



# watermark

Weano Gorge, Karijini – Photographed by Christian Fletcher

inside this issue → win a copy of *The West Australian Garden Guide*, by The Garden Gurus

## Autumn – a great time for gardening!

Autumn is the ideal time to revamp your garden.

During autumn, the days are cooler and shorter, the soil is still warm, there is dew in the morning, and a promise of rain. To complete the picture, just add a few piles of compost and mulch. In our Mediterranean climate, native plants have adapted to the long hot, dry summers and short, wet winters.

Planting during cooler months halves the gardening workload. Plants are less water-stressed, foliage doesn't loose as much moisture, there is less chance of sun scorch and the root system of plants heads south where there is ample moisture.

Do remember, all plants, including natives, will require slow release fertiliser, soil conditioner, mulch and a wetting agent to ensure every drop of rain soaks into the soil.

For waterwise watering hints and tips please visit [www.watercorporation.com.au](http://www.watercorporation.com.au)



## Are you eligible for a concession?

Did you know you can apply for an annual service charge concession online or over the phone?

If you are the owner and occupier of a property, and hold a valid concession card, visit [www.watercorporation.com.au](http://www.watercorporation.com.au) or call 1300 659 951 to apply.

## Water meter reading safety

During the year, we visit your property to read the water meter. This job only takes a few minutes, and there are ways you can help make this safe.

The next time you are in the garden, please take a few moments to check the area around the meter.

*Tips to ensure meter reading safety*

- Trim bushes and tree limbs, and move any obstructions, such as sand or mulch. This will ensure the reader will not have to crawl or duck down to read the meter.
- Ensure there is a clear space of at least 30cm around, 20cm below and 120cm above your meter. A meter can be an electricity conductor, so the clear space allows us to attach special electrical clamps that help to prevent electrical shock.
- If you have a dog, display a sign so we are aware.



## Competition

### Garden Gurus book giveaway

*The West Australian Garden Guide*, by The Garden Gurus, Trevor Cochrane and Neville Passmore, recently hit book stores.

For your chance to win one of 100 copies (RRP \$39.95 each), simply answer the question and send your details (including your email address) to: [competition@watercorporation.com.au](mailto:competition@watercorporation.com.au) or post your details to

PO Box 100, Leederville, WA 6902 with "Watermark Garden Guide Book Giveaway" as the subject line.

**Question:** What is one advantage of planting during cooler months?

Entries close Wednesday 30 June. For terms and conditions visit [www.watercorporation.com.au](http://www.watercorporation.com.au) or call 13 13 85.

Winners will be drawn at random and notified by email.

This information is available in alternative formats on request.

[www.watercorporation.com.au](http://www.watercorporation.com.au)



## Garden makeover competition

Russell of Carlisle was the lucky winner of our Garden Gurus \$10,000 Waterwise garden makeover competition. Russell entered the competition automatically when he paid his account before 31 July 2009.

He wanted a low maintenance waterwise garden and alfresco area made up entirely of native plants where he could entertain friends. Being a research scientist his work takes him on frequent trips around WA. "I really enjoy gardening but my work keeps me travelling so I find it hard to find the time." Trevor Cochrane and his team at the Garden Gurus designed and carried out the makeover and said they were pleased with the outcome.

"Taking into account that Russell is a very busy person who is rarely home and travels extensively, we set out to achieve a low maintenance garden within 5 days that required little to no water at all. So, we built a garden with 100% of the plant selection being waterwise succulents. These plants provide foliage and flower colour all year round and complement an entertainment area that is both architectural and stylish," Trevor said.



Before



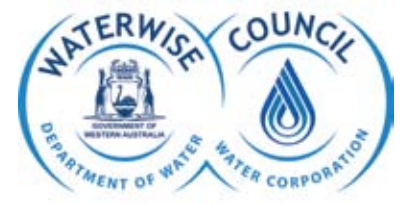
After

## We all benefit from water recycling

Increasing the amount of water we recycle is a great way of reducing the pressure on our drinking water supplies.

To help increase the amount of water that is recycled, the Water Corporation has recently announced that it will provide recycled water free of charge for community uses. This means that with the relevant health and environmental approvals, this water can be used to irrigate public open space, parks, ovals and public recreation areas that benefit the community.

For further information, including answers to frequently asked questions, please visit [www.watercorporation.com.au/waterforever](http://www.watercorporation.com.au/waterforever)



## Helping councils to be waterwise

The Waterwise Council program, launched in 2009, is an initiative jointly developed by the Water Corporation and Department of Water, with support from the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives - Local Governments for Sustainability. This initiative for local governments has been developed to support behavioural changes in the community by encouraging the use of products and services designed to maximise efficient water usage.

To achieve Waterwise Council status, councils must establish plans of action towards defined, measurable targets, implement efficiency projects and report on their progress.

Councils are evaluated on their water use, often groundwater or recycled water in many country regions, in public open spaces and other public amenities to ensure they are being efficient while maintaining their usefulness and attraction.

There are currently three endorsed Waterwise Councils and 35 councils working towards their endorsement. Congratulations to the City of Perth, City of Mandurah and Shire of Augusta-Margaret River for demonstrating their commitment towards water efficiency.

For more information about the program, visit [www.watercorporation.com.au](http://www.watercorporation.com.au) or [www.water.gov.au](http://www.water.gov.au)