

IN THE

pipeline

BRISBANE | Summer 2019

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BALED
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**6
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SIT ... STAY ... SNIFF OUT LEAKS!

Find out on Page 3 why adorable Springer Spaniel, Halo, isn't just a person's best friend, but a leaky water pipe's worst enemy.

PEOPLE LOOKING AFTER PEOPLE



Name:
Melissa McGovern

Occupation:
Network Asset Operator

Did you know?
One of the more unpleasant tasks I have to do is to remove all the so-called “flushable” wipes and nappies from the bar screens at Eagle Farm. We spend millions of dollars every year removing, treating and disposing of things like wet wipes that should never have been flushed in the first place.

What do you do?
I have one of the best jobs! No two days are the same. One week in five, I operate the Eagle Farm pump station, which sits on the largest sewer main in our network between Toowong and Eagle Farm in Brisbane. Other times, you might find me operating network valves for customers or working at one of our facilities in Ipswich or the Scenic Rim.

What do you enjoy most about your job?
I enjoy learning new things every day and getting to meet some of the great people who either work at Queensland Urban Utilities or are our customers.

How did you get into your role?
I started as an apprentice Fitter and Turner at the Eagle Farm pump station mechanical workshops. From there, I spent four years working at sites across the network. After I finished my apprenticeship, I applied for a role as a Network Operator where my mechanical background helped nicely.



Image: Michelle Cull and Dennis Gannaway with Halo and Danny.

Sit ... stay ... sniff out leaks!

When it comes to detecting underground leaks, we simply won't let sleeping dogs lie!

Which is why, after nine months of rigorous training and tuition from Dennis Gannaway and his team at Bellden Environmental Services, springer spaniels Halo and Danny are joining our leak detection department to sniff out porous pipes.

“We have more than 9000km of water pipes in our network and some are located in dense bushland, where it can be difficult to detect a leak,” said Queensland Urban Utilities spokesperson, Michelle Cull.

“Halo and Danny are trained to smell the chlorine in potable water and are particularly effective in bushland, where it can be difficult for us to access,” she said.

An additional measure to track down leaks alongside technology already in use like listening devices and sensors, the doggy duo can differentiate between water leaking from a pipe underground and all other types of water on the surface.



Image: Halo in action.

These clever canines can sniff out “big leaks” from up to 30-40m away.

Halo and Danny are now taking part in leak detection trials in Brisbane, Ipswich, Scenic Rim, Somerset and Lockyer Valley.

Six summer water saving ideas

- 1 Don't spray in the middle of the day! Evaporation is your enemy when it comes to sprucing your garden in summer. Only water in the early morning or late afternoon and evening, and never when it's windy.
- 2 About 40% of water usage in the home happens in the bathroom. Save up to 15L per minute by simply turning off the tap while you polish your pearly whites.
- 3 A shorter shower is another simple way to cut your consumption. Soap up, wash down and rinse off in less than four minutes, because great volumes don't mean a great wash!
- 4 A running tap can waste more than 6L per minute, so don't wait for tap water to cool down, store it in a bottle or jug in the fridge for later.
- 5 Only wash your clothes when you have a full load, or use the appropriate selection on your machine. As a bonus, you'll also save on detergent and energy.
- 6 Sharing is caring! Pass on these tips to your friends and neighbours to encourage water efficiency. Better yet, bring your new water saving knowledge to work too.



Farmers baled over by generous donation



Image: Danny Skopp from Queensland Urban Utilities (left) and Brett Kerle from Ipswich City Council (right).

We're always looking for ways to enrich our rural communities, so when we discovered the vetiver grass growing at our Boonah and Toogoolawah sewage treatment plants could be used to feed livestock, we knew we had a golden opportunity to step in and help a few farmers.

Late last year, with the help of Ipswich City Council and a fleet of willing volunteer delivery drivers, we donated up to 80 bales of vetiver grass to two drought-stricken farming families in Western Downs' agricultural communities.

The fodder was much needed and helped feed 180 head of hungry cattle at the two properties.

We harvest the grass three to four times a year, so it was heart-warming to know it went some way to helping our farmers.

The families we helped had really been doing it tough and said the generous donation meant the world to them.



 **To report a fault or emergency**
Contact us 24/7 on **13 23 64**

 **For more information visit**
urbanutilities.com.au

 **General enquiries**
From 7am-7pm weekdays **13 26 57**