

HUME CITY COUNCIL

Live Green

Sustainability Newsletter

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hume.vic.gov.au/environment



Become a Garden Guide

Become a volunteer Garden Guide for Council's Gardens for Wildlife program! Council's Urban Biodiversity program is looking for friendly people to do garden visits and prepare reports. You'll provide suggestions, encouragement, and resources about wildlife habitat gardens.

Garden visits can take place anywhere. So far visits have happened at people's houses, in childcare centres, a retirement estate, and even a depot carpark! It's a wonderful experience for all involved to share positive stories that help nature in our own neighbourhoods. Another 25 people have recently applied so trainee Garden Guides will be able to join these garden visits for training and support.

For more information visit hume.vic.gov.au/gardensforwildlife or contact Council's Urban Biodiversity Officer, Melissa Doherty on **0409 702 086** or melissado@hume.vic.gov.au



Platypus

Hume City has resident platypus in a few creeks, particularly those near Sunbury and Bulla. This September, Australian Conservation Foundation is asking people to head to their local waterway to try to spot a platypus and record what you see. It is best to look at dawn and dusk, as adult platypus tend to be nocturnal and are rarely seen during the day.

For more information visit: shorturl.at/BFIP9



Latham's Snipe

During Spring, Latham's Snipe birds travel over 8,000km from Japan to feed in Australia's wetlands. In late summer, some fly straight back to Japan in three days, while others take a few weeks to enjoy longer wetland stop overs.

A significant population (more than 18 birds) is using Aitken Creek in Craigieburn as a habitat. Be part of national efforts to count them and register to attend a community survey this season.

Saturday 24 September, 9am – 11am

Bookings are essential visit: shorturl.at/CGJK7

Saturday 26 November, 9am – 11am

Bookings are essential visit: shorturl.at/chLWZ

Saturday 14 January 2023, 9am – 11am

Bookings are essential visit: shorturl.at/joy02

Grassy Plains Network Walk and Talk

Evans Street Grassland in Sunbury is recognised as a significant, species-rich remnant grassland. It's a tiny patch of the native wildflower grasslands that once stretched across the southwest of the state on Victoria's Volcanic Plains. As little as 0.01% of these species-rich grasslands now remain, and this unique ecosystem looks stunning over spring.

Join a walk and talk this Spring. Field guides are available. Bring your camera!

Saturday 5 November 2022, 1pm – 3pm

Evans Street Grassland, 128-156 Evans St, Sunbury

Bookings are essential visit: bit.ly/3QU0nu6

Pollinator Week

Stop. Be still. Take time to just sit and watch bugs in your garden. You will be amazed by what comes to visit your flowers. If you can get photos of these mini beasts, you can also contribute to the citizen science project that is monitoring insects during Australian Pollinator Week from the 12 – 20 November, 2022.

For more information visit: bit.ly/3AOU6ub

Hooray for Spring and Summer! The longer amounts of daylight per day means we can plant a lot more varieties of fruits, vegetables and herbs.

Seeds vs Seedlings – The great debate

There are lots of heated discussions around the pros and cons of starting a garden from seed or from seedlings. Council's Sustainability Engagement team doesn't really lean one way or another in this debate. We champion the idea of having a mix of plants raised from seed and some raised from seedling in your home gardens.

Growing plants from seed can have several positive outcomes including cost effectiveness, stronger plants, and having an abundance of seeds left over for the next spring/summer seasons. Sowing seeds at home also means that as the seeds germinate (produce roots and shoots), they are used to the specific climate conditions of your backyard. This is different to seedlings in that whilst they'll give your garden a 6-8-week head start in the germination process, the little tender seedlings you purchase from a nursery might have been reared in controlled environments far away from the chilly and sometimes harsh reality of Melbourne mornings. When you grow plants from seed yourself, you can harden them off. Once they get to about 10-15cm, leave them outside under shelter to prevent frost from affecting them.



When growing fruits, vegetables and herbs at home, it's always best to experiment to get to know what works best for your conditions. Maintain a garden journal, even weekly photos. This can help inform you about what plants are growing well, or not so well in your patch.

