

# Flashback to FlushBack Quiz

*FlushBack*, takes you back to 1942 when the Spotswood Pumping Station was still in operation and an important part of Melbourne's first centralised sewerage system. It was built by the Melbourne & Metropolitan Board of Works (now known as Melbourne Water) between 1893 and 1897. The Pumping Station played a vital role in helping to overcome the city's public health and sanitation problems from 1898 until 1965. Almost 70 years! All the sewage collected in Melbourne's underground sewers passed through the pumps at Spotswood, on its way to the treatment works at Werribee. The continuous growth of Melbourne's population and deteriorating pipes meant that by the 1960's the Spotswood Pumping Station needed to be replaced. The Spotswood Pumping Station was replaced by the Brooklyn Pumping Station located at Millers Rd, Brooklyn.

*FlushBack* builds on your understanding of the importance of sewerage systems, and how they fit into the water cycle (natural and urban).

## What to do

*Circle your answer for each multiple choice question below to test your understanding.*

- 1. The function of a pumping station is to:**
  - a. raise or pump sewage up through sewer pipes so gravity can be used to make it flow to treatment plants.
  - b. pump sewage down into huge, underground pits
  - c. pump sewage to desalination plants
  - d. all of the above
- 2. In the 1800's Melbourne was referred to as 'Smellbourne'. The reason for this was because:**
  - a. people in Melbourne did not take baths very often.
  - b. people could not spell Melbourne correctly
  - c. lots of smelly factories were polluting our creeks and waterways
  - d. the constant smell of food cooked on the streets of Melbourne
- 3. The coal that was transported to the Spotswood Pumping Station was transported by a train and then the empty carts or wagons were transported back by a:**
  - a. horse
  - b. train
  - c. truck
  - d. ship
- 4. The boiler attendants at the Spotswood Pumping Station were responsible for stoking up the fire and keeping the pressure:**
  - a. above 150PSI?
  - b. at 150PSI?
  - c. below 150PSI?
  - d. none of the above



- 5. Each evening the boiler attendants would leave the fire in the boilers smouldering mainly because:**
- a. they wanted to keep warm at night
  - b. sometimes they forgot to put it out
  - c. it was quicker to get it going in the morning
  - d. all of the above
- 6. In Melbourne today, recycled water cannot be used for:**
- a. drinking
  - b. watering gardens
  - c. flushing toilets
  - d. firefighting
- 7. The Spotswood Pumping Station used to have a total of:**
- a. 10 boilers and 10 steam engines
  - b. 10 boilers and 5 steam engines
  - c. 16 boilers and 2 steam engines
  - d. 20 boilers and 8 steam engines
- 8. A particular bacteria absorbs the 'rotten egg' gas found in sewers and turns it into sulphuric acid which eats away at the concrete lining of the tunnels. The bacteria that does this is:**
- a. Thiobacillus bacteria
  - b. Giardia Lamblia
  - c. Salmonella
  - d. E. Coli
- 9. Stormwater and safely treated sewage water flow into our bays through:**
- a. two different pipe systems
  - b. one pipe system
  - c. three pipe systems
  - d. five pipe systems
- 10. A desalination plant removes salt from seawater clean enough to:**
- a. drink
  - b. water plants only
  - c. flush toilets only
  - d. use for firefighting only
- 11. Which of these can be safely flushed down a toilet?**
- a. poo, pee and flushable wipes
  - b. poo, pee and (toilet) paper
  - c. poo, pee and tissues
  - d. all of the above
- 12. Water available for use:**
- a. is a limited resource
  - b. should be used wisely
  - c. is a precious resource
  - d. all of the above
- 13. Melbourne's water supply comes from:**
- a. rain
  - b. stormwater
  - c. pumping stations
  - d. dams, reservoirs and desalination plant
- 14. Fatbergs are concrete-like masses that over time block sewer pipes. Some of the things that cause fatbergs to form are:**
- a. wet wipes
  - b. fats and oils
  - c. tissues
  - d. all of the above

