



## 2020 resolutions for a waterwise decade

- 1 Don't be retic-ulous.** Use these holidays to check your reticulation for leaks. Your sprinklers can use as much as 30 litres per minute.
- 2 Pool yourself together and cover up.** Without a pool cover you could be losing up to 55 litres of water a day through evaporation.
- 3 Stay ahead of the ever-growing houseplant trend and choose waterwise plants.** They not only look great but require far less maintenance and water. Visit our waterwise plant directory to grow your thinking.
- 4 Talk more dirt.** Good soil is the foundation of a healthy waterwise garden. Improve your soil with chunky coarse mulch. More information [watercorporation.com.au/savewater](http://watercorporation.com.au/savewater)
- 5 Spend less time in the shower and more time carpe dieming!** On average, 25 per cent of household water is used in the shower. Do your bit for the environment and make cutting down to four minute showers your new year's resolution!

## Keep fire safe this festive season

You can't outrun or outlast bushfires so make sure you outsmart them.

While we will do all we can to maintain scheme water during a bushfire, damaged infrastructure or a cut to power can result in the loss of public water supplies. High demand can also lead to a drop in water pressure in an emergency. If you are planning on defending your home in the event of a bushfire please ensure you have an independent water supply, and pumping capability in the event of a total loss of power.

For more information visit [dfes.wa.gov.au](http://dfes.wa.gov.au)



## 'Tis the season to give a dam

It's no secret drinking water is essential for life and we place the highest priority on providing you safe drinking water. Rainfall and streamflow is still our lowest cost water source but declining streamflow has meant the role of dams has changed. They have now become storage reservoirs in periods of low demand as we transfer high quality water into them from desalination. To ensure our drinking water supplies are protected, we need to restrict all activities in and around our dams. This is because we naturally carry pathogens which can be difficult to remove; putting our drinking water at risk and potentially making people sick.

Before planning a visit check out [watercorporation.com.au/visitingourdams](http://watercorporation.com.au/visitingourdams)



## Did you know?

The Public Transport Authority of Western Australia have been on the right train of thought to get waterwise. They identified an opportunity to capture and reuse water to wash their trains. Water from the rinse cycle is reclaimed and filtered to be used again for the next train. This clever thinking has reduced their water use by 40 per cent which saves them an estimated six million litres a year!



## Going away for the holidays?

Make sure you check the sprinklers before you clock out into holiday mode. Around 40 per cent of household water is used on the garden and we often hear customers tell us their bills over summer are much higher than expected. The price for water is structured in tiers, so the more water used, the more you're charged per 1,000 litres. A quick once over of your sprinkler system could save you the cost of a leak, which may mean bucket loads!



## Your chance to win!

Keep your kids entertained with a waterwise prize pack!

→ **TO ENTER:**  
Around how much household water is used in the garden?

Write your answer, name, telephone number and address on the back of an envelope and send to:

**Watermark Competition**  
PO Box 100,  
Leederville WA 6902

Entries close 20 March 2020

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To enter online or see the full terms and conditions, visit [watercorporation.com.au/competitions](http://watercorporation.com.au/competitions)

## Happy birthday CY O'Connor

Happy birthday for 7 January C.Y. O'Connor, the former Chief Engineer and father of WA's water industry! In 1903, water was pumped for the first time from Mundaring to Kalgoorlie through 560km of steel pipeline. At the time, the Goldfields Water Supply Scheme was the biggest and most ambitious engineering project of its kind in the world. It saved thousands from disease and drought and allowed the surrounding communities to flourish throughout the gold rush.

The pipeline was the brainchild of Charles Yelverton O'Connor, a remarkable engineer whose vision and initiative was largely responsible for the

triumphs of the Western Australian gold mining industry as well as a range of agricultural pursuits in our remote wheatbelt districts.

These gents, photographed in the 1940s, were workers at a steam pumping station along the golden pipeline. Fire stokers, engineers, woodcutters, and their families lived in settlements along the pipeline. They kept the water flowing using steam powered engines to pump it through the 8 different stations. These days there are 24 electric pumping stations along the pipeline, which is looked after by a crew of 15 maintenance workers.



## Waterwise plants

The Dwarf Tree Jasmine Summerscent is a dense, flowering plant which can grow up to three metres high and wide. The glossy foliage responds well to shaping for hedging and topiary. Large heads of tubular flowers appear throughout the summer months with occasional blooms through autumn. The spectacular sweet floral fruity scent is similar to the michelia or ylang ylang flower.

It almost always offers a large cluster of buds ready to open when the current flowers fade. Once established, the Summerscent is drought, sun and cold tolerant but can frost tender when young.

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners throughout Western Australia and their continuing connection to the land, water and community. We pay our respects to all members of the Aboriginal communities, their cultures and to Elders past, present and emerging.