

WATERSOURCE

October 2018
Edition 27

WATER FOR ONE, WATER FOR ALL!

In the lead up to this year's National Water Week later this month, we challenged the Busselton community to artistically demonstrate why they value water.

In response, we received close to 200 inspiring entries – from locals aged from seven to 72! Collectively, the artworks will showcase the region's value for water as a permanent fixture on a Busselton Water vehicle.

Busselton Water CEO Chris Elliott said that National Water Week is a reminder that the need for water is common to us all, and together it's important that we protect this precious resource.

"National Water Week encourages us to think about how we use water and consider how we might do that better to ensure there will be enough of it for the future," Mr Elliott said.

"We'd like to thank everyone who contributed to this project – including Busselton Toyota for its generous

support, as well as all of our budding local artists and writers!" Mr Elliott said.

Keep an eye out around town for the National Water Week car in coming weeks and see if you can spot your artwork.



THANK YOU

to all of the entrants in the Water for All competition.

Winners will be announced in National Water Week.



To be the first to hear about water outages, service works and all our latest news, follow us on **Facebook @BusseltonWater**.

Record interest in community partnerships!

Busselton Water's commitment to the local community has seen a record nine local groups supported over the coming year.

In total, close to 20 local organisations and projects have received approximately \$30,000 since the Community Partnership Program began.

The third year of Busselton Water's annual Community Partnership Program received an enormous amount of interest with more than 20 local organisations and groups applying for support. In a record high, nine community groups will be supported by this year's Community Partnership Program and extend across all areas of the community.

The Busselton Toy Library was one of this year's successful recipients, now able to purchase water-related play toys for children under six thanks to the \$584 grant from Busselton Water.

Busselton Toy Library President Brady Van Wyk said this is the first time they've applied and were so grateful for Busselton Water's support.

"This is the first time we've been able to purchase water-based toys which will provide local kids with hands-on opportunities to explore water and the different ways water is a part of the world – it's a brilliant addition to our toy collection," Ms Van Wyk said.

2018-19 recipients:

- **Busselton Aero Club** – safety equipment and learning resources for its Young Flyer's Club
- **Busselton Bowling Club** – for equipment to support its Junior and Disabled Bowls programs
- **Busselton Croquet Club** for a new hot water system
- **Busselton Toy Library** for new water-based learning resources
- **Busselton Volunteer Fire and Rescue** for new cameras and safety equipment
- **Cornerstone Christian College** for a sustainable garden
- **Disabled Surfers Association South West** for its Disabled Surfers program
- **Southern Capes Motorcycle Club** for the completion of a disabled toilet
- **Vasse Royals Football Club** for a new storage trailer



South West Home Education Association

Students a full bottle on water process

Water was a focus in many classrooms across Busselton in Term 3 – with some 70 students lucky enough to tour Busselton Water's water treatment plant the journey water takes from aquifer to the kitchen tap.

During the tours, members of our operations team at Busselton Water educate the students about the importance of conserving water for the future and how they can start now.



Busselton Senior High School



Cornerstone Christian College

Schools or other groups interested in touring our plant can contact us on 9781 0500 or email admin@busseltonwater.wa.gov.au

THINKING GREEN

Our focus on driving energy efficiency across the business has seen us expand our bank of solar panels and take a new and innovative approach to securing a new energy partner.

In a first for Busselton Water, we used a specialist energy management company, EnerNOC, to assist us in engaging a new energy supplier.

"The energy market is complex and ever-evolving, so to have specialists who can use their expertise to advise us was tremendous. They were powerful negotiators for us and offered market insights, modelling and specialist advice along the way," Busselton Water CEO Chris Elliott said.

The resulting partnership with Alinta Energy is expected to reduce



electricity costs right across the business, which will ultimately benefit our customers.

In a further effort to reduce our carbon footprint, we also extended our partnership with West Australian Alternative Energy by installing 70 new solar panels on our Administration Centre building on Fairbairn Road. We expect to offset almost half of the power we use each year.

Project update

Our project team has been hard at work on the new pump station to provide water services to Busselton Margaret River Regional Airport. As it nears completion, onlookers may have noticed the walls go up for the pump house and the site active with heavy machinery.



