OF OUR ACHIEVEMENTS.”

Future plans include redeveloping the dams on the twelfth and eighteenth holes, enabling further storage capacity and playing surface improvements.

Any future development work on the course will be guided by The Club's Flora and Fauna Management Plan (prepared jointly with the Cardinia Shire Council and Department of Sustainability and Environment), to ensure the habitat for the endangered growling grass frog and southern brown bandicoot is maintained and enhanced.