



# HUME CITY COUNCIL **LIVE GREEN NEWS**

Hume's Sustainability Newsletter  
**Winter 2021**

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



## Get involved in Gardens for Wildlife

If you love your garden, chances are local wildlife will too! Our Gardens for Wildlife program aims to help residents create wildlife-friendly gardens. By attracting native butterflies, bees, birds, frogs and lizards to your garden, it will become even more beautiful, vibrant and interesting.

### There are lots of ways to get involved

- You can arrange for volunteer Garden Guides to visit your garden, for up to an hour, and chat about how you might attract more wildlife.
- A three-workshop series to develop wildlife garden ideas into designs and plans, will be held at each of Hume City's main Libraries:
  - Sunbury:** Wednesday 7, 21 and 28 July from 11am to 12.30pm
  - Craigieburn:** Thursday 12, 19 and 26 August from 11am to 12.30pm
  - Broadmeadows:** Thursday 2, 9 and 16 September from 11am to 12.30pm
- Borrow books from the Gardens for Wildlife collection now available in the Libraries.
- Attend a community planting event or citizen science activity.

By getting involved in Gardens for Wildlife in 2021, you'll be eligible to receive free indigenous seedlings to plant in your garden in 2022. To register for workshops or find out more, visit [hume.vic.gov.au/gardensforwildlife](http://hume.vic.gov.au/gardensforwildlife)



## An Enviro Champions excursion to Organ Pipes

Our 2021 Enviro Champions and program alumni recently took part in an afternoon field trip to Organ Pipes National Park to explore the wonderful work being done by volunteers.

In the 1970s the area around Organ Pipes was treeless, weed-infested farmland. With a great deal of hard work and determination the surrounding area has been transformed into a haven for wildlife.

Today, Organ Pipes National Park is a must see for nature lovers with its unique geology and rich biodiversity.

The group started the field trip with a tour by long-standing Friends of Organ Pipes National Park volunteer Robert Irvine, who highlighted the park's natural features and its history of management.

Participants were then also invited to the visitor centre to see the micro bat monitoring. After dark, the group helped release the bats down at the creek.

You can find more information about this project and the Friends of Organ Pipes group at [friendsoforganpipes.org.au](http://friendsoforganpipes.org.au)

We are excited to be able to provide these great experiences for our Enviro Champions to help showcase the great work of environmental groups in our community.

For more information about the program, visit [hume.vic.gov.au/envirochampions](http://hume.vic.gov.au/envirochampions)

## Roxburgh Park Arboretum – an investment for our future.

In addition to creating green space for locals, this new arboretum along Lakeside Drive is also a research project that is trialling the suitability of plants from warmer climates and their irrigation needs as our climate becomes warmer and drier due to climate change.

Affectionately known as FUFA – Future Urban Forest Arboretum – the project is a partnership between Hume City Council, the University of Western Sydney and the University of Melbourne.

### There are three main objectives to the research:

- Investigate the survival and performance of urban trees from a wide range of climates
- Explore the effect of irrigation on tree survival and performance
- Field test the predictions from species distribution models and physiological traits.

Data collected from the Roxburgh Park Arboretum will contribute to the selection of urban trees that can survive better as the climate becomes hotter and warmer in Melbourne.

The project was brought to life with the assistance of 40 staff from the Victorian Government's Working for Victoria program, which helped provide employment to people who were stood down or unemployed because of COVID-19.

The site was prepared and cleared of rocks, holes plotted and dug and 2,338 plants of 56 different species were planted. Working for Victoria crews removed rubbish and weeds, laid mulch and pruned and maintained plants.

The project was led by arborist, Ash Skrypek, who said, "We've had really good feedback from people in the area... we wouldn't have had the manpower to do it without Working for Victoria, and it's given them ownership, given them something to come back to and watch grow."



## Nature Stewards with our neighbours

Hume City Council partnered with our neighbouring municipalities Melton City and Macedon Ranges Shire to deliver our first ever Nature Stewards program this year.



Supported by Outdoors Victoria, the program involved 10 training sessions and four field trips spread across all three municipalities. Participants learned about their local and wider Victorian ecosystems and natural places and opportunities to get further involved in nature protection.

The program launch took place at the Hume Global Learning Centre – Sunbury in April with a moving Welcome to Country performed by Wurundjeri Elder, Uncle Bill Nicolson.

Participants learned of the cultural significance of the possum skin cloak in relation to Australia's First Nation's people – a connection to life and country.

