



HUME CITY COUNCIL
RE-SOURCE
Rural Environment Newsletter
Summer 2021-22

 hume.vic.gov.au/resource



Getting ready for the Fire Danger Period

With summer here it is important to ensure your property is fire ready, especially if you live among grass and paddocks.

Prepare yourself and your property by:

- having a fire plan and kit ready
- maintaining and keeping grass and weeds at 10cm or less
- removing or pruning dead leaves and tree branches
- removing flammable materials such as old tyres and rubbish
- checking your insurance to ensure fences, outbuildings and their contents are covered
- getting to know your neighbours so you can assist or ask for assistance if need be.

Properties that present possible fire risks may be issued with a Fire Prevention Notice or infringement notice

For more information about Fire Management in Hume visit hume.vic.gov.au/fireready

To obtain a Bush Fire Management plan template visit: cfa.vic.gov.au



Livestock theft in Hume

There have been a number of incidents of livestock theft in Hume City over the past year, including dorper sheep from northern Sunbury and Wildwood.

To help reduce the risk of theft on your property, there are some steps you can take:

- check stock numbers regularly
- keep receipts and records of any purchase as proof of ownership
- take photos and videos of your and any agisted livestock regularly to assist with identification
- lock and secure fencing, gates, loading ramps and stockyards, and where possible have them in view of your house
- tag livestock at an early age using National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) tags.

If you have experienced livestock theft, no matter how small, report all incidents to Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or your local police station.

For more information visit Neighbourhood Watch Victoria at nhw.com.au/prevent-crime/rural-safety

For more information on the NLIS visit agriculture.vic.gov.au



Mulching days are back in 2022

Tree Mulching Days are a free service available to all Hume residents to dispose of tree branches and occur regularly throughout the year.

After being temporarily suspended during lockdown, mulching days have resumed. Dates for our 2022 mulching days are currently available at hume.vic.gov.au/mulching

For more information, contact the Waste and Resource Recovery team on 9205 2200.

Agricultural management in the urban fringe

Insights from local farmer and agricultural consultant Charles Grech.

Managing agricultural properties and a contracting business within the urban fringe does not come without its unique challenges – with limited options for agricultural machinery support, noxious weeds limiting fodder conservation as well as restrictions or overlays that limit aerial spraying, property scope, and movement of oversized equipment between properties.

However, these challenges have also provided an opportunity for Dr Charles Grech of Oaklands Junction to develop a niche for his agricultural consultancy and contract services business.

By operating in this area, he has been able to educate and assist landholders – who may be new to land management and have limited experience – on how to best manage their properties or livestock systems.

Weed control is a key issue for most land managers in Hume and, despite having an agricultural science degree and a PhD in grazing management, Charles too was floored by the sheer stubbornness of Artichoke Thistle and the persistence required to manage it on his property.

However, his experience in grazing, farm management and his agricultural services business meant he recognised where property managers often failed. Most commonly, inappropriate grazing management allowing weeds to spread.

Within a few years of implementing a new system of rotational grazing, aerial and ground spraying, as well as fencing new paddocks and paddock resting, Artichoke Thistle has now almost been eradicated from the property, with a tall competitive pasture preventing most new weed germination.



Charles' key advice for landholders to maintain their property is to stop weeds entering their property and prevent overgrazing, with overgrazing being the biggest cause of weed issues he encounters. This also applies when entering agistment agreements; be sure you know the intended stocking rate and don't let leasees graze the property below ankle level. The cost of the weed control after overgrazing will outweigh any profit made from the grazing!

To obtain, or add your rural services business to, a list of service providers in Hume City, contact the rural environment team at ruralenvironment@hume.vic.gov.au or 9205 2200.

Charles can be contacted on 0409 528 476 if you would like further information or assistance.



Special offer for residents who keep horses

Hume and Melbourne Water have partnered to offer a subsidised horse and land management program run by Equiculture.

The Equiculture Course will cover how to create a better lifestyle for your horses, manage their weight better and how to solve land management problems like excessive mud or dust.

The subsidized cost of the course for Hume residents is \$25, however positions are limited.

To sign up contact the Rural Environment Team on 9205 2200 or ruralenvironment@hume.vic.gov.au

For more information about the program visit www.equiculture.net

Look local for end of year festivities

Looking for gifts for end of year festivities? Find something unique in your own backyard with produce from local primary producers:

ARUNDEL FARM ESTATE

Wine (Shiraz, Viognier, Marsanne, Sauvignon Blanc).

arundelfarmestate.com.au

0448 079 585

Check website for cellar door times.

CRAIGLEE VINEYARD

Wine (Cabernet Sauvignon, Shiraz, Chardonnay, Viognier).

craigleevineyard.com

0412 941 927

Check website for cellar door times.

CURRY LEAF FARM

Curry plants, Fresh Curry Leaves.

0421 361 835

Order pick up by appointment.

GOONA WARRA VINEYARD

Wine (Semillon, Chardonnay, Roussanne, Pinot Noir, Merlot, Shiraz, Cabernet Franc).

goonawarra.com.au

(03) 9740 7766

Check website for cellar door times.

LAKEY FARM

Meat (beef, lamb, goat, mutton) tallow soap, wine (Pinot Noir, rosé, sparkling rosé, Heathcote Viognier, Heathcote Verdelho, Heathcote Carmeneré).

lakeyfarm.com

1300 660 020

Order pick up by appointment.

MARNONG ESTATE

Wine (Chardonnay, Pinot Grigio, Shiraz, Cabernet, Pinot Nero, Fiano, Moscato, rosé).

marnongestate.com.au

(03) 9216 3300

Check website for cellar door times.

Are you a primary producer that sells direct to public?

Let the Rural Environment team know on **9205 2849** or at ruralenvironment@hume.vic.gov.au

Rebates and grants to assist rural residents

Council offers the Primary Producer Rate Rebate and Rural Land Management Grant to support local land managers.

- **Rural Land Management Grant**
A grant of \$300 plus \$20 per hectare of property to assist with land management and revegetation. This grant is for properties 0.4 hectares or greater in the Green Wedge, Rural Living, and Farming zones with satisfactory land management.
- **Primary Producer Rate Rebate**
A 30 per cent discount on the general rate for demonstrated agricultural businesses on properties over two hectares with satisfactory land management.

To see the full eligibility, program details and how to apply, visit hume.vic.gov.au/REP or call the Rural Environment Team on **9205 2200**.



Late summer is rabbit control time

If you have rabbit problems on your property, late summer is the best time to control them as breeding slows and food supply reduces.

During this time Council will also be undertaking rabbit control on public reserves with a particular focus in the reserves north of Sunbury.

If you would like advice on how to best control rabbits, weeds or any other land management issues on your property, contact the Rural Environment Team on **9205 2200** or email ruralenvironment@hume.vic.gov.au – we are always happy to assist.

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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