



Water harvesting helps to deliver stunning results

Boys, staff and visitors returning to Scotch after the long summer holidays could not fail to notice and appreciate the beauty of the School grounds.

Flower beds were blooming, maintenance work had been completed in readiness for a brand new year – and most obviously, there was the brilliant green expanse of the Main Oval. Like all our sports fields, it had been maintained in magnificent condition during the long, hot summer and was primed and ready for summer sport.

The pristine surfaces of all our sports fields consist of drought-tolerant Santa Ana turf, fully maintained with recycled water drawn from Scotch's 5.5 million litre capacity tanks under the Melville (Lower) and McKendrick (Soccer) Ovals.

And, as Melbourne experienced a hotter and drier period than usual during February and March, Scotch could draw on its store of recycled water to retain the verdant greenness of its ovals.

As the cooler months drew on, the Main and Melville (Lower) Ovals were oversown with cool season perennial rye grass in readiness for the rigours of winter sport.

To the casual observer there was little change: just the usual magnificent expanse of green.

Green sward: the Main Oval with winter grass thriving.

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Cricket pitch consolidation on the Melville Oval

Following the relocation and centring of the cricket pitches on the Melville (Lower) Oval at Scotch, the Melville Oval has now been transformed (for summer sport) into a single cricket oval, while for winter sport it continues as a football and soccer oval.

The Melville Oval formerly had two cricket pitches, allowing two

games to be played; one each on the eastern and western sides of the oval. The loss of land to continued Tollway widening has led to a significant narrowing of the oval, and Scotch decided that the time had come to consolidate the two cricket pitches into one central wicket table. The loss of the second pitch will be supplemented with the availability of the H A Smith Reserve for cricket in summer.

For winter sports, the western side of the Melville Oval is used for soccer and the eastern side is used

for football. The relocated cricket pitches do not encroach at all on the soccer pitch, and encroach only on part of one wing of the football oval.

The relocated pitches are watered automatically using recycled water from the tanks under the Melville and McKendrick (Soccer) Ovals, as are native shrubs around the Melville and the adjacent Montgomery Field.

The new wicket table being installed in the centre of the Melville (Lower) Oval.

Working together to recycle food waste

Scotch's Grounds staff are working together with our contract catering supplier LAPG in a new programme to recycle food waste from the boarding house kitchen.

In just the first week of this food organics recycling programme, Executive Head Chef Steve Abrahams and his team put 157 litres of waste from boarding house food production into compost.

At present the food waste is collected by Scotch's waste contractors and taken to a composting farm, but Scotch's Grounds staff are proposing to build their own composting area, in which food waste could be combined with grass clippings from our lawns and leaves from our deciduous trees.

In time the food waste and green waste would break down into a rich organic fertiliser for use on our many garden beds.

The recycling programme has been introduced in tandem with LAPG's 'TRIM Trax' process, which involves accurately measuring, tracking and minimising food waste, raising staff awareness of and commitment to reducing food waste, minimising waste going to landfill, and cutting greenhouse gas emissions.



Terese Smith (Second Chef) and Michael Smith (Curator) start the food scraps recycling process.



'Elder statesmen' thrive on harvested stormwater

Among the thousands of trees and shrubs which grace the Scotch campus, the oldest of our magnificent river red gums are certainly the highly-respected elder statesmen. Some of these beautiful trees are more than 150 years old – not quite as old as Scotch, it's true, but still of a venerable age.

Many of Scotch's oldest river red gums are concentrated on the eastern side of the Montgomery Field, which is used for tennis during the summer sport season and for hockey in the winter.

To beautify this part of our superb campus, Scotch's Grounds staff have planted circular gardens up to 20m in diameter under each red gum, containing low-growing, drought-tolerant native shrubs, which cover approximately the area of each tree's canopy.

As well as the aesthetics, the densely packed nature of the shrubbery discourages boys from walking or playing directly under the trees, guiding them to an adjacent grassed area.

Along with all of Scotch's ovals and most of our flower beds, harvested stormwater is used to water the river red gum gardens.

The river red gums, and all trees on the Scotch campus, are managed under the arborco tree management system.

Australian native shrubs planted under the canopies of Scotch's magnificent river red gums.



Two thousand drought-tolerant native shrubs planted

A variety of drought-tolerant native trees and shrubs are now adding a splash of green to the steep embankment next to the McKendrick (Soccer) Oval, adjacent to Glenferrie Road.

The project has involved planting more than 2,000 Australian native trees and shrubs of many varieties along the McKendrick Oval's eastern perimeter, and along the six-metre buffer zone on the southern perimeter of the Melville (Lower) Oval.

In accordance with Scotch's policy of replacing like with like, young river red gums have been planted in the buffer zone next to the Tollway. Several mature red gums had been removed from near this area during the recent Tollway widening.

The recently-planted young trees are thriving, and will one day provide an imposing backdrop to the oval, while helping to mask the Tollway from view.

Recently-planted river red gums along the southern boundary of the Melville (Lower) Oval.

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