

# Water for life

Teaching today's students about tomorrow's water

February 2008 - Vol 1

A message to teachers...

**Congratulations Logan!** Eighteen schools enjoyed Logan Water's Waterwise School Education Program during the last term of 2007. The visits provided positive feedback to students and parents on the success their schools have had in saving water.

On average, all schools in Logan have reduced their water usage by at least 50 per cent. Many schools also received federal grants which enabled them to put in water-saving devices.

As a result, many schools not only have rainwater tanks, but also waterless urinals and dual-flushing toilets. Water conservation is happening in Logan from the grassroots!

Class presentations were also part of the program and involved almost 6,000 students last term. These sessions usually involved a PowerPoint presentation and gave students and teachers information about the current water crisis as well as providing curriculum-based follow-on activities.

Students responded well to the lessons and were confident they could continue to save water and even further reduce their usage. Many were keen to put their detective, police and crime scene instigative skills into practice in the war against wasting water at home and school.

Teachers also favourably received the Broad-Brush Water Units prepared for junior and senior schools with stimulating activities covering all learning styles.

Many teachers commented on the interactive style, the group involvement and discussions as well as the inclusive participation.

These units were developed using skills and techniques from Eric Frangenheim, a renowned educator who lives in Logan. Watch out for the water-based workshops to be given by Eric in February, March and April 2008 on behalf of Logan City Council.

The workshops will supplement the Waterwise School Education program by providing teachers with learning tools and resources that support the water units.

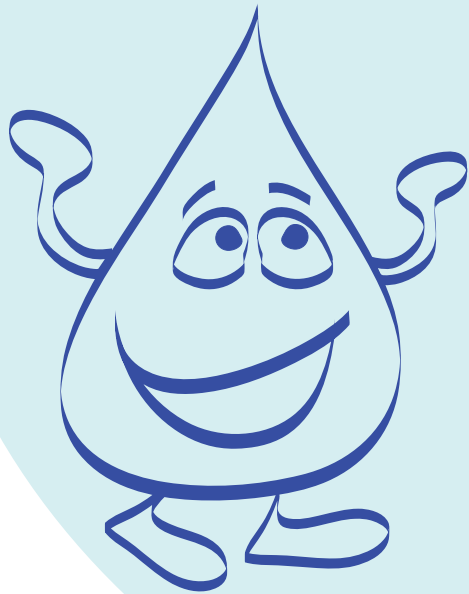
Workshops 1 and 2 begin on February 11 and 12 so book early if you would like to attend.

Contact : Dr Ian Johnson 3412 5475 or email [ianjohnson@logan.qld.gov.au](mailto:ianjohnson@logan.qld.gov.au)

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## Tell us your story

### Has your school done extraordinary things to save water?

Share your achievements and your ideas with other schools in Logan through this newsletter. Please email your story to [rebeccadull@logan.qld.gov.au](mailto:rebeccadull@logan.qld.gov.au).

Stories should be about 250-400 words. Please include a high resolution picture or photo related to your story if possible.

Water for Life will be produced regularly throughout the year. For extra copies or to give feedback, phone 3412 4513 or email the above address.

## Information for teachers

### Green voucher scheme

How your school can become waterwise.

The federal government has developed the Green Vouchers for Schools Program to help reduce energy costs and improve water efficiency across all schools in Australia. Each school is eligible for up to \$50,000 in financial support to install a solar hot water system and rainwater tanks.

For more information visit [www.mygreenschool.com.au](http://www.mygreenschool.com.au)

## Do you need help writing grant applications?

Logan City Council's Grant Writer Program is available to non-profit community organisations and individuals that operate in Logan City or demonstrate they provide services to residents of Logan City.

This program offers the opportunity to be referred to a professional grant writer who will provide guidance and educational assistance as you seek funding opportunities and develop your application.

Our website ([www.logan.qld.gov.au](http://www.logan.qld.gov.au)) has application forms (pdf format) for the program. For more information, phone 3412 5179 or email [council@logan.qld.gov.au](mailto:council@logan.qld.gov.au).



# Information to share with students

## Can you bust the myths about water?

**Myth: The drought has broken now that it rained over Christmas.**

Fact: Our dam capacity is less than 30%. The rain was a good start but it wasn't drought-breaking and we don't know how long it will last.

**Myth: We have less water today than we did 100 years ago.**

Fact: We have the same amount of water available on the planet today as we did when the dinosaurs roamed the earth.

