



HUME CITY COUNCIL

Live Green

Sustainability Newsletter

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hume.vic.gov.au/environment



Winter in the garden

Your garden doesn't have to be bleak in winter. Grab a warm cup of tea, rug up and spend some quality time outdoors to curb the winter blues.

Planting choices

Leafy greens and root vegetables are the order of the day for Victoria's winter gardens. Beetroot, carrot, spring onion, radish, celery, rocket, spinach, silverbeet, and kale are just some of the plants that can do well in a winter garden.

Pruning fruit trees

Winter is a great time to prune fruit trees as they tend to be in between bursts of growth.

Tips for pruning fruit trees:

- Always use sterile and sharp secateurs to help keep your fruit trees in good health.
- Just at the bud junctions.
- Cut just above a bud heading in the direction of preferred future growth.
- Ensure there is enough space between future branch growth to encourage airflow.



Sources: littleveggiepatchco.com.au

Composting

You can apply thick layers of compost to your garden every few months. Plants grow more slowly in winter making it a great time to restore nutrient levels to the soil. It takes time for nutrients to permeate the soil, so lay on the compost now to increase soil health for spring vegies.

Indoor seedlings

In late winter you can begin raising spring vegies from seed on indoor windowsills, in preparation to plant in the garden from September onwards. Plant seeds from cucumber, corn, tomatoes, zucchini, nasturtiums, and beans indoors in plenty of compost-rich soil in a sun-lit spot where you will see them regularly and will not forget to water them.



Park Champions help develop Hume's Open Space Strategy



Parks Champions are local residents who are advising Council about specific parks upgrades at the neighbourhood level.

Over 1,200 Hume residents have contributed to the development of Hume's Open Space Strategy through surveys, focus groups, and planning sessions since 2021.

Hume's Open Space Strategy has an Urban Forest approach - which means there will be an increase in tree canopy on Council-owned and managed open spaces wherever possible to improve the landscape quality and provide wildlife habitats, and contribute to cooling the city.

The Hume Open Space Strategy will provide a framework for Council and the community to protect, optimise and grow open space in Hume City over the next 10 years.

The Strategy recognises and responds to a range of factors impacting open space, including population growth, cultural diversity, climate change (specifically the impacts of urban heat), and increasing residential densities.

The Open Space Strategy is expected to be considered by Council for adoption in December.



Join Council's Environment Advisory Committee

Hume's Sustainability Taskforce is Council's community environmental advisory committee and a forum for community members to have input into the design and delivery of Council's environmental strategies and programs.

Volunteer members provide advice and feedback to Council and make recommendations to Council on environmental issues. The Taskforce is open to applicants from across the Hume community, including environmental groups, rural land holders, business and industry, education, and community groups. Council runs an Expression of Interest process for new members every year. Applications closed 5pm on Friday 30 September.

For more information visit hume.vic.gov.au/sustainability-taskforce

Update Bradbury court case

Details about the industrial fire in August 2018 at Campbellfield's Bradbury plant are currently being heard in the Magistrate's court.

It is alleged that Graham Lesley White and Bradbury Industrial Services had illicitly buried or stockpiled an estimated 50 million litres of highly flammable solvents and other toxic materials, and that this led to two industrial fires. In March 2022, a committal hearing took place whereby the Magistrate's court assessed the admissibility of statements as evidence for a trial. The case against Bradbury and Graham Leslie White continues.

White faces 115 offences, including charges relating to the storage of toxic waste that was allegedly buried at a property in Kaniva, 12 charges from the Environment Protection Authority for allegedly "recklessly and negligently" creating an environmental hazard by storing chemicals at a warehouse in Epping, and 26 charges brought by the Victorian Workcover Authority relating to storage of dangerous goods at three warehouses in Campbellfield.

Sources: The Age, ABC News

Gardens for Wildlife

Suggestions for your garden

We can help wildlife in our gardens by supplying the things they need or doing things to help them stay alive and breed. This includes providing water, food, shelter, and nesting sites for young wildlife. Gardens for Wildlife looks for different elements or wildlife-friendly ingredients in the various garden layers, as summarised here for you to consider in relation to your garden.



Upper Layer: Plant indigenous trees and shrubs and install nestboxes for birds and/or possums.

