

## Caring for **your soil**

**Healthy soil equals healthy plants, and healthy soil requires organic materials such as leaf litter, compost, manure and a small amount of grass clippings.**

Plants absorb the nutrients from the soil, so it's important to replace these materials to avoid hard, concrete-like soil in the summer and a sticky mess in the winter. In addition, healthy soil helps achieve a low maintenance, water wise garden.

### Soil improvement tips

- Ensure soil is damp before adding mulch. Spring is generally the best time to apply mulch after the winter rains have soaked in.
- Spread compost over your soil before mulching as it will encourage worms in your garden. Worms break down organic materials to make food for the plants and their burrows provide air in the soil for plant roots to breathe.
- Try to use mulches made from recycled organics as they save water, are long lasting and feed the soil as they break down.
- Don't just buy topsoil for your garden, buy a soil that is mixed with recycled organics or compost.
- Don't cultivate your soil unless it is dry. Digging wet soil will destroy the soil structure, air holes and drainage spaces.

For more information on how to keep your soil and garden healthy visit [www.sgaonline.org.au](http://www.sgaonline.org.au).



## Spensley Street reaches milestone

**Spensley Street Primary School has started the year on a high as the first school for 2011 to receive Bronze accreditation in the Water-Learn it! Live it! (Water-LiLi) program.**

On 14 February Water-LiLi Education Officer, Kelli Williams, attended the Clifton Hill primary school to present them with their certificate, and took the opportunity to reinforce some key water efficiency messages including using the half flush, turning the tap off while brushing teeth and having four minute showers.

Spensley Street Primary School has a strong environmental focus and has made significant water saving changes, including the installation of several rain water tanks which now provide water for their indigenous and edible gardens and to flush student toilets.

Schools participating in the Water-Learn it! Live it! program receive:

- free water curriculum resources for primary and secondary schools
- free incursions
- subsidised visits to local treatment plants
- fully funded professional learning for teachers
- access to a lending library containing a range of books, CDs and DVDs and more.

For more information about the Water-LiLi program schools can contact Kelli Williams on (03) 9313 8337 or at [kwilliams@citywestwater.com.au](mailto:kwilliams@citywestwater.com.au).



Spensley Street teacher, Ian Harrison, receives the accreditation certificate from Kelli Williams, Water-Learn it! Live it! Education Officer.

## Want to save money and water? Visit the **savewater!**® product library

The savewater!® product library is a free service dedicated to providing people with information about water saving products. This comprehensive information tool helps you find the right products for your home, garden or business.

Visit [www.savewater.com.au](http://www.savewater.com.au) to research and compare the latest and the best in water saving products to match your budget and needs.

For your chance to win some fantastic water saving products, visit [www.savewater.com.au](http://www.savewater.com.au) and answer a few questions to go into the draw to win!

**Competition opening date:**  
9am Friday 1 April 2011

**Competition closing date:**  
5pm Friday 30 September 2011

**Drawn:** Midday Monday 10 October 2011 at savewater!® level 1, 173 Burke Road, Glen Iris VIC 3146.

All winners will be emailed directly and published on [www.savewater.com.au](http://www.savewater.com.au). Winners of prizes greater than \$100 will be published in The Australian on Saturday 15 October 2011.



You could win this Bosch Australian dishwasher.

### Still need to change over your showerhead?

There's no better time than now to get your free water efficient showerhead\* with selected Bunnings Warehouse and Australia Post outlets providing the free showerhead exchange service. For more information visit [www.citywestwater.com.au](http://www.citywestwater.com.au).

\*Three-star showerheads are not compatible with gravity fed or some older instantaneous hot water systems.

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# Making Waves

**Edition 48**

Apr – Jun 2011



**Fancy an overseas trip?**

See the enclosed Direct Debit brochure to find out how you can win a \$15,000 travel voucher!

