



Become a Gardens for Wildlife Volunteer in Hume City

Love gardening and helping nature thrive?

Join our Gardens for Wildlife team! As a Volunteer Garden Guide, you'll visit residents and share simple, practical tips to make their gardens wildlife friendly.

With growing community interest, we're looking for more volunteers to help nurture nature – one garden at a time.

Contact the Urban Biodiversity Officer
gardensforwildlife@hume.vic.gov.au



For more information, visit
[hume.vic.gov.au/
gardens-for-wildlife](https://hume.vic.gov.au/gardens-for-wildlife)

Free Auschem Training 2026

In Victoria, an Agricultural Chemical User Permit (ACUP) is required to apply most farm chemicals. To obtain the permit, you must complete an agvet (agricultural and veterinary chemicals) training course.

Hume City Council is covering the cost of this training for Hume residents, which covers two units: AHCCHM307 – Prepare and apply chemicals to control pest, weeds and diseases (previously AHCCHM303) and AHCCHM304 – Transport and store chemicals.

To participate, you must attend an enrolment session before 26 December 2025; session details will be sent to you when you register.

Date: Friday 6 & Friday 13 February 2026

Time: 9am - 3pm

Location: Sunbury Global Learning Centre



To reserve your spot, visit:
hume.vic.gov.au/Auschem-Training

Exciting New (Fluffy) Arrivals!

We are excited to announce the hatching of two baby Wedge-Tailed Eagles (*Aquila audax*) on a private property here in Rural Hume.

These majestic birds are Australia's largest raptors, easily recognised by their impressive two-metre wingspan and distinctive wedge-shaped tail, often seen soaring across the rural landscapes of Hume City.

This is the third consecutive year of eaglets in this nest; however, this is the first time two have successfully hatched. Their successful breeding is a sign of a healthy landscape – one that provides safe nesting trees, open hunting grounds, and minimal disturbance.

We thank the rural property owners for protecting this special site and giving these magnificent birds the best start to life!



Discover and Share Nature with iNaturalist

Turn your backyard discoveries into valuable science!

Record and identify plants, animals, and fungi on your property (or anywhere else) using the free iNaturalist app. Each recording you upload helps build our understanding of local biodiversity and supports conservation efforts.

Not sure what you're looking at? Experts and other community members can help identify what you've found – so no experience needed.



Download the free app or visit
inaturalist.org

HUME CITY COUNCIL

RE-Source

Rural Environment Newsletter

In this Summer 2025 edition:

- Farewell from Cassandra Borg, Senior Rural Environment Officer
- Preparing for the Fire Danger Period
- Become a Gardens for Wildlife Volunteer
- Free Auschem Training
- Exciting new (fluffy) arrivals!
- iNaturalist: Recording Nature

hume.vic.gov.au/resource



Hume City Council recognises the rich Aboriginal heritage within the municipality and acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung, which includes the existing family members of 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 Elders past, present and future.

This newsletter is printed on ecoStar+ 100% Recycled Silk





Farewell & thank you

Join us in celebrating the wonderful work of **Cassandra Borg, Senior Rural Environment Officer, a dedicated champion of Hume City's rural environment and its community.**

"After 17 years at Hume City Council, I am moving on to a new chapter at Macedon Ranges Shire Council. As I make this transition, I want to take a moment to thank Hume's rural landholders for the incredible experience of working alongside you.

I first joined Hume in 2009 as part of the Conservation Team, where I had the privilege of working hands-on in our conservation reserves. Later, as Hume's Community Greening Officer, I partnered with residents across the municipality to deliver local greening projects and saw firsthand the passion our community holds for a healthier environment.

It was when I stepped into the role of Rural Environment Officer that I truly found my passion. Supporting rural landholders through incentive programs, and especially getting out on properties, became the highlight of my work. Meeting so many dedicated landholders and seeing the time, energy, and care you put into improving your land has been inspiring. These visits often reminded me that while Council can provide support, it's the commitment of landholders that really makes a difference.

In recent years, I've had the privilege of serving as Senior Rural Environment Officer, working behind the scenes to lead the evaluation and redesign of Hume's Rural Engagement Program. This role allowed me to ensure that the programs we deliver continue to meet the needs of our rural community and provide the best possible outcomes for biodiversity and sustainable land management.