Hume City Council's Sustainability Engagement Team host regular workshops and events across the municipality. Events in Hume Community Gardens and Community Centres to help support and nurture those interested in getting their hands dirty in the soil. A range of comprehensive gardening resources put together by Hume City Council can also be found at bit.ly/3Kke0R3

What to plant for Spring and Summer:

| PLANT | SEP | OCT | NOV | DEC | JAN | FEB |
|-----------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Asparagus | X | X | X | X | | |
| Artichoke | X | X | X | | | |
| Basil | X | | | | | |
| Beans | X | X | X | X | | |
| Beetroot | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| Broccoli | | | | | | X |
| Brussel sprouts | | | | | | X |
| Cabbage | | | | | | X |
| Capsicum | X | | | | | |
| Carrots | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| Cauliflower | | | | | | X |
| Celery | X | X | | | | |
| Chilli | X | X | | | | |
| Chives | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| Coriander | X | | | | | |
| Corn | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| Cucumber | X | X | X | X | | |
| Eggplant | X | | | | | |
| Leeks | X | | | | | |
| Lettuce | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| Mustard | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| Parsley | X | X | X | X | X | x |
| Parsnip | X | X | | | | |
| Potatoes | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| Pumpkin | X | X | X | X | | |
| Radish | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| Rocket | X | X | X | | | |
| Silverbeet | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| Spring onions | X | | | | | |
| Sweet potatoes | | X | X | | | |
| Tomatoes | X | | | | | |
| Watermelon | X | X | | | | |
| Zucchini | X | X | | | | |

Source: Local Food Connect, North Melbourne Veggie Planting Guide, 2015.

Mulch is King!

The number one key ingredient for any successful garden is mulch! There are two types of mulch to use; organic mulch and inorganic mulch.

Organic mulch is made up of a recycled plant-based materials including compost and bark. A good cover of mulch is 75 - 100mm. This type of mulch can stop up to 70% of evaporation from your soils, giving your plants the best chance to survive our hot summers. Organic mulch can also add nutrient-rich organic matter to your soil as it breaks down. Make sure the mulch is not heaped

up against the plant base as this can lead to collar rot and can cause some fungal diseases.

Inorganic mulch can be made up of stone or pebble. This still provides a good barrier against evaporation. A good cover of 75 - 100mm is required. Inorganic mulch doesn't break down like organic mulch. It may cost more in the initial stages, but it won't require a top up once installed.

For more tips about summer-proofing your garden, visit bit.ly/3cqX1zN

Events

Sustainable Gardening Australia online edible gardening workshop series

Sustainable Gardening Australia is joining with the Hume City Council to deliver online gardening workshops between August and December 2022. These online workshops will be run via Zoom, with recordings of the sessions available for a month at the conclusion of each event.



Managing and creating healthy soil

Thursday 6th October 7pm

This workshop is all about the fundamentals of nurturing healthy soil. SGA will go through the steps to support gardeners looking to improve the health of their soil and get more healthy produce growing in the garden as a result. A must for those keen on getting the best produce from their soil!

Dealing with garden pests

Wednesday 9th November 7pm

Are you tired of pest animals and bugs getting to your garden before you do? This is the workshop for you! Come along to this online workshop to discover safe and organic methods of keeping pests away from your garden so you can enjoy the fruits of your labour before they do!

Water smart gardening

Friday 1st December 7pm, online

Just in time for the warmer months! This workshop will explore how to become a water smart gardener. This workshop will demonstrate ways to reduce your water usage in the garden but still ensure your plants and veggies are getting the water they need. Learn about design, dry climate plants, the pros and cons of various mulches and rainwater use.

Register for these events at: shorturl.at/gTXYZ

For more information contact Hume's Sustainable Engagement Officer on **0477 021 301** or email environment@hume.vic.gov.au





Let's Grow Hume kids edible gardening

Bring your young children along to an edible gardening workshop and exploration at one of Hume City Council's community centres!

The activities at the centres include making newspaper seedling boxes, exploring worm farms, sowing seeds and making mini greenhouses from recycled containers.

All sessions are running from 10am – 11.30am and are facilitated by a qualified teacher and environmental science specialist.

12 Month evaluation of Hume City Council's Let's Grow Hume program

Our Let's Grow Hume program recently celebrated its 12 month milestone. Hundreds of residents participated in a variety of Let's Grow Hume events across the municipality.

Participants reported that the program encouraged them to connect with other members of the community, to get out into nature, as well as explore some of Council's gardening programs. The *Let's Grow Hume* program is looking forward to 2023 and filling out the calendar with loads of events, workshops, and giveaways.

