

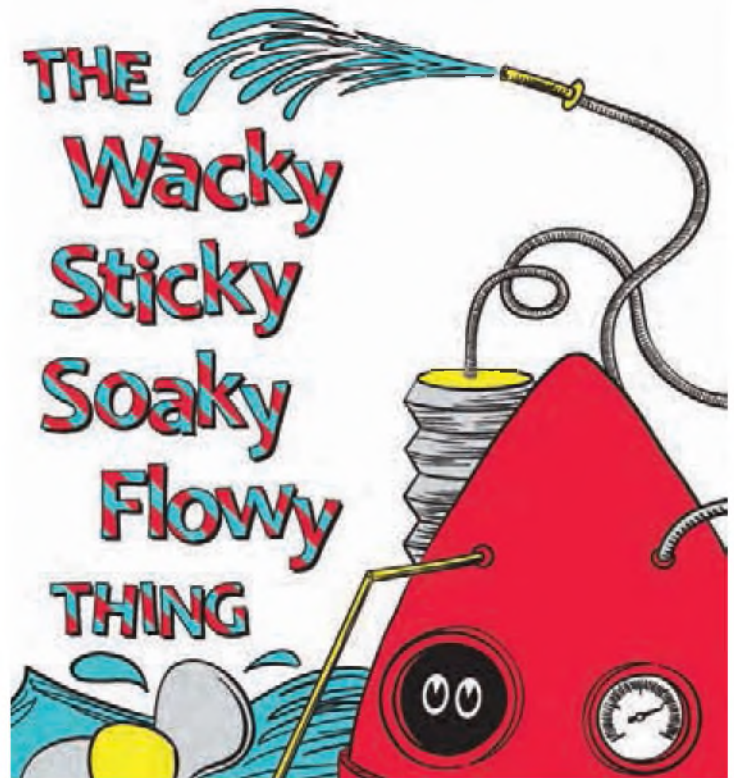
JUST ADD WATER

This year SA Water, the Art Gallery of South Australia and the State Library of South Australia partnered to deliver a program called *The Wacky Sticky Soaky Flowy Thing*. The program was designed to engage students ranging in age from four to 16, in water literacy by encouraging them to research one of five key areas and then challenging them to produce a creative piece to demonstrate their learning.

Students chose to focus on one of a choice of topics including the physical and chemical properties of water, the importance of water for all living things, the water cycle and how water connects everything on earth, social aspects or cultural significance in a program designed to cover a range of curriculum areas including science, studies of society and environment, art and English.

The *Wacky Sticky* program ran from February through October 2011. A wordpress blog (wackystickthing.wordpress.com/) fed teachers and students ideas for topics and resources. To stimulate ideas and assist students, the State Library created a library search tool, *Libguide* (guides.slsa.sa.gov.au/water) specifically on the topic of water.

In April, SA Water and the State Library organised a series of writing workshops with local children's authors Janeen Brian and Phil Cummings. Participating students were coached in writing either poetry or prose with a 'watery' flavour.



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The Art Gallery offered guided tours for schools from February through July, focusing on exhibits in the collection which have a water theme.

Over 200 creative pieces from 21 schools across South Australia were received including short stories, posters, paintings, poems and even a hanging mobile. The judges selected 79 for inclusion in an anthology published by SA Water and launched at the State Library on October 16th to kick off National Water Week, with students, their teachers and families in attendance.

A selection of entered artwork was displayed in the Art Gallery for the duration of Water Week. Students who were able to attend the launch were thrilled to visit the Art Gallery next door and see their work on display. The Gallery also offered further group tours during Water Week focussing on the theme of water in Australian art, and a series of watercolour workshops.

The anthology is free to view online via www.sawater.com.au/wackystick/ (hover your mouse over each image to stop the autoscroll) or printed on demand via [Blurb www.blurb.com/bookstore/detail/2564291](http://blurb.com/bookstore/detail/2564291).

As well as providing a creative, challenging curriculum-based activity for all South Australian students, this program has brought together two cultural institutions and a special technical library in a unique collaboration thoroughly enjoyed by all.

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