

Buddha's Day and Multicultural Festival

City West Water took part in May's annual Buddha's Day and Multicultural Festival celebrations which were attended by more than 80,000 people over two days.

The event incorporated traditional Buddhist ceremonies and celebrations, including the 'Bathing of the Buddha', daily Dharma ceremonies, the Wishing Bell, traditional incense offerings and much more.

Over the two days, City West Water was able to keep the community up to date with recent changes to water restrictions and many of our other programs that help households save water.



City West Water's mascot Wilbur the Waterdrop and Baby Buddha enjoy the festivities.

Winter tips for gardening

Winter is a great time to make changes to your garden and still save water. City West Water and Sustainable Gardening Australia have put together five top tips for saving water in the cooler months while still keeping your garden looking healthy.

1. Winter watering

Lower temperatures, potential for higher rainfall and winter dormancy means generally, your garden won't need additional watering. Turn off your watering system in winter and let nature water it for you. Water individual plants by hand if they're showing signs of distress.

If you notice any dry patches in your garden, simply top up the soil with some compost or aged animal manure. This can increase the soil's water holding capacity by up to 10 per cent.

2. Winter mulching

Mulch will help keep moisture in the soil and around plants. Any leftover mulch in your garden from summer can be spread around tree and plant roots, allowing water to enter the soil and replenish it. A thin layer can still be left around the plants and sloping areas to prevent soil erosion during heavy rainfall.

3. Choose Australian native plants

Choose Australian native plants for your garden as many have evolved to look their best in the cooler winter months. Local nurseries should have a large variety of colourful, hardy, drought tolerant plants, including:

- thryptomenes
- correas
- wattles
- native sarsaparilla
- teatrees.

These will flower over the winter months and are tough enough for the summer heat. Ensure the plants you choose are suited to your soil and local environment. Your local nursery can give you the best advice.



Australian Wattles are hardy and drought tolerant.

4. Winter vegetable gardens

In Victoria, we are lucky enough to be able to grow veggies all year round and they are much easier to water in winter than in summer. Plants to sow now or as seedlings include:

- leaks
- onions
- garlic
- cabbage
- broccoli
- bok choi
- pak choi
- peas
- broad beans.



Winter vegetables can be grown all year round.

If you are planning on resting your vegetable patch during the winter, consider growing a 'green manure' crop to condition your soil for spring. Green manure is basically any plant you grow for a short while and then slash or dig into your soil before it gets a chance to set seed or fruit. These include faba beans, barley and tic peas.

5. Winter fruit trees

Now is a great time to buy fruit producing trees in 'bare rooted' form. Ensure to remove any weak or damaged growth before planting.

Feed your fruit trees with a little seaweed fertiliser and look forward to healthy trees in the spring. Remember some fruit trees (eg. apples and pears) require pollinators to fruit, mostly bees, so be sure that you don't use too many insecticides around the house.

And, don't forget some fruit trees may not bear fruit in the first few years. Be patient – it'll be worth the wait!

Remember to always water in line with current water restrictions. For further information on how you can save water in the garden visit www.citywestwater.com.au.



savewater!® online competition

Looking for the latest water efficient products?

The savewater!® product library is a free service dedicated to providing people with information about water saving products. This comprehensive information tool allows you to research, source, and compare the latest and the best in water saving products for both inside and outside the home.

So to take advantage of this library, visit www.savewater.com.au today!

Modtank

Build your own water tank with stackable modules to suit the available space in your backyard.

Modtank is a stackable interconnecting tank system that extends the sustainability of rain harvesting by allowing you to specifically design a tank to fit into spaces other tank systems do not fit. See images on the right to see how little space modtanks will use around your home.

For your chance to win some fantastic water saving products including Leafbusters Gutter Protection and a Whirlpool Front Load Washing Machine, visit www.savewater.com.au and answer a few questions to go in the draw to win!

