

NiE



NEW STUDY: Aquaculture plays a vital role in rural communities. PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED
Aquaculture key driver in rural communities
 A NEW report has revealed economies, with more than

Wordy news

AQUACULTURE – refers to the farming of plants and animals in all types of water environments.



Did you know?

World Water Day, on March 22, is about taking action to tackle the world's water crisis. This year's theme is: Why waste water?



A WORLD OF WATER

— We never know the worth of water till the well is dry.
 Thomas Fuller, 1732

WATER is an essential element. It is vital to all life. We depend on it, but we take it for granted and we waste it. We expect to turn on the tap and out it will come; clean, clear and plentiful.

The needs of our growing world are escalating and the demand on water is increasing.

It is important we manage water supplies more carefully, not just for ourselves, but to maintain healthy ecosystems.

Water is our most precious resource and it is so important that we conserve it.

Earth's water resources

Although water is seemingly abundant, there is a real issue in the amount of fresh water available to us.

Over 70% of our Earth's surface is covered by water but 97.5% of all water on Earth is salt water, leaving only 2.5% as fresh water

Nearly 70% of that fresh water is in the form of ice and permanent snow cover in mountainous regions, the Antarctic and Arctic regions. Most of the remainder is present as soil moisture, or lies in deep underground aquifers as groundwater not accessible to human use.

Less than 1% of the world's fresh water is accessible for

direct human uses. This is the water found in lakes, rivers, reservoirs and those underground sources that are shallow enough to be tapped at an affordable cost.

Managing our water

Water is an essential natural resource. It shapes landscapes and is vital for ecosystems as well as human well-being. But water is a resource under considerable pressure. It is therefore important to establish water smart plans.

A few ideas are: increase storage capacity and secure water supplies; improve the efficiency of water use – less waste; reduce water pollution and facilitate water reuse; safely treat and reuse waste water.

Watery Facts

■ The world's six billion people use 54 % of all the accessible fresh water contained in rivers, lakes and underground aquifers.

■ An estimated 783 million people do not have access to clean water

■ On average, each Australian uses 341,000 litres of water each year.

■ Water is the only substance on Earth which is naturally found in the three states of matter: solid (ice), liquid and gas (water vapour).

■ 2 out of 3 people will be living with water shortages by 2025.

IN THE NEWS

Records fall but not the rain

IF YOU thought this summer was hotter and drier than normal, you'd be right.

The figures are in and show that most of New South Wales and the southern two thirds of Queensland sweltered through one of the warmest summers on record with prolonged and, at times, extreme heat, with little rain.

Sydneysiders have endured their hottest summer since records began, Yamba recorded its driest February on record and Brisbane recorded its driest summer in 97 years.

But it's the lack of rain which is most worrying with below average rainfall extending across the eastern halves of Queensland and New South Wales putting a strain on our water resources.

CHECK IT OUT

Scientific rethink

IT WILL encourage curiosity, spark imagination, unleash potential and shape the future. There will be debates, interactive experiments and musical and theatrical performances.

It's a supercharged celebration of science. It's the World Science Festival and it's happening in Brisbane from March 22 to 26.

For a daily dose of water wisdom, check out Water Talks with science journalist Peter Spinks and special guests.

The fair, presented by the Queensland Museum, will give everyone the chance to be involved in workshops, discussion panels, experiments and demonstrations.
www.worldsciencefestival.com.au

NEXT WEEK: Commemorating coins – A five part special

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