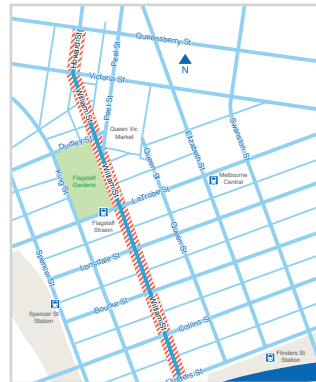
**City West Water is your water company.** We are owned by the Victorian Government and provide water, sewerage, trade waste and recycled water services to over 300,000 residential and business customers in Melbourne's CBD and inner and western suburbs.

Welcome to the current edition of Making Waves. In this edition you'll find important information about our William Street water main renewal works, changes to our technical enquiry counter hours, how to win great water saving products and more!

## New water mains on the way for **William Street**

**City West Water will be renewing nearly four kilometres of water mains in William Street/Howard Street – between Flinders Street and Queensberry Street, in Melbourne.**

As we will be replacing a large water main which dates back to the 1800s, and to minimise disruption to traffic, residents and those working in the area, renewal works will be done in sections.



This multi-million dollar water main renewal project will take approximately one year to complete.

Importantly, in most cases there will be no interruption to the water supply in William Street and surrounding areas while works are taking place.



Map indicates where works will occur on William Street, in Melbourne's CBD.

## Technical enquiry counter closure

**City West Water's technical enquiry counter is now closed on Mondays and Fridays, and open between 8.30am and 5pm from Tuesday to Thursday.**

If you require technical assistance call 131 691 (press option three). For any trade waste assistance call (03) 9313 8297. All plumbing, metering and technical assistance enquiries can also be emailed to [connections@citywestwater.com.au](mailto:connections@citywestwater.com.au).

**From 1 July 2011, City West Water will no longer operate a technical counter.**

## Keeping a close eye on the performance of **our sewerage network**

**As City West Water manages 3,909 kilometres of sewer pipes, it is important that we monitor and assess the performance of our sewerage system to ensure that it continues to work properly.**

To do this, we analyse flow and performance data to identify potential issues within the sewer compliance program. This task is something we regularly undertake to ensure we comply with EPA requirements.

For more information, visit [www.citywestwater.com.au](http://www.citywestwater.com.au) and have a read of our Sustainability Report.

## Lakeside Live

**City West Water participated in this year's Lakeside Live at Caroline Springs on 22 January. Organised by Delfin Lend Lease, in conjunction with the Melton Shire Council, the event attracted more than 35,000 people.**

There was plenty of entertainment on the day with the Mr and Mrs Potato Head Show, local artist Clarence Marshall, Cheer Central, Red Alert and singer Jessica Mauboy all taking to the main stage.

City West Water staff were there, along with Wilbur the Waterdrop, providing educational information. To find out when City West Water will be at a community event near you, visit [www.citywestwater.com.au](http://www.citywestwater.com.au).



City West Water mascot, Wilbur the Waterdrop, enjoyed an ice-cream while at Lakeside Live.

## Volunteer **West**

**Are you an average bloke, looking for a way to give something back to the community? Do you have a brother, husband or colleague who could spare a few hours a week to teach a skill or share a hobby with a troubled young person? If you answered 'yes', then youth charity Whitelion needs you!**

Whitelion works with young people who have experienced disadvantage – many come from unstable families, and many have experienced violence, neglect, substance abuse and mental illness.

Whitelion helps reconnect these young people with a stable, positive path in life. One of the most successful ways of doing this is through mentoring. But the Whitelion mentoring program is at risk – they have a number of young men waiting to be supported by male mentors, but no male mentors available.

Men interested in becoming volunteer mentors can be from any background, be of any age and do not need any particular skills, just a bit of spare time and energy! Mentors are provided with training and ongoing support from Whitelion staff to help them form these meaningful, one-on-one relationships.

Men interested in becoming mentors should contact Fran at Whitelion on (03) 9389 4338 or email [mentoring@whitelion.asn.au](mailto:mentoring@whitelion.asn.au). Check out the Whitelion website at [www.whitelion.org.au](http://www.whitelion.org.au) for more information on the Mentoring Program.

