Communal water supply at Burrandong and The Bowl.

Discussion starter by Keith Leech.

Background:

The communal water supply was created about 10 years ago and was originally designed to allow one standpipe and tap for each block to allow for modest use of water for gardens.

Many more people are now using this water supply and some problems are becoming apparent.

The system is gravity fed from the concrete tank at the end of Tallowood Road. Members that have blocks on higher ground are unable to get water unless the concrete tank is almost full. It used to be the case that the tank would be filled up and it would last for several days before it needed refilling.

This last weekend one of our members put petrol in the pump and ran the pump for several hours but was still unable to draw any water because the level in the tank was still too low.

Members who are on lower lying blocks are unaware of the problem because even with just a small amount of water in the concrete tank they will have a good flow. Some members have even connected up storage tanks with float valves so that as soon as there is any water in the tank it will flow into their tanks.

This is obviously not a fair system for all members.

The pump is now being used almost every day which creates a noise problem and even then the water level in the tank is always low.

Another problem is that the concrete tank is connected in such a way that water is pumped in at the bottom of the tank. This stirs up the sediment which means that the outlet pipes get silted up and the water quality is not good.

Solutions?

Members using the communal water supply should avoid excessive use of water and should not be using this supply to fill storage tanks or for automatic irrigation systems. It was designed to run hand held hoses only.

Members that require larger volumes of water should pump their own water from the dam through their own pipelines. Even then it should be kept in mind that the dam is not an inexhaustible resource!

Petrol pump or Solar Pump?

A petrol powered pump is a rather inefficient and noisy way to pump water uphill especially when the water is pumped in through the base of the tank. There is ongoing cost of fuel.

For a budget of approximately $1000 we could have a solar powered pump and a new pipe that would run to the TOP of the concrete tank and would supply approximately 5000 Litres per day average. Only a 1 inch diameter pipe is required and it does not have to be fully entrenched over the entire run.

I am prepared to research specifications and prices of a suitable solar pump and to accept ideas from any other water users.

Having the solar pump does not prevent us from leaving the petrol powered pumps in place as an emergency back up.

Would you please forward this to all interested parties.