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New book shows how to reduce drinking water use by 96% in and around the home

Learn how to reduce drinking water in and around the home by 96% and still have a thriving garden with a new book from the Alternative Technology Association.

Water not down the drain: a guide to using rainwater and greywater at home, provides homeowners with a practical step by step guide to creating water smart homes using rainwater and greywater.

The book was written by Stuart McQuire, whose family home in West Brunswick demonstrates the effectiveness of using rainwater and greywater as a substitution for drinking water.

Using the recommendations outlined in the book, the McQuire family has reduced the use of drinking water in their home by 96%. They currently use less than 20 litres per day.

According to Mr McQuire, using rainwater and greywater is an easy and effective method for homeowners to reduce their reliance on precious drinking water for non-consumptive uses.

"The book shares what we as a family have learned and gives advice on water-saving options, so that readers can make the most of rainwater and greywater."

"In our home we have shown that sustainable water practices can be implemented successfully, even during periods of drought, without the need for costly renovation or rebuilding," Mr McQuire said.

The book contains over 150 pages of comprehensive information and diagrams on how you can sustainably use water including:

- Choosing rainwater tanks and harvesting rainwater
- Setting up a greywater diversion system for the garden
- Greywater treatment systems for the house and garden
- Health and environmental concerns with greywater
- Creating a raingarden to capture stormwater
- Cutting greenhouse emissions while saving water

The production of the book was funded through a Smart Water Fund Round 4 grant and was published by the ATA.

About the Alternative Technology Association (ATA)

The Alternative Technology Association (ATA) is a not-for-profit organisation that has been promoting sustainable building, renewable energy and water conservation since 1980. ATA publishes ReNew: technology for a sustainable future and Sanctuary: sustainable living with style magazines which are read by 60,000 people across Australia.

About the Smart Water Fund

The Smart Water Fund invests in innovation in urban water management initiatives and actively promotes the sharing of knowledge for ongoing benefits to the Victorian community. The Smart Water Fund is a joint initiative of Melbourne's water businesses and the Victorian Government that supports innovative water conservation, water recycling and biosolids management projects throughout urban Victoria.

To arrange an interview with the author contact Stuart McQuire on 0413 125 170

Water not down the drain is available for purchase from www.notdownthedrain.org.au and Borders bookshops

