

AUSTRALIAN WATER

ASSOCIATION

MEDIA RELEASE

Australian Water Association Launches National Water Week at Sydney Water (17-23 October 2022)

17 October 2022

Sydney, Australia: Today, the CEO of the Australian Water Association (AWA), Corinne Cheeseman, officially launched National Water Week (**17-23 October 2022**), the annual week dedicated to building awareness of the value of water in Australia. is

"Our Water Stories" is this year's National Water Week theme and an invitation for all of us to think more deeply about our relationship with water.

Held at Sydney Water's Parramatta headquarters earlier today, the National Water Week Event launch invited everyone from water sector - leaders to local community members and official National Water Week Ambassadors to dive into what water means to them and the impact water has had on their lives and careers.

Each speaker spoke about their own unique water story as the AWA encouraged sharing water stories across the week.

Speakers reflect on their water stories as we face the challenges of climate change impacts and sustainable water management worldwide.

- Corinne Cheeseman, CEO of the Australian Water Association: spoke of her career in the water industry, including her time at Sydney Water to today leading the AWA in the face of a new era of climate change challenges.
- Roch Cheroux, Managing Director, Sydney Water: spoke of the global level of commitment to water in areas such as water and sanitation and future career opportunities in the sector and the important role of First Nations people and broader communities to help better shape future water conversations and innovations beyond water sanitation and other essential services.
- Veronica Murphy, Indigenous Inclusion Specialist at Sydney Water: shared her own First Nation's perspectives on connections to water.
- Rachel Connell, Head of the Water Reform Taskforce in the Water Division from the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW): walked through her own water story from growing up in Cowra in regional NSW to working as a representative through the tough status of water allocations in the last major drought of 2018-19 and the success of the **WELS star rating water efficiency program**.
- [Julia Cummins](#), 2022 winner of the Australian Stockholm Junior Water Prize: showcased her research that led to her award-winning project 'Why Silver might be Gold in Water' with the common ingredient nano silver poses an often hidden threat to marine ecosystems.

The Australian Water Association (AWA) each year hosts National Water Week in the third week of October. National Water Week promotes the value of water across Australia, inspiring individuals, education providers, communities, and organisations to work together to raise community awareness and understanding of water-related issues.

This year's National Water Week theme is "Our Water Stories". This theme invites us to think more deeply about our relationship with water. With water comprising three-quarters of our planet and two-thirds of our bodies, its essentiality in our lives cannot be overstated. With AWA celebrating its 60th anniversary this year, "Our Water Stories" encourages reflection and sharing of these experiences and relationships.

Corinne Cheeseman, AWA's Chief Executive, said, "' Our Water Stories' recognises the importance water plays in our lives. Water is life, and we can sometimes take it for granted; water is fundamental to our health and well-being and thriving communities, from drinking to cleaning with it to swimming in it. As AWA celebrates its 60th anniversary and reflects on our six decades of working with our members to manage extreme events such as droughts and floods, we continue to consider and adapt our stories to these challenges in the face of climate change and its increasing uncertainty."

To get involved in National Water Week, individuals, schools, and organisations can go to the official website [link here](#) to find details about hosting events or to find a National Water Week Ambassador to come and speak at your school.

Community members are also encouraged to share their water stories and use the hashtags **#NationalWaterWeek** and **#OurWaterStories** to show their support for National Water Week.

AWA is excited to bring you National Water Week again this October and cannot wait to hear your water stories as we all reflect on what water means to us.

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About the Australian Water Association

Australian Water Association is Australia's biggest water network inspiring and driving a sustainable water future, with a membership of over 5,000 individual and corporate members. www.awa.asn.au