Competition opening date:

Thursday 1 April 2010 at 9am

Competition closing date:

Thursday 30 September 2010 at 5pm

Drawn:

Midday on Monday 11 October 2010 at savewater!® of G.02, 615 Dandenong Road, Armadale Victoria 3143.

All winners will be emailed directly. Winners of prizes greater than \$100 will be notified in The Australian on Saturday 16 October 2010, published on the www.savewater.com.au website and contacted by email.

City West Water Limited ABN 70 066 902 467

247–251 St Albans Road

Locked Bag 350

Sunshine Victoria 3020 Australia

Visit us online at www.citywestwater.com.au



Modtank can be stored under decks.



Modtank stored along the wall.



Modtank stacks.

Making Waves

Edition 45

Jul - Sep 2010



Changes to prices

City West Water's prices for water, sewerage and trade waste have increased from 1 July 2010. More information inside.

City West Water is your water company. We are owned by the Victorian Government and provide water, sewerage, trade waste and recycled water services to over 300,000 residential and business customers in Melbourne's CBD and inner and western suburbs.

Welcome to the current edition of **Making Waves**. In this edition you'll find important information on price increases, as well as recent events and tips on saving water and energy in and around your home!

To ensure you are using water within current restrictions, check out our new look website at www.citywestwater.com.au.

City West Water's prices for 2010

City West Water prices for water and sewerage will increase from 1 July 2010. The new prices are effective 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011 and are in accordance with the decision of the independent pricing regulator, the Essential Services Commission.

What is the price increase?

Water usage charges will rise by 22%, and sewage disposal charges will rise by 8.9%. Service charges for water will increase by 9.9%, and service charges for sewerage will increase by 16.9%. Trade waste charges will rise by 14.4%.

All price increases include an adjustment for the Consumer Price Index (CPI) of 2.89%.

This price rise will see a typical residential City West Water bill increase by around \$1.96 per week or an extra 28c per day.

What are the new prices?

Residential Charges	New price from 1 July 2010	Price increase compared to 2009
Water service charge	\$38.53 per quarter	\$3.53 per quarter
Water usage charge	<p>Step 1 – \$1.5427 per kilolitre for the first 440 litres of water used per day.</p> <p>Step 2 – \$1.8102 per kilolitre for water usage above 440 and up to 880 litres per day.</p> <p>Step 3 – \$2.6745 per kilolitre for water usage above 880 litres per day.</p>	<p>Step 1 – \$0.2827 per kilolitre for the first 440 litres of water used per day.</p> <p>Step 2 – \$0.3317 per kilolitre for water usage above 440 and up to 880 litres per day.</p> <p>Step 3 – \$0.4901 per kilolitre for water usage above 880 litres per day.</p>
Sewerage service charge	\$46.50 per quarter	\$6.85 per quarter
Sewage disposal charge	\$1.5862 per kilolitre	\$0.1317 per kilolitre

Why are the prices rising?

Melbourne has experienced more than thirteen years of drought which has had a major impact on water storage levels in Melbourne's dams. A large component of the price increase is needed to fund new sources of water, including Australia's largest desalination plant and the Sugarloaf pipeline. The increases will help us invest more in conserving and recycling water, major sewerage

projects and creating new water sources. These costs are paid for by all customers.

How much will my bill go up?

A typical residential customer pays around \$641 a year for water and sewerage. This figure will rise to \$743, which is roughly an extra \$1.96 per week or an extra 28c per day.

Where is the extra money going to go?

The prolonged drought means we need new sources of water, as well as helping households and businesses use water more efficiently. The State Government's \$4.9 billion investment in water and sewerage infrastructure projects will include a desalination plant, the Sugarloaf Pipeline and major water recycling schemes. Locally, part of the increased revenue will help us invest in extending and upgrading our water mains and sewerage network, and reduce the amount of water lost through bursts and leaks. City West Water is also planning major recycling projects investing significantly in water conservation to help our customers to save water, like our Showerhead Exchange Program for residents and our Water Conservation Solutions Program for businesses.