While I'm excited about the new opportunities ahead, I will deeply miss working with Hume's rural community and the people who make rural Hume such a special place. Thank you for the generosity, passion, and commitment you've shown over the years. It has been an honour to support you in caring for the land we share."

— Cassandra Borg

A message from Dean Platt (Principal – Tree Wishes Land Care Consultancy):

"Conserving Hume's countryside is a daunting challenge. Cass met this challenge with a quiet resolve and an enduring passion. Her careful work, especially through her intimate delivery of the CORE program, is threaded through the remnant woodlands of Wildwood, red gum lined waterways, open grasslands and the habitat they provide for flora and fauna and of course the people lucky enough to inhabit them. Cass leaves these people and places better off for her years of effort."

CoRE Grant 2025-26 Projects Underway!

Another year of CoRE (Conserving our Rural Environment) projects have kicked off across the Green Wedge. Council has approved funding for 50 private properties to protect and enhance our environment; including habitat creation, pest & weed management and erosion control. Combined, these projects support our precious biodiversity and enhance land connectivity for wildlife and generations to come.

We encourage you to stay connected for future opportunities – dates for the next round will be announced early 2026.

Want to learn more about the Rural Engagement Program?

We offer land management guidance, grants and rebates for eligible applicants in rural Hume.

Contact the Rural Environment Team:

- Email ruralenvironment@hume.vic.gov.au
- Call 9205 2200

Prefer to have a chat in-person?
Visit the Rural Environment team at:

Sunbury

Date: Thursday 5 March 2026, 3.30 - 7.30pm
Location: Sunbury Global Learning Centre

Craigieburn

Date: Thursday 19 March 2026, 3.30 - 7.30pm
Location: Craigieburn Global Learning Centre



For more information, visit hume.vic.gov.au/REP

Preparing for the Fire Danger Period

The Victorian CFA have declared the Fire Danger Period for Hume is between 24 November 2025 to 1 May 2026.

With hot, dry weather ahead, now is the time to be fire ready. Simple steps can make a big difference in protecting your home, family, neighbours and wildlife.

All property owners are responsible for maintaining and ensuring their property is free of fire hazards throughout the year, particularly during the fire danger period.

Remember, it is illegal to burn off without a permit during the fire danger period.

What should you do if a grassfire starts near you?

Grassfires burn extremely hot and can release intense and potentially deadly radiant heat. The safest option is to move well away from the fire.

- Contact Emergency Services by calling 000
- Shelter from radiance heat; go inside a building that is well prepared
- Avoid driving through smoke or flames
- Cover all exposed skin using protective clothing, avoiding synthetic fabrics that may melt in high heat

Fire Preparation Checklist

- Develop a Bushfire Plan and Fire Ready Kit
- Slash and maintain all grass and weeds to less than 10cm high
- Clear fallen branches and dead vegetation
- Remove flammable materials, including tyres, rubbish and other waste
- Establish fire breaks along fences
- Connect with your neighbours to assist each other
- Check your insurance policy includes fences, outbuildings and their contents
- Download the free **VicEmergency App** that provides live updates during emergencies



For useful resources and information, including warnings and restrictions; visit the CFA (Country Fire Authority) website: cfa.vic.gov.au

Fire Prevention across Hume City

Multilingual Information Videos

Council has developed a series of informative multilingual videos to help property owners prepare for the fire danger period, developed in Arabic, English, Punjabi and Turkish.

Preparing Hume City

Each year, Council works with the Victorian Government and fire agencies to make sure our municipality is fire ready, including increased roadside slashing, mowing and maintaining Fire Access Roads.



For more information, visit hume.vic.gov.au/fire-management

Options for Waste Disposal

Each household has five annual waste vouchers that can be used to book at-home waste collections and/or take waste to our Resource Recovery Centres for free.

Options for waste disposal include;

- Hard waste collection (unwanted household furniture, mattresses, whitegoods, electronics, tyres and more)
- Bundled tree branch collection
- Visit a Resource Recovery Centre
- Hume Clean Days (couches, mattresses, tyres, garden clippings)



For more information, visit hume.vic.gov.au/waste