Enviro Champions now recruiting

The 2020 Enviro Champions training program will begin on Sunday 16 February with the Great Green Guided Tour of Hume’s amazing community-led sustainability projects.

Do you want to connect more with people in your local community? Have an idea for a sustainability project and want help bringing it to life? The Enviro Champions training program runs for 10 Wednesday evenings and three Sundays between February and May. Participants learn project management, fundraising, effective use of social media, event coordination as well as creating and sustaining community partnerships.

Projects from 2019 include a clothes swap, biodiversity with native plants in Hume, Hume Seed Library, Sunbury Eco Hub, Care for 3064 park clean up and advocacy, Hume Climate Action Now, Sharing Our Culture for a Healthy Planet and Reusable Produce Bags.

Find out more at hume.vic.gov.au/envirochampions

Big win for local recycling service

Broadmeadows-based social enterprise Enable has been recognised at the 2019 Hume Business Awards and Premier’s Sustainability Awards.

The Hume Business Awards acknowledge and celebrate the achievements of local businesses and the contribution they have made to the community.

Enable received the Sustainability Award for their leadership in sustainable and environmentally-friendly practices.

The Enable IT Recycling service received multiple accolades at the Premier’s Sustainability Awards, which celebrate outstanding sustainability initiatives in the Victorian community. Enable IT Recycling is a computer recycling business that integrates environment, social and economic outcomes by creating dignified employment opportunities for people with disabilities.

Enable received the Premier’s Recognition Award and the Innovative Products or Services Award for their great work.

In 2018, Enable delivered 14,501 hours of employability skills to 450 participants most likely to experience barriers to employment. They also diverted 133,046 kilograms of computer equipment waste from landfill through accredited recycling services for more than 80 customers.

Julie McKay, Enable’s founder and Managing Director (pictured above with Crew Leader Mick Hodgson at the Hume Business Awards, held in November 2019) said, “This acknowledgement really pays homage to the significant contribution from the many Enable supporters, customers, impact partners, staff, volunteers and Board of Directors. “This is truly the result of a collective effort to make a difference.”

You can recycle your old computers and computer equipment at the Enable drop off point located at 60 Belfast Street, Broadmeadows. Find out more at enableaustralia.org.au/it-recycling

ABOVE: Enable IT Recycling receives an award at the Premier’s Sustainability Awards.
Free Bike Ed Training for teachers

Does your local school run a Bike Ed program or need help getting started?

Bike Ed is a free resource that teaches cycling and road safety basics to children aged nine to 13. It involves practical activities that are conducted at school and on local roads.

Council can fund Bike Ed instructor qualification and reaccreditation training, undertaken every five years, for Primary and Secondary teachers and assistants. This training is delivered by CyclingSafe (cyclingsafe.com.au).

Council can also support schools to initiate a new Bike Ed program. For more information, email environment@hume.vic.gov.au

Recycle right – you can make a difference

Victoria’s waste and recycling crisis this year has meant there has never been a more important time to put the right items in the right bin.

After a spate of incidents that forced recycling to go to landfill, kerbside bin recycling is now being processed.

It’s vital that the right items make it into your recycling bin. Putting the wrong items in the wrong bin can interfere with recycling efforts. A recent assessment found that about 10 per cent of items placed in our recycling bins are contaminated material.

Only these items can go in your recycling bin:

- paper and cardboard
- milk cartons (but no juice boxes or long-life milk/UHT boxes)
- glass bottles and jars (no lids)
- steel and aluminium cans (no aerosols)
- rigid and semi rigid plastics numbered 1–7 (if you are unsure whether you can recycle a plastic, turn it over and check if it has a recycling symbol with a number on it), with lids removed.

For more information visit hume.vic.gov.au/recycling

Pop up recycling continues!

While recycling of kerbside household collections has now recommenced in Hume, residents can still take recyclables to Pop-up Recycling Stations.

The Craigieburn-based Northern Community Recycling Group has still been holding fortnightly Pop-up Recycling Stations at the Craigieburn Sports Stadium.

There are items you can take to the Pop-up Recycling Stations that you cannot put in your kerbside bin, such as toothbrushes and toothpaste tubes, pens and other stationary items and tetra packs.

For a full list of items accepted at Pop-up Recycling Stations, visit hume.vic.gov.au/popuprecycling
Reduce food waste, reduce greenhouse emissions

Around half the content of an average rubbish bin is from food waste, which is a major contributor to greenhouse gas emissions.

Over time food waste producers methane, which is a much more potent greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide. That means that greenhouse emissions could potentially be significantly reduced by composting or worm farming at home, or getting a Council organic waste bin. Organic waste bins can be used to dispose of fruit and vegetable scraps, as well as garden waste. This waste is then processed on an industrial scale to produce renewable energy, compost, mulch, soil and liquid fertiliser. Organic waste bins are available for an annual fee and are collected fortnightly – visit hume.vic.gov.au/organics to find out more.