If you are interested in future Nature Stewards programs, please contact [naturestewards@outdoorsvictoria.org.au](mailto:naturestewards@outdoorsvictoria.org.au)

## Supporting rural landowners in challenging times

The Land Management Assistance Program provided relief for landowners impacted by the pandemic with the aid of Working for Victoria employees.

The Victorian Government's Working for Victoria program provided funding for Council to employ people who were stood down or unemployed because of COVID-19.

Between November 2020 and May 2021, rural conservation teams including 40 staff from the Working for Victoria program visited close to 100 rural properties and undertook land management work including weed control, revegetation and general maintenance.

Feedback from landowners was overwhelmingly positive. The majority of participants indicated that the assistance

provided was beneficial to the continuation of their businesses through the COVID-19 pandemic, and that it enabled land management work to be undertaken that would not otherwise have been completed.

Several of the Working for Victoria staff were environmental graduates, which meant they not only benefited from the financial security of the program, but also received valuable conservation and land management experience that could help start their career. Others were inspired to consider a career change and get more involved in protecting nature.



## Help preserve historical roses

You can join members of the Bulla Garden Club to help preserve and care for the Alister Clark Memorial Rose garden in Bulla.

Members of the Bulla Garden Club and other community volunteers collaborate with Hume City Council to help take care of this unique local piece of horticultural history.

Alister Clark, born in Bulla, was a prolific rose and daffodil breeder, recognised internationally for his famous hybrids and the source of many popular Australia rose varieties including 'Lorraine Lee', 'Jessie Clark' and 'Black Boy'. There are 68 of his prized rose breeds and hybrids in the collection.

He was also an early environmentalist in his approach to gardening – he expected his roses to survive Australia's dry conditions, didn't see the need to 'coddle' them with special chemicals or fertilisers and relied on birds to control aphids.

The Alister Clark Memorial Rose Garden is located on the corner of Bulla Road and is open for visitors all year during daylight hours.

You can also volunteer at regular working bees at the gardens on the first Saturday of each month between 10am and 2.30pm until December (2022 dates to be confirmed).

The Bulla Garden Club welcomes new members and meets on the third Monday of every month except (excluding July at the Old Shire Offices at 96 Bulla Road, Bulla).

To learn more about the garden and its famous roses, download the *Roses of Hume* guide at [hume.vic.gov.au/parks](http://hume.vic.gov.au/parks)

## Winter Gardening tips

### Less warmth = less growth

Whether your plants are inside or out, they won't need as much water or fertilizer in the colder months. It is also important to make sure they have good drainage to get rid of excess moisture and salts.

### Fantastic fertilizer

Get out your rake and collect autumn leaves and plant debris for creating homemade compost and check out local farms for cheap manure – or buy commercially if you are concerned about weed seeds. Carbon based plant matter breaks down much quicker when mixed with dried manure. Perfect for preparing your veggie patch for winter or spring plantings.

### Fruit and veggies that can handle the cold

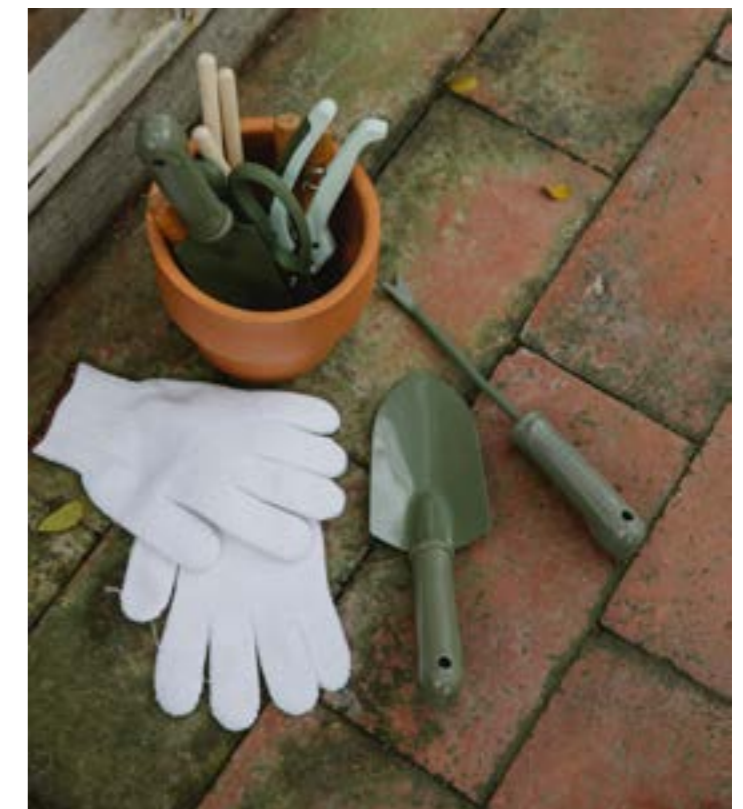
Try planting some seasonal produce including silver beet, broccoli, onions, brussels sprouts, carrots, cauliflower. Winter is also a good time to plant stone fruit and citrus trees.

