



HUME CITY COUNCIL **LIVE GREEN NEWS**

**Hume's Sustainability Newsletter
Autumn 2020**

 hume.vic.gov.au/livegreen





Schools for Nature biodiversity projects

Eight Hume primary schools have received Caring for Our Local Environments (COLE) grants through the Victorian Government.

The grants support the schools' involvement in Hume's Schools for Nature program, which aims to develop nature corridors and biodiversity hotspots.

Current projects include

- butterfly gardens
- insect hotels
- bird thickets
- lizard lounges
- an indigenous cultural garden
- a tranquillity garden.

A total of 1,425 students in Years 3 to 6 are involved at Bethal Primary, Greenvale Primary, Hume Valley Primary, Killara Primary, Roxburgh Park Primary, Roxburgh Rise Primary, Westmeadows Primary and Willmott Park Primary.



Join our Compost Community

Get a cheap compost bin, worm farm or Bokashi bin for your household.

Food makes up more than one third of the waste filling Hume's rubbish bins. Rotting food releases methane – a powerful greenhouse gas that speeds up global warming.

This organic material could go back into the soil as compost. Composting helps your plants and the planet. If you need help getting started, Hume Council and our partners at Compost Community are making it easy.

This Autumn, visit hume.vic.gov.au/compostcommunity to access one* of the following discounted products:

Compost Bins

Perfect if you have a bigger garden, especially if growing your own veggies. Add layers of lawn clippings, leaves or scrap paper to keep your compost healthy.

Worm Farms

Great for smaller households without heaps of food waste – and worm juice is a great fertiliser. Worms need shaded cool areas.

Bokashi Bins

Even meat and dairy go into a Bokashi, so they're useful alongside a worm farm or compost bin. Small enough for units and apartments.

**Limit of one per household, free delivery, available while stock lasts.*

Help clean up Tiffany Crescent Reserve

Hume Enviro Champion and Roxburgh Park Resident Kevsar Dogan has inspired her community to come together to help clean up at favourite local reserve.

Kevsar Dogan organises a clean-up of Tiffany Crescent Reserve with Roxburgh Rise Primary School students every school term.

Kevsar's passion for keeping our parks and waterways clean saw her join the Hume Enviro Champions program in 2019. She continues to use her training to keep her project thriving.

On Clean Up Australia Day, Sunday 1 March, over 30 Roxburgh Park residents joined Kevsar for a community clean up. They left the park sparkling and shared lunch afterwards.

Kevsar's community spirit and desire to see her local area clean has been a great outcome for Tiffany Crescent Reserve and its wonderful birdlife.

For more inspiring Enviro Champion stories, visit hume.vic.gov.au/envirochampions



Free waste education for schools

Council has partnered with CERES Education to provide a range of free waste and environmental education incursions for schools, kindergartens and early learning centres.

Kindergarten kids will love handling worms, learning how to make healthy soil and learning the 'Four Rs', while

school-aged children can learn about everything from investigating how long household bin items take to break down in landfill to calculating food miles to making an action plan to create change at school.

Visit hume.vic.gov.au/wasteeducation to peruse the different incursions available and submit a booking request in preparation for when schools return.



Autumn gardening

Autumn is a great time to get into the garden.

Things to do include:

- Prune apricot trees, remove and compost summer annuals.
- Collect Autumn leaves for mulch from your surrounding streets.
- Make sure your water tanks are connected and leak-free – hopefully we'll get some rain!
- Prepare your garden beds (weed, compost, manure) for Autumn and Winter plantings.

Things to plant include

cabbage, Asian greens, lettuce, rocket, spinach, carrots, celery, cauliflower, spring onions, leek, onions, radish, turnips, swedes, parsley, oregano, thyme, rosemary and mint.



Bushfires and Aboriginal land management

In the aftermath of a devastating bushfire season, there is increasing recognition of the vital role indigenous Australians can, and should, play in preparing the land for coming bushfire seasons.

Council's Land and Biodiversity team have collaborated with the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung's Narrap Team for years to share in their knowledge of our local environment.

The Narrap Team has led traditional cultural burns of the Sunbury Rings landscape, which is owned by the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung.

Now Council is formalising its land management partnership with the Narrap team. This formal partnership aims to build upon past collaboration and improve the land management practices in

Hume City's conservation reserves. It will also enrich the knowledge of Council staff and provide opportunities for community education.