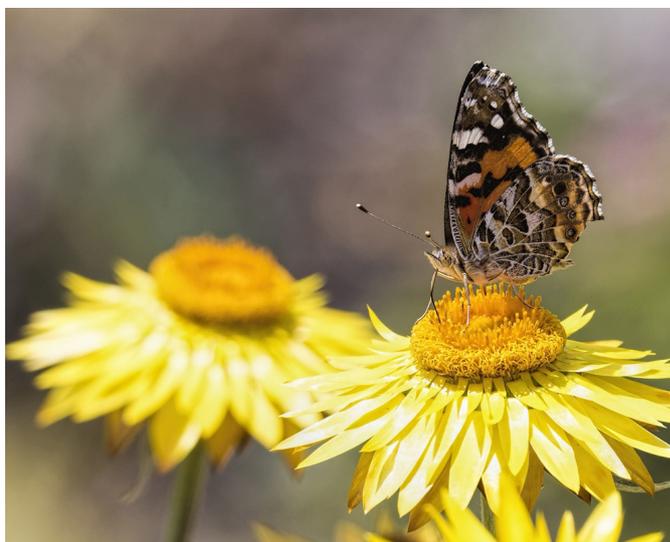
Mid Layer: Plant indigenous shrubs that are prickly and/or dense to give shelter to small birds. Plant indigenous species that provide sources of nectar, fruits and/or seeds throughout the year over the changing seasons. Install insect hotels. Leave hanging branches that young birds can jump back up as they learn to fly.

Ground Layer: Create butterfly habitat. Have mulch to attract insects. Create bee habitat. Create lizard habitat. Provide a bird nesting material station.

Water: Regularly clean dishes and baths, keeping sources of water fresh. Run a low water sprinkler on very hot days, or spray water into leafy trees and bushes to make a cool spot.

Extras: Have layers of plants using all the forms or types of plants (e.g., trees to groundcovers). Have a diversity of different plant species present. Plant the species of plants on mass, in multiples. Remove environmental weeds that threaten nearby conservation reserves. Reduce weed cover in the garden. Individually bag fruit to protect it, and don't use netting with holes larger than your finger (which are now illegal).

For more info on how to create a wildlife friendly garden, see hume.vic.gov.au/gardensforwildlife





\$250 Power Saving Bonus expanded

The Victorian Government's \$250 Power Saving Bonus has been extended as well as expanded to all Victorian Households.

From 1 July 2022, the new \$250 payment will be open to all Victorian households who use the Victorian Energy Compare website to compare their energy deal and seek out a better price.

Households that have previously claimed a \$50 or \$250 Power Saving Bonus will be eligible for this new one-off payment.

To apply visit compare.energy.vic.gov.au or contact Council's Household Energy Officer on **0447 772 429**.

Climate Action Plan

Council has been developing its new Climate Action Plan that will focus on reducing emissions in Council operations and supporting the Hume community to reduce emissions and take climate action.

Some of the key achievements in Hume's current Greenhouse Action Plan include: the solar installation program on Council buildings including those leased to community groups; a move to 100 per cent carbon neutral electricity with GreenPower for all buildings and street lighting; and the Household Energy program which supports residents to improve energy efficiency, move to solar and reduce bills.

A survey of Hume residents undertaken in 2021 indicated high levels of concern in the Hume community about climate change. Consultation and engagement is underway to explore the best options to support emission reduction opportunities and climate action across Hume City.

Visit participate.hume.vic.gov.au to have your say.

Flick the Switch – School Energy Efficiency Program is Live!

Flick the Switch energy program in Hume schools is underway. Six Hume schools are participating in this energy efficiency program to reduce school energy consumption, promote student leadership and support teaching and school staff to strive for environmental stewardship.

Coolaroo South Primary School, Aitken College, Newbury Primary, St Anne's Primary and Gaayip-Yagila Primary School received an energy audit from Enhar consultants. With expertise and guidance from Leaders for Sustainability, the schools created energy action plans to tackle energy consumption at each school head-on.

Council is co-funding the implementation of these energy saving plans. Some schools are changing over light globes to LEDs, replacing old heaters with split systems, investigating solar panel installation as well as building up student and teacher leadership.

Reducing bin contamination

Did you know that almost all the contamination in our recycling bins is made up of just five items? We have some easy, out of the bin alternatives for all five!

Food: Food and drinks are a big contaminant in recycling bins. The best thing to do is clean out any leftovers or drinks from containers before placing them in the recycling bin. All food is now accepted in the organics bin, and we provide a 70% discount on compost systems. Help us keep recycling clean and give food another life - as compost! To learn more about compost visit hume.com.au

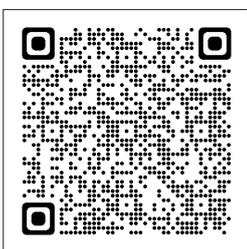
Clothes: Clothing and textiles are a big part of our recycling contamination. The fabrics get wrapped up in machines at the sorting facility. Old clothing and toys can be donated and reused.

