



HUME CITY COUNCIL  
**RE-SOURCE**  
Rural Environment Newsletter  
**Winter 2021**

 [hume.vic.gov.au/resource](https://hume.vic.gov.au/resource)



## Tree Violet: the thorny native

Tree Violet (*Melicytus dentatus*) is a native shrub to the Hume area, often growing in rocky areas, escarpments and near creeks.

This dense thorny shrub creates excellent habitat for many native species, with the flowers and berries providing food for pollinators and wildlife, while the thorny nature of the plant offers shelter for smaller animals.

Unfortunately for the Tree Violet, its thorny appearance makes it look like the noxious weed African Boxthorn and may be accidentally removed during weed control.

To make sure you are not accidentally removing habitat, here are the main ways to tell them apart.

### Tree Violet

- flowers: yellow
- fruits: white to purple fruits
- leaves: long and narrow.

### African Boxthorn

- flowers: white with purple markings
- fruit: green ripening to red
- leaves: short and rounded.



Tree Violet here looks similar to boxthorn, look for the yellow flowers and white/purple berries of this native!



The noxious weed African Boxthorn has white flowers with distinctive red berries

## Rabbit control workshop

Did you know that one rabbit per hectare can prevent plant regeneration, or that rabbits can increase the number of weeds on your property?

Learn to better control rabbits on your property at Hume's upcoming rabbit workshop.

Sunbury local and Victorian Rabbit Action Network mentor Tim Bloomfield will explain how to control rabbits in the coming seasons and in the long term.

To register for this event visit [hume.vic.gov.au/rabbitcontrol](http://hume.vic.gov.au/rabbitcontrol) or call Hume's rural environment officer on 9205 2200.

**10am – 12pm, Sunday 29 August**  
**Hume Global Learning Centre – Sunbury**  
**44 Macedon St, Sunbury**



Overgrazing due to the presence of rabbit warrens

## Trespassing livestock: what are your rights and responsibilities?

Even with the best kept fences, livestock can sometimes escape. So, what are land managers rights and responsibilities if they encounter wandering animals?

If livestock have trespassed on a property or road adjoining that land, the owner or occupier of the land has the power to impound livestock.

While the livestock are impounded, the landowner is responsible for the wellbeing of the animal including providing adequate food, water, veterinary care and shelter for the climatic conditions.

The land manager can also seek reasonable costs associated with the impounding as a civil issue between the two property owners.

For more information about impounding livestock see the *Impounding of Livestock Act 1994*, available from [legislation.vic.gov.au](http://legislation.vic.gov.au)



## Bee keeping in Hume

Bee keeping can be a rewarding hobby. Having your own host of pollinators can increase fruit production and honey could even provide a source of income.

Before you get started, it's important to know that bee keepers have an requirement to keep their bees in a healthy state and in such a way that they do not become a nuisance to other people.

We would recommend visiting [agriculture.vic.gov.au/livestock-and-animals/honey-bees](http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/livestock-and-animals/honey-bees) to learn more about becoming a bee keeper.

Joining a beekeeping club or association is a great way to get advice and support from other bee keepers (and meet some new friends in the process). For those who are not sure whether bee keeping is for them, you can attend up to three meetings at J Beekeeping Club, based in Diggers Rest, before being asked to join.

J Beekeeping Club has been running for 27 years and holds meetings every month as well as a beekeeping festival in March.

Find out more at [facebook.com/JBeekeepingClub](https://facebook.com/JBeekeepingClub)

## Free online courses from Agriculture Victoria

Learn new skills to help manage your property.

The Agriculture Victoria Learning Management System offers a range of short courses to help with land management, including but not limited to:

- Stock containing areas.
- On farm water management.
- Land Classing.
- Farm business management.
- Biosecurity Considerations when entering and exiting properties.

These free courses take about 30mins and can be completed in your own time.

Visit [learning.agriculture.vic.gov.au](http://learning.agriculture.vic.gov.au) to find out more.

## 55 years of farming the Hume fringe

Eileen and Kelvin Cardillo bought their property in 1966 and still love the land and area.

The Cardillos both grew up involved in farm life – from sheep, cattle, dairy farming and at one point even helping supply hay to Tommy Woodcock, trainer of Phar Lap.

When the chance to buy a property for £65 per hectare came up, they jumped on the opportunity, jokingly saying they had to pay double as it was the first property in the area to be purchased in decimal currency.

The property was known as 'Boundary Park' because it spans the bridge that separates Hume from Macedon Ranges Shire Council.

The early years of ownership was 'just hard work', the Cardillos said, with the debt accrued through the purchase meaning they moved in with no running water or stove.

The property was previously owned by a sheep dealer, which meant it was covered in weeds that had been accidentally brought in from around Australia, such as golden thistle.

Originally the Cardillos tried to control the weeds with aerial spraying, at one point using 20,000 litres of herbicide in a year, however this also killed many beneficial plants so was stopped. Instead, they were able to bring the weeds under control with spot spraying while maintaining a sustainable stocking rate of about one cow and calf for every two hectares.

By keeping less cows in dry years and more in wet years, a competitive pasture established that prevented weeds from growing.

Today, the weeds are at a consistently low level, with only a relatively small amount of work needed to maintain this.

After 55 years of farming in Hume, the Cardillos are still going strong. As Kelvin says, "I've farmed all my life, it's all I know!"



## Gardens for Wildlife

If you love your garden, chances are local wildlife will too!

The new Gardens for Wildlife program aims to create more wildlife-friendly gardens across Hume City. Using features such as local indigenous plants, nest boxes and bee hotels.

You can arrange a garden visit with volunteer Garden Guides to discuss how you might like to attract more wildlife and attend a number of exciting events to get you inspired.

Visit [hume.vic.gov.au/gardensforwildlife](http://hume.vic.gov.au/gardensforwildlife) for more information.



## Rural Land Management Grants start soon

Expressions of interest are currently open, with the program commencing on Thursday 1 July.

The Rural Land Management Grant, formerly known as the Conserving Our Rural Environment Small Grant, provides sustainable landowners or managers with the support and incentive to conduct land management activities across their property through a grant of \$300 per property plus \$20 per hectare.

For eligibility, or to apply, visit [hume.vic.gov.au/REP](http://hume.vic.gov.au/REP) or call 9205 2200.

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## HumeLink

Hume City Council's  
multilingual telephone information service.  
General enquiries: Telephone 9205 2200

للمعلومات باللغة العربية

9679 9815

معلومات باللغة البوسانية

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Za informacije na bosanskom

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For other languages...

9679 9824

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.

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