Busselton Water's Keith Mungham and Chris Vigus with the team from Geobay Constructions

Upgrades to the Kent Street water treatment plant have also hit the half way mark, with the original aged filters removed and the new filters set to arrive next month!

Both projects will play a key role in delivering reliable water supply for our growing region, and are expected to be completed by the end of the year.

LOOK OUT...
SUMMER IS
COMING!

Even though some mornings are still a little chilly, winter is now over. A water-friendly reminder from us to you:

- There's no need to overwater – wait until the weather really warms up before watering your plants frequently
- Remember that sprinkler season comes with the sprinkler roster! You can find this roster at busseltonwater.wa.gov.au

HOW DO YOU measure up ?

Starting each year on 1 July, Busselton Water 'resets' its customers' water consumption charges to the lowest rate per kilolitre of water. Householders are charged this rate until their cumulative water use reaches the next threshold, triggering the next higher rate per kilolitre to be charged.

We're now a third of the way into the year and we're asking – how do you measure up?

On average, each Busselton Water residential household uses around 270 kilolitres of water every year.

It's not too late to start thinking about how you can reduce your water use to save on your next two water bills," Mr Elliott said.

"Water bills are made up of two components – water consumption and a supply charge. The supply charge is a flat rate, but water consumption is calculated from water meter readings three times a year – in October, February and June.

"The rate you are charged per kilolitre for your water increases in line with your cumulative annual water consumption. So at the end of the day, if you use less water throughout the year, you'll end up paying a lower rate for your water."



Celebrating OUR PEOPLE

Managing our business and our vast water network takes a skilled team – and over the past few months we've welcomed a host of new faces at Busselton Water.

Monica Birkner has recently joined us from the Top End as our General Manager Business Services. She brings a wealth of experience in government, change management, human resources, governance and compliance, and strategic planning.

Christine Pidgeon has also joined our Business Services team as Manager Finance. She will be responsible for our statutory reporting requirements and will lead the strategic financial plan and our annual budget process.

With a number of major projects also on the go, the Operations team is also expanding under the command of our new General Manager Operations, Chris Vigus. Chris brings 40 years' of water industry experience including a background on hydraulic analysis and the development of associated software. Murray Johnsen has also been welcomed to the role

of Operations Engineer and the appointment of a new Projects Engineer is expected to be finalised later this month.

Busselton Water would also like to extend a very warm welcome to three new Board members – Dr Gae Synnott, Dr Robyn Paice and current CEO, Chris Elliott. Together, Gae, Robyn and Chris bring more than 70 years of experience in water policy, aquatic ecosystems, management, social sciences and infrastructure development to our expanded Board of seven.

As we welcome our new Board members, we farewell and extend our gratitude to two outgoing Board members – Matt Walker and Chris Boulton. Both Matt and Chris have



Monica Birkner, Christine Pidgeon, Murray Johnsen and Chris Vigus

been extremely committed members of the Board, providing sound leadership, guidance and advice for many years.



20 years of service

Our Distribution Officer Graham Hansen (known around town as Hanna) has notched up two decades of service to the Busselton community through his role at Busselton Water. Thanks Hanna for your ongoing commitment to our team and for your great sense of humour!



A HEALTHY team!

Busselton Water values a healthy and happy team from inside to out. We were pleased to welcome People Sense Director Darrin Brandis to talk to our team about the importance of mental health and run a mental health awareness workshop. Darrin is an experienced corporate psychologist with decades of experience in workplace rehabilitation as well as learning and development.

In the coming months, staff will also have the opportunity to receive skin cancer checks, as we continue to work to enhance our team's health, safety and wellbeing.

HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW ABOUT BUSSELTON WATER?

Did you know Busselton Water is owned by the State Government and accountable to the Minister for Water?

Busselton Water is one of five major drinking water suppliers in WA, guided by government policy and legislation, but delivering at a local level. We employ 32 local people and for more than a century have played an important role in the development of our region.

To get to know Busselton Water visit busseltonwater.wa.gov.au

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LOCAL STAFF

110+
YEARS OF SERVICE


MAJOR WA
DRINKING WATER
SUPPLIERS