



Birchip Landcare Group and Birchip Lions Club undertook a project to develop a wetland system at the Pump Hut Reserve to treat stormwater captured from Birchip township's streets to be reused by the towns recreational facilities.

The project also benefits the environment by providing a source of open water for the areas birds and fauna and there is a picturesque walking track and seating for picnics.

The Birchip Urban Storm water treatment project officially opened on Sunday August 29<sup>th</sup> 2010 and the pump hut reserve water saving project won a Victorian Community Group Landcare Award.

## HISTORY

In 1901 the Water Trusts works had included dams and tanks such as Morrisons, Pump Hut and Campbells and a reservoir with a supply channel for the Birchip Township.

The south riding of the Birchip Shire was supplied by the Wimmera United waterworks trust but the drought revealed the weakness of the trust systems by bringing home to the districts especially in the western portion of the Shire how poorly served they were.

Inadequacies led to confrontations between town and country; there was vandalism, broken fences and cattle let into drink freely. In March 1901 there were complaints that the Wyche Shire were unfairly carting water from Birchip.

In March 1901 the reserve was locked up and this eventually led to the state beginning the extensive channel system in 1901.

1901- Sea Lake Channel 70 men and Tchum Lake Channel had 70 men and in 1902 - Relief system built the western channel through Ballapur, Kinnabulla, Curyo and Watchupga to Woomelang.

Ross O'Donnell and Rob Sanders provided some insights on the area at the time of the redevelopment, noting that around the 1940's it was a golf course, where drovers would stay on their way to the Western District, giving their stock time to rest and recuperate. Rob also remembered that there was a pump there with a hut built over it to protect it, as it was the earliest water supply in Birchip.