**Myth: Once you use water, it's gone.**

Fact: After water is used it is recycled over and over again through natural processes.

**Myth: Most of earth's water is fresh.**

Fact: 97% of the earth's water is salty. Only 3% is fresh.

**Myth: Africa is the driest continent in the world.**

Fact: Australia is the driest inhabited continent and Antarctica is the driest continent.

**Myth: We should tow icebergs from Antarctica to solve our water shortage.**

Fact: In 1989, a South Australian Government study suggested the scheme would cost \$1.8 billion if it were possible.

**Myth: Businesses use most of the water.**

Fact: Irrigation uses 66%. Urban dwellers use 11% and industries (businesses) use 8.7%.



## Quickfacts

Water covers 71% of the earth's surface.

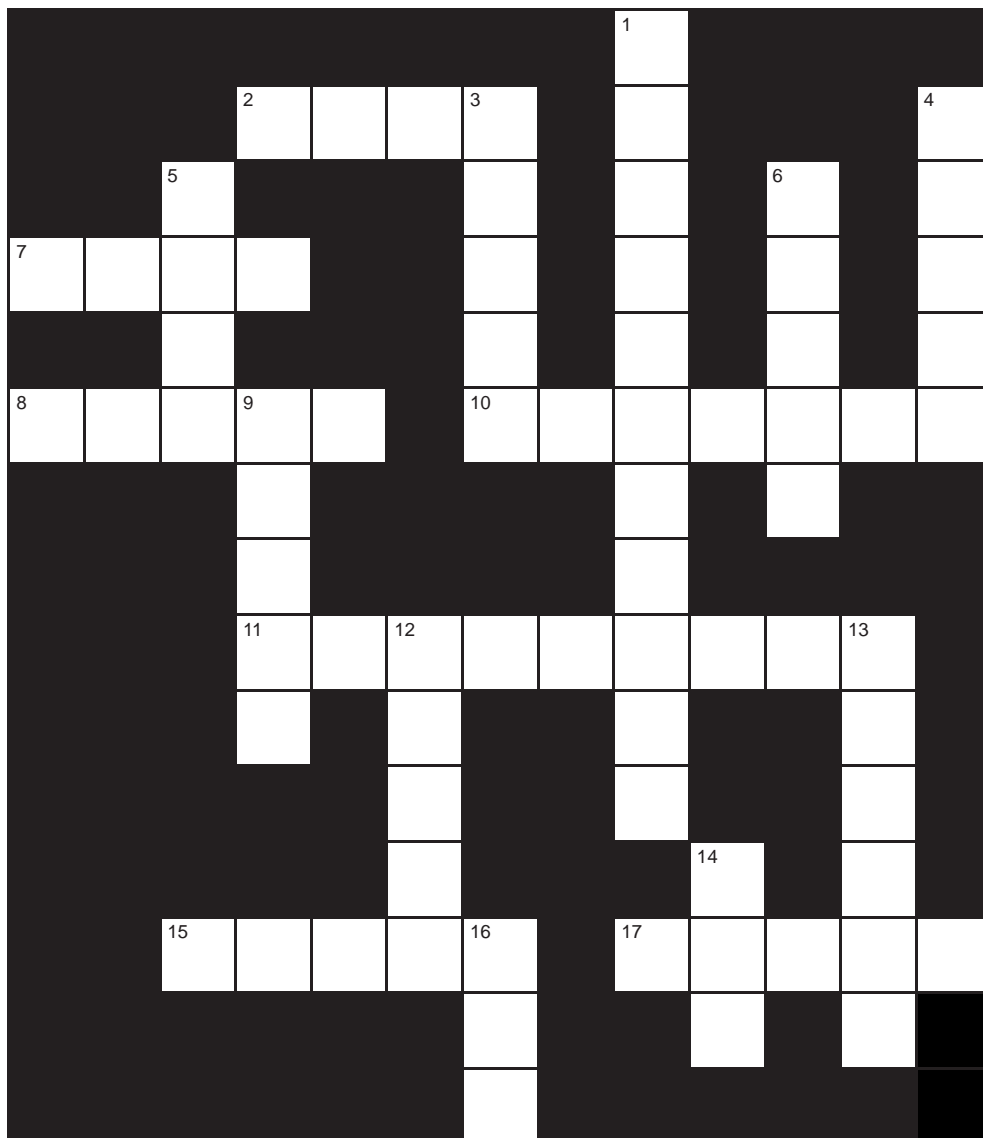
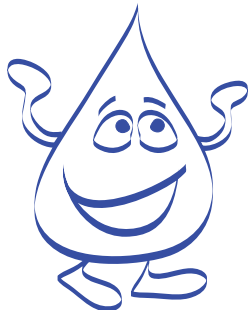
97% of the earth's water is found in oceans.