The resilient summer vegie patch

Summer weather is becoming increasingly hard to predict but the common denominators are more heat and less water. You can create the right growing conditions in your backyard vegie patch by having more shade, more wind protection, lots of mulch and a regular source of water such as a wicking bed.

- Your garden consists of multiple microclimates and in summer, the sun rises and sets on a different angle, changing the way sunlight enters different parts of your yard. The placement of your winter vegie patch may not be ideal for your summer vegies.

- Leafy greens with soft, light leaves such as lettuces only need a few hours of summer sun per day.

- If you’ve planted tomatoes and/or corn in late Spring, stake them in a way that provides shade for leafy greens and other vegies that prefer less direct, harsh sun.

- Good vegies to plant in summer include Asian greens, basil, beans, beetroot, capsicum, carrot, cucumber, eggplant, lettuce, parsley, potato, pumpkin, radish, rocket, spring onions, corn, zucchini.

- Seedlings will need to be raised in a spot that is protected from the harsh sun.

- Don’t forget to use lots of mulch to reduce loss of water to evaporation and to keep your soil healthy.

- Water in the early mornings to ensure most of the water is available for your plants.

Check out Council’s educational resources including fact sheets on summer vegie growing and how to build a wicking bed on the Live Green page hume.vic.gov.au/livegreen

ABOVE: cross section of a wicking bed.
We wish you a joyful and sustainable Christmas

There are plenty of ways to reduce your environmental footprint this Christmas. Individual actions make a difference, so make sure to share your actions and your reasons with your family and friends.

Food waste and plastic waste have a significant impact on our environment. You can help reduce the overall impact of food waste by buying the right amount of food for events you are hosting, making good use of leftovers, using a worm farm or compost bin or purchasing a Council organic waste bin. Council organic waste bins can be used to dispose of both garden waste and plant-based food scraps (see page 4 for more information).

Second Bite pick up perfectly good leftover catering and redistribute to Melbourne's homeless. If you host a large event and can help feed the hungry, call Second Bite on 9376 3800.

When it comes to gift giving, you can help change the culture of consumption and waste by having a family discussion about changing traditions with options including Kris Kringle (a gift lottery so everyone involved gives and receives one gift), giving experiences or donations, or even abstaining from gift giving and just having fun together.

With a bit of creative flare, decorations, cards and wrapping can be made from second hand items.

Christmas is a time to be with your loved ones. This can mean travelling. Depending on where you are travelling to, you may find public transport to be more convenient than our congested roads. Public transport is free from 3am Christmas Day until 3am Boxing Day.
**Schools for nature summit**

Students from five local ResourceSmart Schools came together to share their skills at the Student Environmental Leadership Summit.

CERES Community Environment park hosted participants from Bethal Primary, Dallas Brooks Community Primary, Killara Primary, Meadows Primary and Roxburgh Rise Primary for the summit on Thursday 17 October.

The students worked together on implementing school-based sustainability projects and learned invaluable skills about water, climate, composting and the impact they can have to inspire others.

Bethal Primary students were excited to be building an outdoor classroom with wildflowers and bush tucker foods, students from Roxburgh Rise Primary told other students how to create their own bird watching club and Meadows Primary students showed other schools how to make bird boxes.

The Summit was made possible through a grant received by Hume Council from the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP).

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**Hume’s Snake Catcher Program**

As part of Council’s Living with Wildlife program, we encourage residents to support wildlife in their natural environment. However, we understand that there are times when a snake may need to be relocated.

Snakes are a vital part of Hume’s natural ecosystem. Although snakes prefer to avoid humans and bites are rare, snakes will sometimes take shelter in human built structures and environments creating a safety risk.

If you encounter a snake on public land such as parks and reserves, nature strips or Council facilities, calmly move away while keeping it under observation. If you’re concerned the snake is in a location where it could be a risk to people contact Council on 9205 2200. Following an assessment, a professional snake catcher may remove the snake and relocate it to a nearby habitat area.

Until the end of April 2020, Council can also provide a snake catching service on private property. This includes rural/ large residential blocks where the snake is within 10 metres of the dwelling. If the snake catcher sights a snake at the residential property and relocates it to suitable habitat or the snake moves away, Council will pay for the service. If the snake catcher is unable to sight the snake on the residential property, then the resident who made the call will pay the call out fee and will not be reimbursed by Council.

For more information visit hume.vic.gov.au/snakesafety or call Customer Service 9205 2200.
Climate grief and what to do about it

Climate change is leading to higher average temperatures, reduced rainfall and more frequent and extreme weather events, including heatwaves, storms and wildfires.