How can I minimise the price increase on my bill?

By using less water, you can help lower your water bill. For example, if you swap your old showerhead for a free 3-star water efficient showerhead, you can save up to 13,500 litres of water per person, per year. Or, if you have a household of five or more, you can participate in our large household assistance program, which involves an audit by a water conservation specialist who can

provide practical advice on how to save water in the home. These are just some of the ways which you can save water and save money. Go to our website www.citywestwater.com.au for more tips.

I am a pensioner/concession card holder – will I have to pay more?

This year, the State Government has raised the concession rebate from a maximum of \$216.60 to \$245.00. Concession card holders, including pensioners, will also pay the new prices, but are still entitled to receive the rebate on their water usage and sewage disposal charges. If you hold a Health Care, Pensioner Concession, Gold Repatriation, TPI or War Widows Card, you may be eligible for these savings. Present your concession card when you are paying your bill or call City West Water on 131 691 for assistance.

What if I can't afford to pay the bill with the price increases?

City West Water provides assistance to customers experiencing difficulties paying their accounts. There are a number of options available, including paying in instalments, automatic deduction of instalments from government benefits, and direct debit arrangements which can make paying bills easier. Please call us on 131 691 and we will be happy to help you.

What is the Waterways and Drainage Charge?

This charge is collected on behalf of Melbourne Water, who use the funds to look after rivers and creeks and manage drainage and floodplains in your area. This year the charge has increased by an average of 7%.

What is the Parks Charge?

Your July – September account includes the once-a-year Parks Charge which City West Water collects on behalf of Parks Victoria. This charge helps fund the purchase, development and maintenance of Melbourne's major parks, gardens and waterways. The annual minimum amount payable for the Parks Charge has increased to \$63.75. For further information on the Parks Charge, please call Parks Victoria on 131 963 or visit their website at www.parkweb.vic.gov.au.

Need to find a plumber at home?

City West Water encourages customers to implement green plumbing solutions at home, which can help save precious water resources and make Melbourne homes more water and energy efficient.

Together with the Master Plumbers' and Mechanical Services Association of Australia and the Plumbing Industry Climate Action Centre, we have conducted workshops to train plumbers in installing water and energy efficient fittings and systems, as well as offering advice on:

- showerheads
- taps
- dual flush toilets
- solar hot water
- air conditioning
- treated greywater systems
- washing machines, dishwashers and other appliances
- pressure reduction valves (500 kpa at the water meter)
- hot water recirculation
- rain water tanks (for garden watering, toilet flushing, washing machine use and swimming pool top up)
- sub-surface irrigation.

To find an accredited plumber near you, visit www.plumber.com.au and click on the green star.



Now is the time to go solar!

Local councils are currently running a solar bulk-buy through the 'Sustainable Suburbs in the West' program.

So if you have been thinking of installing solar power, this program is a great way to make your house energy efficient and get a great price through bulk-buy.

For more information register at www.solarbulkbuy.com.au or call 1300 206 113.



Good Friday Community Event

City West Water again partnered with Victoria Police for their annual 'Rocking the Mall' event, held in Footscray on 31 March 2010. Our Community and Social Involvement team attended with our mascot, Wilbur the Waterdrop, rattling tins for the Good Friday Appeal and helping to raise over \$1000.

Community and Social Involvement Team Leader, Ruth Harley and Wilbur also joined members of Victoria Police Footscray as they visited over 50 children in the Oncology, Renal and Neurological units at the Royal Children's Hospital to spread some Easter cheer on Good Friday.



(l-r) Craig Spicer (Community Liaison Officer, Footscray Police), Bronwyn Pearce (Community Liaison Officer, City West Water), Wilbur, Ruth Harley (Community Liaison Officer, City West Water), Adam Smbert (Metropolitan Fire Brigade, MFB Racing) and Ian Geddes (Inspector, Footscray Police).