

Sovereign Hill Museum Association

www.sovereignhill.com.au

Water Management

Today, as it was in the 1850s, water is at the forefront of the national psyche. Sovereign Hill sees itself as a conduit through which the story of water can be told, linking the lessons of the past with the opportunities for a more sustainable future.

In depicting the past, water has become integral to our operations. From maintaining the heritage gardens to operating the historic boilers in the Steam Operations area, our operational requirements have placed a heavy demand on mains water. The increasing pressure caused by drought conditions has led us to reduce our reliance on this resource.

To facilitate our water strategy, the Museum has gained financial support from State and Federal Government's. The Federal Government's Community Water Grants scheme has enabled us to channel rainwater from existing rooflines into a series of tanks joined by a gravity fed underground water spine. This currently satisfies the needs of our notable heritage gardens. The grant delivered by the Victorian Government's Smart Water Fund will be used by our Steam Operations to implement technologies such as a reverse osmosis system and gross pollutant separator that will reduce their reliance on mains water and water treatment chemicals.

While Ballarat was built upon the riches of the miners finds, the future of our Museum, this city and beyond seems now to depend on securing an even more valuable resource, water.