### Fabulous flowers

There are many winter floral varieties you could grow to add a splash of colour to your garden including: pansies, begonias, violas, daphne, alyssum.

### Prudent pruning

Most fruit trees and roses like to be pruned in the colder months. If you're new to pruning check out instructions online. You'll be rewarded with more fruit and flowers in the growing season.



## Stolen Generations Marker artist announced

Robert Young, a Gonnai and Waradjurie Aboriginal artist, has been commissioned to create a Stolen Generations Marker in Hume.

Mayor, Cr Joseph Haweil said he was proud to announce the successful commission of an artist for the Hume Stolen Generations Marker.

“Council looks forward to working with the Aboriginal community to promote this site as a place of welcome, truth-telling and mutual healing,” Cr Haweil said.

“Hume City Council is proud to join several other Councils who have created important public artworks marking the devastating history of enforced removal of Aboriginal children from their parents.”

Robert’s artwork will feature a large metal possum skin cloak, mounted on a canoe shaped ground artwork, flanked by a seat shaped to resemble a traditional coolamon.

The Stolen Generations Marker will be located at the Wetland Site in Craigieburn, near the Malcolm Creek and Centennial Park Drive and is expected to be completed in March 2022.



## We’re buying GreenPower

**As of 1 July 2021, all electricity for Council buildings and street lighting will be sourced from GreenPower, reducing greenhouse gas emissions by approximately 17,500 tonnes (CO2-e) per year – equivalent to removing an average of 5,000 Australian cars from the road!**

GreenPower is renewable energy (such as wind power and solar power) from government-accredited sources.

Through a long-term Power Purchase Agreement, Council has been able to source GreenPower at a very competitive rate. This means we’re reducing costs, supporting renewables, reducing emissions and contributing to a healthy future.

Anyone can switch to renewable energy by choosing to buy GreenPower, available through most electricity retailers.

Installing household solar panels is another means of generating renewable energy. The Hume Solar Rollout program makes it easy for residents to take advantage of rebates and interest-free loans and start saving with solar.

To find out more, contact Hume’s Household Energy Officer on 03 9205 2751.

## Complete our short survey and you could win \$100 worth of plants!

We’d like to hear from as many readers as possible about what you value or enjoy about Live Green News and if you have any suggestions or feedback.

Scan the QR code on the left to take our five-minute survey and tell us what you think!

Can’t scan the code? You can also give your feedback by calling Bryony on 9205 2473 (Monday, Tuesday or Thursday).

Three lucky readers will win up to \$100 worth of plants of their choice from Bunnings.