E-waste: E-waste such as broken devices and batteries can't go in the bin. They can be dangerous if damaged. You can take small e-waste items, like phones and batteries to our Green Collect free drop-off sites at any of our libraries, Resource recovery centres, or local stores like Officeworks, Aldi and Battery World.

Plastic Bags: Soft plastics and wrappers do not go in our recycling bins. A general rule is: if you can scrunch it up in your hand, it does not go in the recycling bin! Take these items to a REDcycle drop-off point at your participating local supermarket.

Bagged recycling: Don't bag your recyclables! Chuck them in the recycle bin loosely. Only loose items can be sorted and recycled correctly.

Scan for more information about ordering your free compost FOGO caddy and tips on reducing household waste.



Friends of Organ Pipes National Park lead tour and micro bat monitoring

On Sunday 1 May a group of 50 people participated in an informative tour of Organ Pipes National Park (OPNP), the tour led along the creek, providing history of the park's geology, biodiversity, and land management.

Robert Bender from FOOPS and Steve Griffiths from La Trobe University conducted an educational talk and display of the Micro Bats which call the OPNP home. In total on the day approximately 130 individual Micro Bats from 6 different species were collected. Measurements of body weight, health, etc. have been recorded during this monitoring program for 28 years, making it the longest running program of its kind in the southern hemisphere.

In October 2022 the Friends of Organ Pipes National Park will celebrate 50 years of volunteering. Over this time, various group members have reclaimed the valley from weeds and erosion to create the ecological hot spot it is today. Stay tuned for further details about community celebrations.



Events

Let's Grow Hume Edible Gardening workshops

Bring your young children along to the Let's Grow Hume Edible Gardening Workshops with Thom Fox - a qualified teacher with a passion for engaging with children in the garden and exploring the joys of growing your own food in healthy, organic soil.

Let's Grow Hume is all about learning to grow your own food and enjoying some time outside in the garden. Activities include making newspaper seedling boxes, exploring worm farms, sowing seedlings, and making mini-greenhouses from strawberry containers, and wicking gardens from milk bottles.

Receive free seeds and seedlings to take home and plant. Spaces are limited and registration is required. Register via the Hume Events portal: hume.vic.gov.au/livegreen

Wed 20 July: Newbury Child and Community Centre, 440 Grand Boulevard, Craigieburn



Mulching Days – multiple locations, Sundays in August, 9.30am – 2.30pm

A maximum of four cubic metres of clean, freshly cut tree branches will be accepted for mulching. You will also need to bring proof of Hume residency, such as your rates notice or drivers licence, to participate in the service.

Sun 7 August: Council Parks and Services Depot, 42 Maffra Street, Coolaroo

Sunday 14 August: Leo Dineen Reserve, Spring Street, Tullamarine

Sunday 21 August: Craigieburn Service Depot, 153 Craigieburn Rd, Craigieburn

Let's Grow Hume

The Let's Grow Hume program is an edible gardening project that aims to connect residents in Hume. The program delivers online and face-to-face workshops.

Hume residents that attend the online webinars or face to face workshops also get access to the Ready to Grow Expression of Interest form and if selected, residents are supplied with equipment to set up their very own healthy garden for growing vegies.

The Let's Grow Hume online group is also continuing to grow in numbers. Residents across Hume are joining and sharing their gardening knowledge, celebrating their successes, and learning together in this community-led initiative.

Everyone is welcome at our community gardening gatherings and workshops.

For more information about the Let's Grow Hume program or to sign up to the upcoming events visit hume.vic.gov.au/letsgrowhume



Thom and workshop participants making mini wicking garden beds from milk bottles.



A planted out Ready to Grow Kit (image kindly supplied by Hume resident Sudharmi Geekiyangae).



Join a community garden

Hume's community gardens in Craigieburn, Roxburgh Park, Westmeadows and Sunbury are back open again and looking for more members. It's free to join!

Become a member at one of our community gardens where you get to plant and share harvesting together. Learn about leadership by joining the leadership group and support gardeners while gardening. If you have knowledge and skills of gardening you can also offer workshops to educate members.

Become a member by submitting an Expression of Interest form on the Hume website hume.vic.gov.au/communitygardens and email it to communitygardens@hume.vic.gov.au



Craigieburn Community Garden



Westmeadows Community Garden

