Money down the drain

David Sibenaler

ALICE Springs homes are leaking water and cash.

The inaugural Leak Week, from October 19-24, saw about 20 leak-checkers visit residential water meters. By day three of the water audits, 774 Alice Springs homes were found to be throwing money and water down the drain.

The average water loss was 936 litres a day, which would cost the homeowner $563 per year. Leaks around the home and garden are the largest water wasters in Alice Springs, according to Power and Water's sustainable development manager Mark Wilsheir.

"One in three Alice Springs homes has a leak, with the average being around 260,000 litres per year, and, with around 6000 homes in Alice, this averages out to a staggering 80,000 litres per home," Mr Wilsheir said.

"The Leak Week initiative is planned as an annual event to help remind the Alice Springs community of the connection between water leaks, water efficiency and savings on their water bills."

Leak Week grew from the Alice Water Smart project, which finished in 2013.

During that time, audits were carried out at homes, also finding that one in three homes had a leak.

Power and Water executive manager Len Griffiths said it was important to bear in mind the environmental cost of wasting water.

"It's empowering the community to understand their role in managing our water supply for Alice Springs," Mr Griffiths said.

"Leak Week is not about us imposing strict sanctions or water restrictions, it's about engaging the community so they understand the limited resource we have.

"Each and every person should be thinking about the environmental impact we make."

Mr Griffiths said if home owners had a leak they should contact a plumber.

The largest suspected leak found on Wednesday was wasting 7200 litres per day. That is the equivalent of filling 31 rubbish bins with water, or costing homeowners an extra $5000 per year.

Come along to an information session to find out how you can make a positive difference in people’s lives.

Thursday, 29 October 2015 from 6.00pm to 7.00pm

Andy McNiel room, Alice Springs Town Council, Todd Street, Alice Springs

Volunteers are vital in assisting the Northern Territory Department of Correctional Services (NTDCS) to achieve its commitment to reducing reoffending through employment, education, training and programs. As a volunteer you will make a difference to people’s lives through providing essential training and support to prisoners. NTDCS is seeking to recruit volunteers in the following areas:

- Numeracy and literacy
- Mentoring
- Cultural activities
- Fitness and nutrition
- Library support
- Hobby activities, i.e. arts, crafts and music
- Kitchen/food preparation
- Individual sports such as AFL, NPL, Cricket and Basketball

If you believe you possess the necessary skills, attributes and positive attitude that could make a difference please come along to the information session to find out more about the Volunteer Program. Volunteers are a vital link between NTDCS and the community.

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