

WATERSOURCE

June 2021
Edition 34

IT'S TIME TO FLICK THE SWITCH AND SAVE!

Remember to turn your sprinklers off between 1 June and 31 August for the state-wide sprinkler switch-off and together we'll save five billion litres of water. With mother nature taking care of your garden for you, there is no need to have your reticulation on this winter.

Hand watering is still allowed – so if any of your pot plants are looking particularly thirsty you can still give them a drink if need be.

You're also able to test your newly installed or repaired reticulation system during the switch-off, just remember to keep your run times to under two minutes per station, and only test on your regular watering days.

For the full list of rules surrounding the state-wide sprinkler switch-off visit busseltonwater.wa.gov.au.



CUSTOMER SURVEY NOW OPEN!

WHAT ARE WE DOING RIGHT? HOW CAN WE IMPROVE?

Let us know by completing our survey and for your chance to win amazing prizes – from a Weber Baby Q, waterwise garden pack or Apple Air Pods, to vouchers to Orana Cinemas, Western Growers Fresh and the Busselton Jetty.

To fill in the survey simply scan the QR code or visit busseltonwater.wa.gov.au.

THE FIRST
100 CUSTOMERS TO
COMPLETE THE SURVEY
WILL RECEIVE A \$10
CREDIT TO THEIR
WATER ACCOUNT!



Owned by the
people of WA

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HANGING UP THE HI-VIS

After 45 years at Busselton Water, Water Quality Treatment Officer, Steve Rickwood is retiring, getting into his brand-new ute, hitching up the caravan and heading off to explore Australia.

Starting as a labourer when he was just 22, Steve has had front row seats to Busselton Water's growth over the past 45 years.

"The biggest change has been the technology. Years ago, if there was something wrong, we had to wait until someone reported low pressure or ran out of water, and then we'd go and find the problem.

"Now the SCADA (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition) system tells us what's going to happen before it happens – the equipment we use now, all our pumps, bore pumps and filters are all the most modern technology, which is why our water quality is of such a high standard," said Steve.

Steve is proud of his long career at Busselton Water but come 2 July is looking forward to retirement, already having plans for more fishing trips, a Coober Pedy and central Australia

expedition, and some well-earned relaxation at home.

"I'm proud of everything we've achieved. I was here when we built all the buildings, the treatment plant control rooms, the pump houses – they were all built by Busselton Water staff in those days.

"I'm one of the very lucky people who really likes their job. It has been a very good job, and the staff and board have always been good to me.

"I am going to miss the challenges of the job, but what I'll miss more are the staff. You have interactions with them every day, some bad, but mostly good. They're probably what I'll miss most," added Steve.

Thank you Steve, for your 45 years of service!



THE BUSSELTON COMMUNITY IS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

The kindness of our customers continues to astound as our call for donations of toiletries for Tuart House is met with more and more enthusiasm and generosity every year.

So far nearly 150 items have been donated to this year's collection – thank you to everyone in the Busselton community, you're making a huge difference to women and children experiencing family and domestic violence.



SHOWCASING LOCAL INNOVATION

Busselton Water played host to a delegation of water industry representatives last month, with the group visiting our Kent Street Water Treatment Plant to inspect and learn about our award-winning filter project as part of a wider tour of the region's water infrastructure.

General Manager Operations, Chris Vigus was tour guide to the 30 study tour attendees, explaining the design challenges behind our stainless steel gravity filters and providing insights into how 3D modelling was used to meld existing pipework with the new infrastructure.

LOCAL WATERWISE HEROES SHOWING THE WAY

Busselton locals of all ages are doing their bit to secure our waterwise future.

If the waterwise habits of our Busselton locals are anything to go by, our water future is in good hands!

In a recent visit by Busselton Water's Hydro to the Little People Places childcare centre at Vasse, the class was quizzed on waterwise practices and promptly shared all manner of great tips! Some of the habits included: turning the taps off while brushing their teeth, keeping their parents aware of any leaking taps, and at the end of the day if they have water left in their bottles, put it into the garden and not down the drain. Such impressive knowledge from the young classroom!

Across town in West Busselton, the Sladden family has made some big waterwise improvements to their family day care service. After being alerted by Busselton Water to a water leak on their property, the Sladdens took the opportunity to make some major waterwise improvements – turning the backyard into a waterwise garden that will double as a play space for the children. Grass areas were greatly reduced to make way for a sensory path and garden.

Not only has the project created new and interesting areas for play, but has also significantly reduced water use!



BUSSELTON WATER MAKES A SPLASH! ON NATIONAL STAGE

Busselton Water has received national recognition, as the Western Australian finalists in two categories at the Australian Water Association Awards.

As a Water Professional of the Year finalist, Managing Director Chris Elliott was recognised for his stellar 40-year career in the water sector, including his 'innovation first' approach to building Busselton Water's Intelligent Water Network and his unwavering drive to continuously improve the already very high safety standards within the organisation.

Along with Chris' personal success, Busselton Water's gravity filters project was also a finalist in the Infrastructure Project Innovation Award (Regional) category.

Partnering with GHD, the replacement of the four filters from the Kent Street Plant was particularly innovative in its use of stainless steel and the application of 3D modelling to tie in the new technology with the existing infrastructure of the plant.



**WATCH A SHORT
VIDEO ABOUT OUR**

Water Professional of the Year
and Innovative Infrastructure
Project finalists at
our website.



BUSSELTON WATER GOES PLATINUM



The Busselton Water team with the Platinum Certificate of Achievement recognising safety excellence.

After four years of achieving Gold, Busselton Water has gone one better receiving the WorkSafe Plan Platinum Achievement Award.

The WorkSafe Western Australian Commissioner, Darren Kavanagh presented the Busselton Water team with the Award at an afternoon tea at the Queen Elizabeth Avenue Treatment Plant.

This most recent achievement has placed Busselton Water at the pinnacle for safety standards in the region, being the only member of the 2020 cohort of Platinum Award winners to be from the South West.

“Achieving the Platinum Award is terrific recognition for our team, the Board, and the organisation for all the hard work that has gone into improving on what were already industry-leading safety standards,” said Busselton Water Managing Director Chris Elliott.

“As a water utility, Busselton Water operates in a high-risk environment, so our commitment to the highest level of health and safety is vital. Every member of our organisation has ‘bought in’ to our safety ethos and the results speak for themselves – next month we’re on track to reach six years Lost Time Injury free,” added Chris.

REMiNDER



It's that time of the year again! With water consumption rates to reset back to first tier prices from 1 July, it's the perfect time to revisit your water use goals and maximise your savings. Visit our website for more info.



HELPING HANDS

Busselton Water's Distribution and Water Treatment teams were given some extra hands recently with St Mary MacKillop College students, Rhed Peradilla and Charlie Parker joining them for a week's work experience.

Spurred by an interest in the water industry, the two students contacted Busselton Water to ask for an opportunity to learn the ropes and we were happy to oblige.

Over the week, the pair was given a hands-on learning experience – from participating in water quality checks at our plant and in the field, to a behind-the-scenes look at our operations and store rooms, observing stock management and logistics. The students also got their hands dirty – joining the team at new installations, helping to fix leaking taps and assisting with other general maintenance in the field.

If you're looking for work experience opportunities, contact us at busseltonwater.wa.gov.au.