This initiative is guided by the *Victorian Traditional Owners Cultural Fire Strategy*, which aims to 'reinvigorate cultural fire through Traditional Owner led practices across all types of Country and land tenure'. The Strategy is led by Traditional Owner groups and supported by the Victorian Government and the CFA.

This summer's devastating bushfires destroyed 3,500 homes and claimed the lives of 34 people and more than 1 billion animals across the country. Partnerships like these are a step towards better bushfire season practises and will hopefully prevent such devastating losses from occurring again in the future.



Live Green Scavenger Hunt

- ❑ 5 leaves that look different
- ❑ A stick that is longer than your hand
- ❑ 2 different flowers
- ❑ 10 blades of grass
- ❑ A mushroom
- ❑ A piece of rubbish that you can put in the bin
- ❑ A rock
- ❑ A tree that grows fruit

For bonus points...

- ❑ Spot a Hume City Council sign
- ❑ Spot an 'urban bird' (use our *Birds of Hume* field guide at hume.vic.gov.au/birds)



Wurundjeri Traditional Owner Uncle Dave Wandin with Hume Councillors Drew Jessop and Geoff Porter at the Sunbury Rings



Recycling Victoria

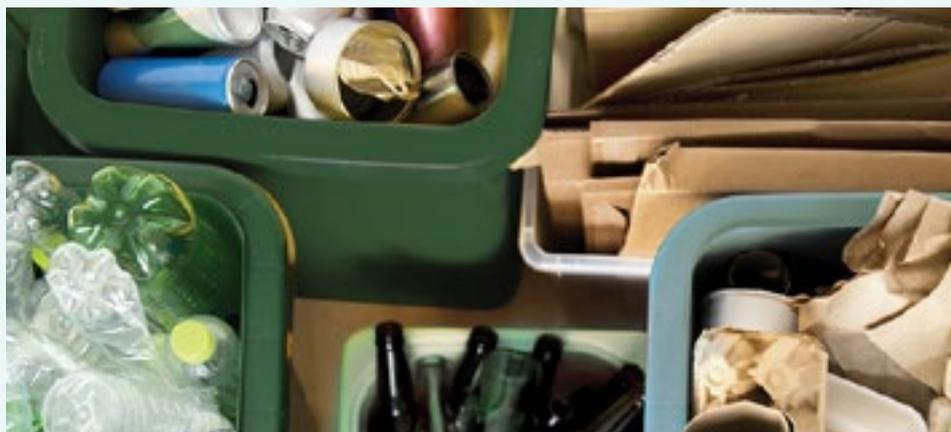
The state government has launched the Recycling Victoria circular economy policy.

This 10-year action plan will help to address some of the community's key waste management concerns. The government will invest in recycling infrastructure, target hazardous waste, protect the community from dangerous chemical stockpiles and introduce a container deposit scheme.

Mayor of Hume City, Councillor Carly Moore, said the policy responded to many of the issues Council had been advocating for.

"Management of recycling and waste has been an ongoing issue and concern for our community," Cr Moore said.

"Council and the wider local government sector have long been calling for support from the State Government to provide an



appropriate long-term response to recycling and waste management that meets community expectations."

Councillor Moore added that Council would be working closely with the MAV, Metropolitan Waste and Resource Recovery Group (MWRRG), industry and the Victorian Government to better understand how the Recycling Victoria policy would be implemented.

"We understand that the policy indicated changes as to how recycling

will be collected and processed in the future," Cr Moore said.

"Council is currently working with the State Government and other relevant agencies to understand implementation and will continue to keep the community informed via our website, Facebook page and publications."

Sign up to Live Green eNews at hume.vic.gov.au/enewsletters to keep up to date with sustainability and environment news in Hume City.

Film review: 2040

After the success of *That Sugar Film*, Damon Gameau realised there was an audience for documentary features that are serious and entertaining, hard-hitting and optimistic. So he turned his attention to the biggest issue of all: the climate crisis.

2040 is the result. Framed as Gameau's letter to his daughter, the film imagines a future in which greenhouse gas emissions have been dramatically reduced.

Sound utopian? Far from it. Every technology described already exists today, in 2020. These include regenerative agriculture, seaweed farms and self-driving electric vehicles that can help transform our cities into cleaner, greener places.

