



HUME CITY COUNCIL

# Re-Source

## Rural Environment Newsletter

### In this Summer 2022/23 edition:

- Victorian Serrated Tussock Working Party
- Meet Hume landholder: Guin Wilson
- Gilgais – a curious landscape feature found in Hume
- Preparing for Summer
- Conserving our Rural Environment Grant (CoRE)
- Rural Land Management Grant (RLMG)
- Primary Producer Rate Rebate 23-25 (PPRR)
- Upcoming Workshops + More

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



**Serrated tussock is now in full seed across Victoria, please consider timely treatment or removal of the seeds to prevent seed-set.**

Please visit the The Victorian Serrated Tussock Working Party website for more information on assistance with identification and management, case studies, videos, fact sheets and newsletters.

<http://serratedtussock.com>



## Meet Hume landholder: Guin Wilson

**Guin bought her 28.5-hectare Mickleham property in 2017 and describes it as a ‘horse-centered property designed with safety and wellbeing in mind – for horses, humans and for all creatures that live here.’ It currently agists 12 horses with the capacity to increase to 16.**

“When I bought the property, everything was bare. There was a bit of remnant vegetation along the creek and a run of trees down the driveway and I thought OMG how I am going to afford all this, but the grants have really helped”.

Guin has received support through Melbourne Water and Hume City Council to restore and manage Creekside and native vegetation on her property over several years.

“The CoRE grant requires a land management plan which compels you to get in touch with smart people that know what they’re talking about.”

Guin has spent significant time and resources on her property, having studied the practices of Jane and Stuart Myers and implemented a design based on the Paddock paradise and Equicentral systems.

Guin says “the horse part of the property and the natural areas are projects that run parallel to each other, and they are both just as important”.

Guin’s property will be showcased as part of a workshop being held in March 2023, with Stuart Myers presenting “Courses for Horses – managing your property for healthy land and healthy horses,” organised jointly by Hume, Mitchell, and Whittlesea Councils. The workshop is a one day event, with a theory session in Beveridge and an optional visit in the afternoon to see Equicentral principles applied on a working property. Registrations will open shortly, visit [www.hume.vic.gov.au](http://www.hume.vic.gov.au) for updates.

## Gilgais – a curious landscape feature found in Hume

**Gilgai** comes from an Australian indigenous language meaning “small water hole”. Gilgai’s are depressions and mounds in the soil surface found in expanding clay soils and provide an ephemeral source of water.

Gilgai’s are found across the world, including parts of Hume, for example, Wildwood. They can be a few metres across and shallow ranging to 100 metres across and several metres deep. They are formed by repeated cycles of clay soil swelling when wet, upon drying, shrinking and cracking. These actions push the soil up, creating the depressions between.

Gilgai’s were an important source of water for indigenous Australians and enabled them to forage seasonally over areas that lacked permanent water. Likewise, early pastoralists benefited from grazing stock seasonally in these areas that held water and supported vegetation. They are also highly significant ecologically – providing a source of water for diverse plant and animal life.



Gilgai’s in Wildwood – supporting ecological diversity and providing “micro-relief” patches that catch seeds, leaf material and provide shelter for numerous little critters.

## Preparing for Summer

Hume City Council is working with CFA and FRV to ensure residents are maintaining their properties to reduce the impact of fires to your property. You will see boards popping up from Sunbury through to Mickleham letting you know it is time to start preparing yourself and your property for the coming season.

To find out more visit [www.cfa.vic.gov.au](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au)

If you want to burn-off outside the Fire Danger Period (FDP), visit [www.hume.vic.gov.au/Residents/City-Laws/Local-Laws](http://www.hume.vic.gov.au/Residents/City-Laws/Local-Laws) for a permit.

You must notify Emergency Services Telecommunications Authority (ESTA) on 1800 668 511 at least 2 hours before ignition.

Burning off is illegal during the FDP, restrictions apply for full details on applications for burn off contact the CFA [www.cfa.vic.gov.au](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au)

The Fire Danger Rating Signs are changing across the Municipality. There are now 4 instead of 6 ratings and the highest level is “catastrophic.”

There is no longer a code red in Victoria. The new levels are:

- **Moderate:** Plan and prepare
- **High:** Prepare to act
- **Extreme:** Take action now to protect your life and property
- **Catastrophic:** For your survival, leave bush fire risk areas

Further information on what the ratings are visit [www.cfa.vic.gov.au/warnings-restrictions/total-fire-bans-fire-danger-ratings/about-fire-danger-ratings](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/warnings-restrictions/total-fire-bans-fire-danger-ratings/about-fire-danger-ratings)



## Conserving our Rural Environment Grant

The Conserving our Rural Environment grant aims to conserve and improve the natural and environmental assets on private rural property. Eligible landholders, managers and environmental community groups can apply for a Project Grant of up to \$10,000.

Applicants must have a land management or project plan that is less than five years old or apply for the development of one in their application.

Applications for the Conserving our Rural Environment Grant open on 1st February 2023.

To apply visit <https://www.hume.vic.gov.au/Your-Council/Grants-awards-and-funds/Rural-Engagement-Program> or contact the Sustainability Engagement Team on 9205 2200 or email [ruralenvironment@hume.vic.gov.au](mailto:ruralenvironment@hume.vic.gov.au).

## Rural Land Management Grant (RLMG)

The RLMG provides a grant of \$300 per property + \$20 per hectare to assist with land management activities such as weed control and revegetation for properties 0.4 hectares in size or greater within the Green Wedge, Green Wedge A, Rural Living and Farming zones with satisfactory land management.

Applications for 2022-23 are open and close on 30 June 2023.

Assess your eligibility on [hume.vic.gov.au/rep](http://hume.vic.gov.au/rep)  
Apply via <https://hume.smartygrants.com.au/RLMG23>

## Primary Producer Rate Rebate 2023-25 (PPRR)

The PPRR provides a 30% discount on the general rate for demonstrated agricultural businesses on properties over 2 hectares with satisfactory land management.

PPRR Applications are submitted on a 2 yearly cycle. Current applications for 2021-23 PPRR are still open and will close on the 30 March 2023.

New applications for 2023-25 PPRR are open from Wednesday 1 February 2023. All landholders who are currently receiving the PPRR will need to reapply for the 2023-25 PPRR and be reassessed to continue to be eligible for the program. New applicants are encouraged to contact Council to have their eligibility assessed prior to submitting an application.

Assess your eligibility on [hume.vic.gov.au/rep](http://hume.vic.gov.au/rep)  
Apply via <https://hume.smartygrants.com.au/PPRR21>

## UPCOMING WORKSHOPS:

### Hume Small Business Clinics

Hume City Council, in conjunction with Small Business Mentoring Service is offering a free 45-minute business mentoring sessions to support businesses which are located in Hume.

Small Business Clinics provide general business information and can assist you in the steps you need to take to overcome an issue or information gap.

**Thursday 15 December 2022, 4pm – 8.45pm**  
Register at [www.hume.vic.gov.au/SBMS](http://www.hume.vic.gov.au/SBMS)

### Healthy Land, Healthy Horses



**Saturday 4 March 2023, 9.15am – 5.30pm**

**Location: Beveridge**

**Presenter: Stuart Myers – [www.equiculture.net](http://www.equiculture.net)**

Registrations open shortly check updates on Hume City Council website [www.hume.vic.gov.au](http://www.hume.vic.gov.au)



### Loving Grasslands

A short documentary series on land stewardship and grassland restoration from Victoria's Volcanic Plains. View the full series at [hume.vic.gov.au/loving-grasslands](http://hume.vic.gov.au/loving-grasslands)

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-William-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.

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