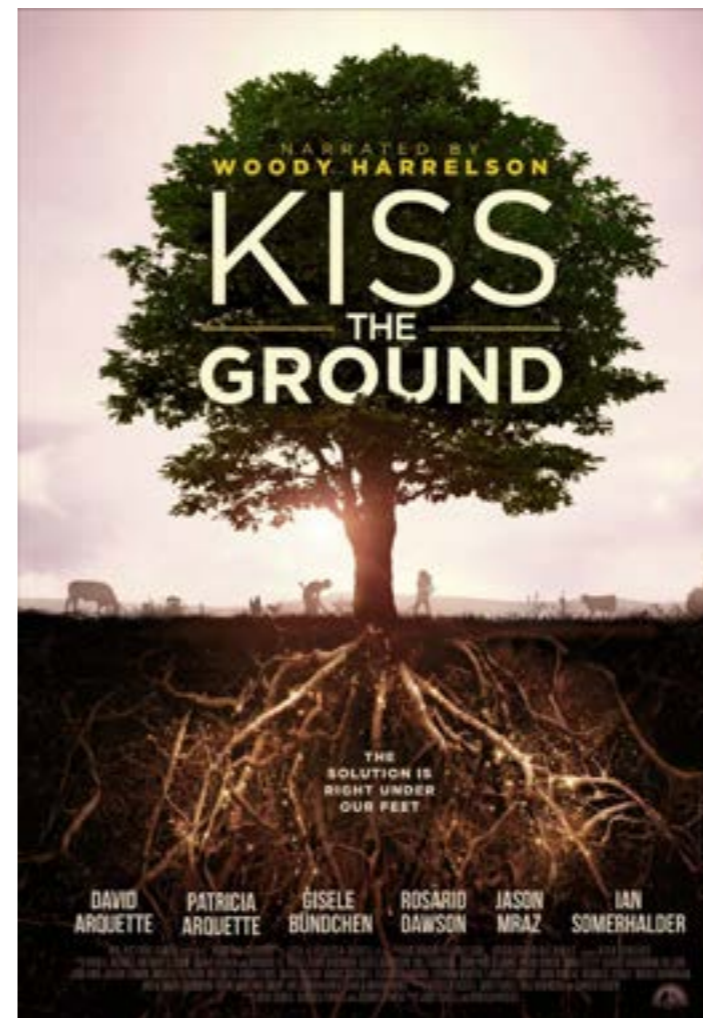
## Kiss the Ground – film and website review

Kiss the Ground is a powerful documentary that explores regenerative farming to help battle climate change.

Decades of conventional farming relying on pesticides and heavy tilling upsets the balance of a healthy soil ecosystem. Regenerative farming reintroduces an ethical and balanced way of agriculture, which can reverse soil erosion and reinvigorate the Earth. This amazing production is researched and presented by a range of experts from different fields – soil scientists, agricultural professionals, ecologists, artists, actors and more. The documentary is excellent viewing.

Kiss the Ground can be viewed via Netflix or is available on DVD.

Kiss the Ground is more than a film – it’s a collaborative movement, led by a Californian based, not for profit organisation. The website is a great resource with information about gardening, soil health, agricultural programs and advice on how to start your own regenerative farm. For more information visit [kisstheground.com](http://kisstheground.com)



## Get your free FOGO caddy

Your food scraps are recyclable, so don’t let them go to waste!

Now that our organics bin service accepts food scraps along with garden waste, we’re giving every household with an organics bin a free caddy! The caddy is the perfect kitchen companion to help sort your food waste, which will help:

- Free up space in your garbage bin
- turn waste into compost
- stop food ending up in landfill
- reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

If every household in Hume composted or put their food waste into their organics bin instead of their garbage bin, we could save over 27,000 tonnes of food waste from landfill every year. This is equivalent to 2,500 garbage trucks.

To find out more or to order your caddy go to [hume.vic.gov.au/fogo](http://hume.vic.gov.au/fogo)

# Events

## Bird Buddies National Tree Day

National Tree Day has brought thousands of people together to plant millions of trees! Our community planting is focused on creating bird habitat, with dense prickly shrubs to provide shelter, along with plants that produce nectar rich-flowers, fruits or seeds, while also attracting insects..

**Sunday 1 August, 10am to 1.30pm**  
**Spavin Lake, Aldridge Drive, Sunbury**



## Pest Rabbit Control Workshop

Join Sunbury local and Victorian Rabbit Action Network mentor Tim Bloomfield as he explains how to control rabbits in the coming seasons and in the long term. This workshop is designed for landholders to learn about the most practical techniques to eradicate these pests.

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



## Great Green Get together 2021

This year marks 10 years of continuous training and support of community projects through the Hume Enviro Champions program! Celebrate with us at our annual Great Green Get Together. Meet the graduates of the 2021 program and hear more about their future project plans and ideas.

**Wednesday 1 September, 6pm to 8.30pm**  
**Hume Global Learning Centre – Craigieburn**  
**75-95 Central Park Avenue, Craigieburn**



## Woodlands to Wetlands Community Planting

This community planting will progress across a variety of habitats at the Mt Ridley Nature Conservation Reserve, from the woodlands to the wetlands and out into the grasslands. Get a team of four together for some fun games in nature and see a display of birds of prey from Full Flight.

**Sunday 19 September, 10am to 1.30pm**  
**Mount Ridley Conservation Reserve**  
**Heritage Way, Craigieburn**



View all these events and book your spot online at [hume.vic.gov.au/upcomingevents](https://hume.vic.gov.au/upcomingevents)



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.

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](mailto:environment@hume.vic.gov.au) or call 9205 2200.

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

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