September 21 (School holidays)

Kalkallo Community Centre, 33 Toyon Rd, Kalkallo
Register for free visit: bit.ly/3pIE3rE

September 22 (School holidays)

Newbury Child and Community Centre,
440 Grand Boulevard, Craigieburn
Register for free visit: bit.ly/3CyY2kf

October 19

Homestead Community and Learning Centre,
30 Whiltshire Road, Roxburgh Park
Register for free visit: bit.ly/3wxyZdq

November 16

Mickleham North Community Centre, Corner St.
George's Boulevard and Blackmore Rd, Mickleham
Register for free visit: bit.ly/3TlvFvR

December 21 (School holidays)

Greenvale West Community Centre,
7 Ventura Way, Greenvale
Register for free visit: bit.ly/3AO3uOI

Introduction to organic soil food webs

Learn how to work with the Soil Food Web to improve your soil and to improve the health and productivity of your garden.

This workshop introduces participants to some of the important characters (organisms) in the Soil Food Web and their role in developing active living soil.

Saturday 8 October 2022, 10am – 2pm

Westmeadows Indigenous Community Garden, Toora Drive, Westmeadows 3049

To register visit: bit.ly/3KkeOR3

Dealing with garden pests without harsh chemicals

Hosted by Sustainable Gardening Australia. Come and learn about Integrated Pest Management (IPM).

This workshop will cover how to manage pests by using mechanical, cultural, biological and lastly low impact chemicals.

Topics Covered:

- An introduction to Integrated Pest Management
- Identifying the culprits
- Beneficial insects vs pests
- Using barriers and cultural strategies
- When to consider garden chemicals
- Introduction to companion plants to help control garden pests and diseases
- Common garden pests and control options

Saturday 8 October 2022, 2pm – 4pm

Roxburgh Park Community Garden
Whiltshire Drive, Roxburgh Park 3064

To register visit: bit.ly/3CydxbW

Plant, produce and recipe swap at Tullamarine Library

Bring along plants, seedlings, cuttings, herbs, vegies or fruit from your garden or a recipe to swap. Swap some of you own harvest for someone else's garden produce.

All levels of experience welcome. Free to attend.

Wednesday 26 October 2022, 1pm – 2.30pm

Tullamarine Library, 58 Spring Street



Working Bee at Alister Clark Memorial Rose Garden

Join us for a working bee at Alister Clark Memorial Rose Garden in Bulla.

Regular working bees are held throughout the year. New volunteers are encouraged to come along and learn about the roses and perennials, and to share their love of gardening. Please wear boots or sturdy shoes, a hat and gloves.

Saturday, 3 September 2022, 10am – 2.30pm
Alister Clark Memorial Rose Garden, Cnr Bulla Rd and Green Street, Bulla 3428



Craigieburn Community Garden open times

The Craigieburn Community Garden will be open on the second Friday of each month from 11am – 12 pm.

If you would like to see the gardens and consider becoming a member, come to the gardens for a tour conducted by garden members.

Friday 9 December 2022, 11am – 12pm

Craigieburn Community Garden
Hamilton Street, Craigieburn 3064

Register online at shorturl.at/ciotD



Hume Libraries and The Sustainability Project

Hume Libraries are involved in The Sustainability Project with our main library supplier, James Bennett. Library books are ordered via library suppliers who are the middle-step between publishers and libraries. They manage our supply chain according to several profiles and according to the needs of the libraries. We have limited space on our shelves so when we get new books, we also need to ensure that an equivalent number of older books are removed from the shelves.

James Bennett commenced The Sustainability Project to ensure that library books removed from libraries are given a second life. This includes donating perfectly good book collections to communities in need, recycling the books into new products and generating funds to support Hume City Council's engagement with the Indigenous Literacy Foundation.

Alongside over 120 other libraries across Australia, Hume City Council Library services are saving an estimated 225,000 books from being sent to landfill.



Spring time recipe: Leftover spring onion pancakes

Got some sad looking, leftover spring onions sitting at the bottom of your fridge? Try this quick spring onion pancake recipe from *Use it All* by Alex Elliott-Howery and Jaimee Edwards.