Scientific consensus indicates that, in order to avoid the catastrophic effects of a global temperature increase greater than 1.5°C, we need to reduce our carbon emissions to net zero by 2030.

It's a huge challenge and can seem overwhelming. That's where 2040 is so useful — it's a realistic, positive vision of the future that leaves you feeling hopeful.

The film's one missing ingredient is



what everyday people can do to help achieve this vision. Thankfully, in Hume and elsewhere, the creativity and activism of our communities is already showing the way.

Want to host a screening of 2040 at your school? Or access curriculum materials? Visit whatsyour2040.com for more information

To take local action, get in touch with Hume Climate Action Now (Hume CAN) at facebook.com/HumeCAN

Solar Rebates

Still haven't taken advantage of the Victorian Governments' solar rebate? Now is the time!

Did you know that homeowners and renters (PLUS landlords) can access rebates of \$1,888 or an interest-free loan of \$1,888 to have solar panels installed?

Coupled with the existing Federal Government solar rebate, this can take the cost of a 3.3kW solar system (10 solar panels plus an inverter) to \$0 out of pocket!

It's never been cheaper and easier to go solar. Here's how you do it:

Step 1 – Visit solarvic.gov.au to familiarise yourself with the process.

Step 2 – Seek quotes from two or three approved installers listed on the Solar Vic website.

Step 3 – Choose your installer and agree to a quote. Your chosen installer will then upload the quote to the Solar Vic website.

Step 4 – Complete your section of the Solar Vic application. This takes an average of just 22 minutes. You will need your rates notice, ID (two of either drivers' license, Medicare card, birth certificate or passport) and proof of income such as an ATO income statement from the last financial year or the year prior.

Step 5 – Solar Vic approves your application and quote.

Step 6 – Arrange installation with your preferred installer.

Step 7 – Enjoy small power bills, repay the loan and still be ahead – and feel good about contributing to the climate solution!



Things to do...

We may have had to cancel our events, but we have plenty of ideas about how you can maintain your health and wellbeing through these tough times.



In the garden

- When removing summer veg and preparing your Winter vegie garden, don't forget to save your seeds! Visit hume.vic.gov.au/gardeningfactsheets for a great fact sheet on seed saving. Follow [facebook.com/humeseedlibrary](https://www.facebook.com/humeseedlibrary) to get in touch with local seed savers!
- Collect Autumn leaves for mulch and prepare your compost.
- Read our Autumn Gardening article on page 3 for a list of some great vegies and herbs you can plant in Autumn.

Watch 2040

Damon Gameau's documentary 2040 is a letter to his daughter from the future. This film showcases solutions for a sustainable society to combat the climate crisis, while also being a story of hope for the world future generations will inherit.

You can buy or rent the film on iTunes or Google Play.

Cool Australia

The Cool Australia student toolbox contains loads of great, up-to-date educational resources including videos, fact sheets and researched articles about a range of issues such as climate change, biodiversity and pollution. Students can also learn about mindfulness, consumerism and more.

Visit coolaustralia.org/student-toolbox to get learning!



Winter proof your home

See Council's website for energy efficiency tips, as well as short films in different languages explaining how to install low cost energy efficiency items to keep your home comfortable and your bills down. Visit hume.vic.gov.au/energytakeaction for more information.

Visit Hume's open spaces

Hume has so many great conservation reserves and parklands you can visit with the kids. Mount Ridley Conservation Reserve in Mickleham, Woodlands Historic Park in Greenvale, The Nook in Sunbury and Broadmeadows Valley Park are just some of the great outdoor areas where kids can enjoy nature play.

Find a park near you at hume.vic.gov.au/parksandreserves



Hume City Council recognises the rich Aboriginal heritage within the municipality and acknowledges the Gunung Willam Balluk of the Wurundjeri as the Traditional Custodians of this land.

Council embraces Aboriginal living culture as a vital part of Australia's identity and recognises, celebrates and pays respect to the existing family members of the Gunung-Willam-Balluk and to Elders past and present.

To help save paper, let us know if you would like to receive Live Green News by email only. Feedback and contributions are welcome and can be emailed to environment@hume.vic.gov.au or call 9205 2200.

 hume.vic.gov.au/livegreen

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