We need lots of fresh water to stay healthy. Lack of water (dehydration) can be the cause of many ailments. Adults should drink about eight, medium-size glasses of water every day to stay healthy.



# Activities for students

## Crossword puzzle



### ACROSS

- 2 A --- flush toilet uses 2-3 litres per flush compared to a single flush toilet (4)
- 7 Spend less than --- minutes in the shower (4)
- 8 Using this can reduce evaporation from your garden's soil by as much as 70% (5)
- 10 Water covers 71% of the earth's --- (6)
- 11 Install water --- showerheads, taps and toilets (9)
- 15 Adults should drink about --- medium-size glasses of water every day (5)
- 17 H<sub>2</sub>O is also known as --- (5)

### DOWN

- 1 What happens when we don't drink enough water (11)
- 3 Fix these and you can save water (5)
- 4 Clouds, rain, rivers, dams and evaporation are all part of the water --- (5)
- 5 Only run a --- load of dishes or washing (4)
- 6 97% of the earth's water is found in the --- (8)
- 9 Use one of these on your pool to save water (5)
- 12 We need lots of --- water to stay healthy (5)
- 13 --- 140 (6)
- 14 A place where water can be stored (3)



# Activities for students

## Competition corner

Logan Water wants you to put on your thinking caps (or should that be shower caps?) to win some great prizes for yourself or your class!

We will have a water expo during Water Week (19-25 October) themed "Water saving homes and schools in Logan".

Answer the following questions;  
How can my family save water at home? or  
How can we save water at school?

### Individual entry:

Years 6-7: Produce a powerpoint presentation with 10 slides and store it on flash drive or DVD.

Prize: iPod

Years 4-5: Produce a brochure (A4 double sided, three panels) with information and pictures.

Prize: iPod

Prep-Year 3: Produce a poster or sticker with a waterwise message (A4)

Prize: portable DVD player

### Class entry:

Prep-Year 7: Create a song, drama or dance routine and video tape it (no more than three minutes).

Prize: digital camera

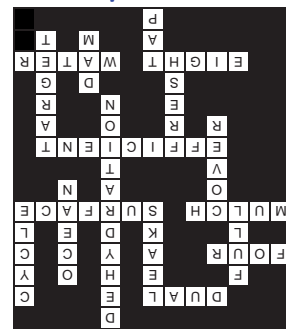
So get your imagination and enthusiasm going!  
Look out for entry forms coming to your school soon.

Artwork and posters will be displayed at the water expo.

There will be lots of prizes for attending the Water expo, including water-efficient washing machines, water-efficient showerheads, a rainwater tank, shower timers and waterwise plants.



## Crossword puzzle answers



## Word puzzle

Find the answers to the crossword puzzle in the find-a-word below. When you've found all the words, a hidden message will appear.

w s e c a d n a c l d t h g i e l s a v  
e w u a t e a y r e a t h o m e a n d a  
t s c r h o c m h o l b e a f x p b h a  
k l s g f l o y u q w s f t p m l x u h  
h w x d e a d c o v e r d t j n d y o a  
n m n c t r c k z f e f p a h m b d u v  
s d z h a a g e r k w j l p t z t p d u  
t e b t s n l o t z r d h t g y n o d y  
y t i g t e j h s l h v j c s p e f f m  
b o u w u q r o b w w v n s r r i s k y  
n o c e a n d f c y j k v u d q c u w b  
n j v q r k l u v j z d q n b r i c d k  
c j l v c z c q a u u e c q s l f r g l  
z c l x o l n h v l t i x b x p f l y d  
w o u u h i q r k s i k a q p x e z t m  
w a f p m v m b s n n y e x r s f z i q  
f v t d l n a n q k g k a i k f x u b q  
w p u e t a r g e t a f f m u l c h s j  
x c j t r e g f g j r e e a j t v t n p  
q o s q e g t j r v c o l f o u r t a q

## A waterwise message

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