Increasing hot weather and heatwaves affect many Hume residents including older people, people with illnesses and those who can’t afford air-conditioning and/or live in poorly insulated or draughty homes. Dry conditions impact the livelihoods and well-being of Hume’s rural community and our precious biodiversity.

The International Panel on Climate Change indicates that an ‘unprecedented transformation’ in all aspects of society is required over the next 10 to 15 years to avoid increases in global average temperatures of two degrees Celsius or more, which will result in severe climate change impacts.

"The feeling part is very important. Knowing about climate change is not enough for most people to take action… When we feel the threat, then we are more likely to be motivated to take action.”

– Australian Psychological Society, Coping with climate change distress

The current situation and the prospect of worsening impacts understandably creates a range of emotions including anxiety, fear, anger, guilt or grief. The Australian Psychological Society has a number of resources for dealing with climate grief. In a nutshell, their advice is to feel it, talk about it and act on it. Trying to deny, avoid or suppress strong feelings can be unhealthy and is usually unsustainable.

When we take action on what concerns us, we feel less helpless and are less likely to feel overwhelmed by our feelings. We can also connect with likeminded people and increase our support from relationships. Realistic and positive cognitive strategies are also important. For example: not thinking unrealistically pessimistic thoughts such as ‘this drought confirms that we are all doomed from climate change’.

Instead, we can replace these thoughts with positive cognitive patterns such as ‘climate change is happening faster than expected and most of the scientists believe that there’s still a window of opportunity to limit greenhouse gas emissions’.

There are different kinds of actions that can be taken, from volunteering with the SES to writing letters to MPs, making changes to reduce energy use or planting trees with friends and family. Try and maintain healthy social relationships and remember that acting collectively is more effective and much more fun than feeling isolated with your concerns.

Find out more by visiting psychology.org.au and searching for ‘climate change’.

Environmental Grants and Scholarships

Hume’s Environmental Scholarships support members of the Hume community to learn more about conservation, sustainability and the environment

Previous scholarship recipients have completed Permaculture Design Certificates, specialist behaviour change project design training, a course on soil health, biodiversity conservation land management training and sustainable tourism training. The scholarships provide up to $1500 and up to 80 per cent of course fees. Find out more at hume.vic.gov.au/enviro scholarships or by emailing environment@hume.vic.gov.au

The Conserving our Rural Environment (CoRE) Small grant, provides support to landowners to continue managing their land

This grant is provided as a $300 reimbursement by cheque following submission and approval of the application form. The 2019/20 Small grant round is open until 31 March 2020. For more information contact coregrant@hume.vic.gov.au
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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EVENTS

School holiday children’s gardening workshop
Are your kids curious about gardening? Share the joy of gardening with the whole family at this beginners’ vegie growing workshop for children aged three to eight. Learn how to successfully grow vegies in summer.
3pm–4.30pm, Thursday 23 January
Tullamarine Library, 58 Spring Street, Tullamarine

Great Green Guided Tour
The Great Green Guided Tour is on again! Visit various community-led sustainability projects across Hume, from Community Gardens to a grasslands advocacy project, vertical wall gardens and more sustainable cafes. Meet others involved with the growing Enviro Champions network of passionate community members working to make Hume a more sustainable place to live.
10am–3pm, Sunday 16 February
Meet outside Hume City Council offices, 1079 Pascoe Vale Road, Broadmeadows

Family Fauna Finds
Come along to this family-friendly and free evening event to encounter some of the wildlife living along Deep Creek in Bulla. You will hear about the discoveries that ecological consultants Biosis have made across Hume and the survey methods used to find our precious fauna.
Copies of the Birds of Hume and Fauna of Hume will be available to take home.
7.30pm–9pm, Wednesday 26 February
Trap Street Reserve, Trap Street, Bulla

To register for any of these events visit livegeenhume.eventbrite.com or contact Sustainable Environment on 9205 2200.

Major Events and Festivals
Summer is here and there’s lots happening in Hume City!
Join us for a free movie and live entertainment at Summer Sessions: Movies and Music. Summer Sessions are held throughout January, February and March in locations across the city! This year’s program includes a special Australia Day Summer Session on Sunday 26 January in Broadmeadows Civic Plaza.

Don’t forget to put Craigieburn Festival (Sunday 29 February, Craigieburn ANZAC Park) and Broadmeadows Street Festival (Sunday 5 April, Tanderrum Way) in your calendar. The Sustainable Environment team will be running a range of activities for children at Craigieburn Festival and Broadmeadows Street Festival. Come say hello to find out more about local initiatives, Environmental Scholarships and the Enviro Champions program.

For more information about all of Council’s major events and festivals, visit hume.vic.gov.au/events