

## Neighbourhood watch

The Water Corporation knows the marine environment is of great concern to the Binningup and Myalup communities. Many locals have told us of the whales and dolphins that regularly visit the area. And, of course on more than one occasion in this column we have featured a photograph of a whale off Binningup taken by a local photographer. To ensure that there are no issues with the visiting ocean fraternity we have devised plans to manage any impact that the construction of the proposed new desalination plant may have on whales and dolphins in the area. The starting point of these plans will be that if a whale or dolphin is spotted in the exclusion zone, work will stop. Following initial investigations we concluded there were gaps in the knowledge of the numbers and migratory patterns of whales and dolphins in the Binningup area. To remedy that we have commissioned another study to add to the scientific knowledge of the local marine environment. This study will include measuring ocean sounds to accurately count cetaceans (the scientific name for whales, dolphins and other sea mammals) as well as aerial and land-based surveys. We invite community members to be involved in the land-based surveys. If you are interested, please contact the Water Corporation on 1800 810 075.

## Community fairs

Recently we took part in both the Harvey and Binningup Spring Fairs through information stalls that enabled us to discuss the proposed new plant with locals from these communities. While we fielded questions on many topics, people were very interested in our mini reverse osmosis machine which demonstrates how we are able to turn salty water into drinking water. Reverse Osmosis is at the heart of the technology that turns seawater into drinking water and the machine is a tiny version of the process used in the Perth Seawater Desalination Plant at Kwinana.



The Reverse Osmosis machine at the Harvey Fair attracted a lot of attention

Our picture shows John Goullee (facing camera) and Russell Roberts with the reverse osmosis machine prominent in the foreground shortly before the Harvey fair opened.

Any questions, please call 1800 810 075 or email [desalination@watercorporation.com.au](mailto:desalination@watercorporation.com.au)

