Future growth a key priority

Busselton Water has kicked-off two major projects that will deliver reliable water supply for our growing region into the future.

Upgrades to the Kent Street water treatment plant are in full swing, with the plant’s existing filters reaching the end of their life cycle and being replaced with new stainless steel gravity sand filters. The unpainted finish on the new filters will last longer and cost less to maintain than the current painted fibreglass, while additional stairways and landings will make operational access safer for Busselton Water staff when they’re on site.

Busselton Water is also taking a key role in the development of Yalyalup and surrounding areas through the provision of new water services infrastructure for the region.

Working closely with the City of Busselton and local landowners, Busselton Water has completed laying 1.8 kilometres of below-ground distribution water main. Next month, works will commence on the construction of a new pump station located adjacent to the airport. The entire project is scheduled for completion by late October 2018.

Busselton Water’s work is an important contribution to the development of the much-anticipated Busselton-Margaret River Airport project and the region’s ongoing growth and development.

Members of the Busselton Water Customer Advisory Group recently visited both project sites to review the extent of the works and how these projects will assist in the delivery of high quality drinking water in the most cost effective, safe and sustainable way.

For more information on Busselton Water’s major projects visit the project page on busseltonwater.wa.gov.au.

The winter sprinkler ban started on Friday 1 June – remember to switch off your reticulation or risk a $100 fine. Restrictions apply from 1 June to 31 August 2018. Sprinklers cannot be used at any time, even if you have your own bore.

Busselton Water Projects Officer, Murray Johnsen with contractor Cranford Plumbing at the Plant 8 airport site.

Busselton Water Operations Engineer Chris Vigus explains the importance of upgrading filters at Plant 1 to the Customer Advisory Group.
As it launches for a third successive year, the Busselton Water Community Partnership Program is seeing some great results from local community groups who received support over the past year.

Busselton Water is proud of its long-standing partnership with Disabled Surfers Association South West and its highly successful ‘Let’s Go Surfing Days’ at Bunker Bay, and the 1st Cape Naturaliste Scout Group, which installed a 25-litre electric hot water heater in its scout hall to provide hot water to the kitchen and improve safety.

Group leader Kelly Everett said the support provided has made it much safer and more efficient for the scouts.

“Previously we had to carry buckets with hot water from the toilet block to the kitchen to wash the dishes, or boil the kettle multiple times. The hot water heater is so much safer and makes clean up a whole lot easier,” said Kelly.

Busselton Hospice Care received support to purchase a 22,500-litre water tank and water pump for its Geographe Bay Centre garden refurbishment, which is now flourishing. The Manager of Geographe Bay Centre’s Busselton Hospice Care, Judy Waterman, said the garden’s future looks bright.

“Local sporting clubs also received support, including Busselton Swimming Club which has purchased poolside cages to store equipment, and the Robins Women’s Hockey Club whose goalie gear had a refresh.

Both the Busselton Junior Beetles Rugby Club and Busselton Surf Life Saving Club purchased necessary first aid equipment to ensure the clubs meet the health and safety requirements to keep members safe.
Safety strikes gold again!

Busselton Water CEO, Chris Elliott and Chair, Helen Shervington congratulating Busselton Water safety team members Steve Rickwood (L) and Graham Hansen (R).

Busselton Water has been recognised as a state leader in workplace health and safety after being awarded a Gold Safe Way Achiever Award in the 38th state-wide IFAP/CGU Safe Way Awards.

The Safe Way Achiever Award is awarded to organisations who are committed to their safety management systems and demonstrate this through exceptional safety processes, including safety meetings, planning, inspections and audits.

“Safety in the workplace is a major focus for us – we’re constantly striving to improve our safety performance and achieve best practice in safety management. To be recognised with a state-wide award is an incredible achievement for all of our staff, and our safety team in particular,” said CEO, Chris Elliott.

Planning and Safety Officer, Jarrad Leaver and Human Resources Officer, Carleen Stallard at the award ceremony. Photo credit: IFAP

Networking on an international stage

Three senior Busselton Water representatives flew the flag at Australia’s top international water event OzWater held in Brisbane.

Busselton Water CEO Chris Elliott, Projects Officer, Murray Johnsen and Board member Geoff Oddy joined thousands of representatives from water industry organisations for the three-day conference held in May.

The team had the opportunity to discuss water related topics and industry issues on an international level, while also meeting with the corporation’s current smart meter provider Itron (pictured left) and Telstra, who is delivering new smart metering technologies to the market.

It’s all about the environment!

Busselton Water is boosting its credentials as an environmentally sustainable business with its new Waste Management Plan – adding to its earlier installation of solar panels and award-winning geothermal project.

After conducting a waste audit, Busselton Water developed and implemented the new Waste Management Plan for the entire business, including the installation of recycling bins and compost bays with information on what can and can’t be recycled.

The Bokashi recycling bins are located at both the Busselton Water Administration Centre and Plant 2, where staff have been quick to recycle their waste.

Busselton Water’s Katie Biggs and Keith Mungham recycling their lunch and kitchen waste.
In celebration of World Water Day on 22 March, Busselton Water has applauded Ambergate residents Heather and Dennis Grimwood for the sustainable management of water at their 6,700sqm property.

The Grimwoods have proved that size is no barrier to reducing water use. Since moving from Perth more than three years ago, the couple has been committed to conserving water and has now been recognised as exemplars of the Waterwise Households in Action program.

Busselton Water CEO Chris Elliott said World Water Day was the perfect time to acknowledge households who are committed to saving water all year-round.

“World Water Day turns the world’s attention to the importance and sustainability of water. The Grimwoods are the perfect role models for their sustainable water management within their household,” Mr Elliott said.

The Grimwoods said they assessed their property for water-saving opportunities and are doing whatever they can to preserve water.

“We’ve implemented a range of waterwise measures including a 130,000-litre tank which collects rainwater run-off from our roof. It provides most of household water consumption needs,” said Heather.

Explorer searches for underground treasure

Busselton Water owns and operates a multi-million dollar network of bores and pump stations to extract water from the prehistoric Yarragadee Aquifer and reticulate it around the community. The deepest bore extends almost 800 metres below the earth’s surface to reach the massive freshwater reservoir.

For almost 40 years, hydrogeologist Grant Bolton (pictured left) and his fellow scientists at Rockwater have worked closely with the team from Busselton Water to design and manage the sophisticated system of bores, which bring water from the deep underground reservoirs (known as aquifers), to supply Busselton’s drinking water.

Mr Bolton was one the many champions highlighted during National Groundwater Awareness Week – a week-long program of activities that encourage the responsible development, management and use of our precious underground resources.

“Water is the most undervalued substance on earth. It’s also the world’s most extracted natural resource because we need it for everything we do – yet we can pay less for a litre of water than we do for a litre of fuel,” Mr Bolton said.

“The science we’re using is much more precise than when I first started. It allows us to carefully ‘farm’ groundwater rather than mine it. That means we can track usage and aquifer replenishment rates to make sure we take just what we need and to protect the supply for the future.”

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Busselton Water is responsible for providing drinking water to those who live and work in our local area. We’re licensed to service 688,000 hectares and maintain 320 kilometres of pipeline. We are not responsible for local drainage and sewerage networks – this is managed by the Water Corporation and/or the City of Busselton.

To get to know Busselton Water and our role within the local area visit busseltonwater.wa.gov.au