Total preparation time: 1 hour

Difficulty: Easy-moderate

Great for: Breakfasts, snacks, entertaining, side dish

Ingredients

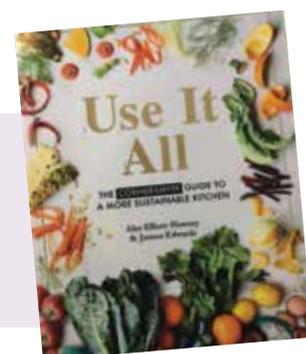
- 150g plain flour
- ½tsp salt
- ¾ cup of water
- 1tsp cracked black pepper
- 3-4 spring onions, sliced thinly
- 1 garlic clove, minced
- 5tbsp vegetable oil

Method

1. Mix 150g plain flour and salt together in a bowl.
2. Make a well in the centre of flour.
3. Bring water to boil, let it cool for about 1 minute then add to flour.
4. Knead the dough on a floured workbench until mixture is smooth. Wrap dough in a towel and let it rest for 30 minutes.
5. In a separate bowl, mix black pepper, spring onions, garlic, two tablespoons of flour and two tablespoons of olive oil.
6. Roll dough into 30 x 15 cm rectangle and brush with vegetable oil.
7. Evenly cover dough rectangle with spring onion mixture and roll into a sausage, starting at the short end.
8. Cut dough sausage into 12 even pieces, turning the cut pieces on their side, with the spiral facing upwards, press spiral down to flatten into a disc
9. Heat remaining vegetable oil in frying pan over a medium heat. Once oil is hot, fry each pancake for 3 minutes. Serve straight away.



Use it All is a tremendous resource for cooking up our groceries that may have been left lingering in the fridge. Their creative recipes will get you looking at how much organic waste you can minimise through imaginative cooking and exploration. *Use it All* is available for loan through the Hume Libraries network.



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Book review:

A Zero Waste Family in Thirty Days by Anita Vandyke

Anita Vandyke aims to inspire you and your family to reduce your waste output by up to 80% in 30 days. Anita sets up each day as a mini waste reduction challenge and gets you to think about what you use, consume, eat, and produce. The book reflects on the shared experiences of self-care, home care and childcare that Australian families face and addresses the challenges and barriers to living mindfully and sustainability.

A Zero Waste Family in Thirty Days invites readers to reflect on whether we are leaving our planet in a better condition for future generations. This book is available for loan through the Hume library network.

From the community:

Poem: Flowers Bloom in Darkness too

Dear one, I know times are hard, but did you realise the flowers blooming has begun?

*Look around, spring has sprung!
Flowers blossoming again becoming young.
Our hearts can also bloom from the darkness
in to the sun.*

*Softening, releasing and allowing the air to fill
the lungs.*

*Like the trees swaying in the wind, let us
remain strong in our trunk.*

*Awakening to the beauty within,
Let us allow our stories to be sung.*

*A tree can withstand the weather if it has
many branches*

*So keep your social circle expanded
Get out in nature and take your cameras,
find yourself some roaming kangas.
And connect to all of natures dancers.*

*You will find and you will see,
All bees, flowers, birds and things feathery
Live together all in harmony.*

- Yaz Dincer.



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Are you signed up to Live Green eNews? Our monthly eNewsletter is the best way to get up-to-date sustainability and environment news, straight to your inbox. Live Green eNews is sent out at the start of each month.

It's a great way to stay on top of our calendar of events and activities as well as hear about seasonal grants programs and other sustainability news.

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Subscribe Today!

Live Green hardcopy update:

We're moving to bi-annual publication.

Hume's Live Green Hardcopy is moving to a bi-annual publication. This means that instead of receiving this in the mail quarterly, you'll receive two jam-packed editions covering two seasons worth of events, workshops, news, tips, recommendations and happenings across the municipality.

The change comes as we strive to move towards our carbon neutral initiatives across Council. Our monthly online newsletter will continue to have up to date information about sustainability across Hume and beyond, with information on how to sign up provided in this hardcopy edition of Live Green.

Comments and feedback are always welcome, and for any further questions please contact the Sustainability Engagement Team at environment@hume.vic.gov.au or by phone **0477 021 301**.

Hume City Council recognises the rich Aboriginal heritage within the municipality and acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung, which includes the Gunung-Willam-Balluk clan, as the Traditional Custodians of this land. Council embraces Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander living cultures as a vital part of Australia's identity and recognises, celebrates and pays respect to the existing family members of the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung and to Elders past, present and future.

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