

HUME CITY COUNCIL

# Re-Source

Rural Environment Newsletter



## In this Spring 2022 edition:

- Springtime is orchid time
- Biosecurity on the Farm
- Developing Hume's next Climate Action Plan
- Weed of the season: Artichoke Thistle
- Silo art comes to Clarkefield
- Hume Small Business Grants Now Open
- Upcoming Workshop + Useful Resources

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





## Springtime is orchid time

When people talk about orchids, in your mind, you're probably imagining the typical garden varieties. *Cymbidium* orchids with their long strappy leaves and tall, beautiful flower spikes or the popular indoor plant gift, the *Phalaenopsis* with its dainty flowers. Australia has more than 1,300 species of indigenous orchids, with over 300 species recorded in Victoria. They might grow up in trees, on the ground, or across rocks, but they are often only noticed when flowering. Their true beauty is in the sheer diversity of the forms and colours they take, including many species of Sun Orchids (*Thelymitra* sp.), Donkey Orchids (*Diuris* sp.), Spider Orchids (*Caladenia* sp.) or Greenhoods (*Pterostylis* sp.).

Hume City Council is host to six known species of indigenous orchids across its Nature Conservation Reserves. Orchids have become increasingly rare or threatened and should not be taken from the wild. Many species are totally reliant on the interdependent relationships they have with pollinating insects and fungi in the soil.

## Biosecurity on the Farm

**Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) is a serious viral infection that can affect all cloven hoofed animals and is easily transported by the movement of animals, people and vehicles. While there is currently no FMD in Australia, there is an outbreak of FMD in Indonesia. This has raised concerns that it may enter Australia for the first documented time since 1872.**

If an outbreak were to occur in Australia, it will be able to be contained to relatively manageable areas. Contact tracing will be one of the major tools used to reduce the impact.

At a minimum, if you have pigs, cattle, sheep, goats, deer, alpacas or llamas, prepare for these issues by:

- regularly checking the mouths and hooves of your animals for blisters
- ensuring all animals are registered
- investigating what would be involved in implementing a biosecurity plan at your property
- considering your biosecurity hygiene standards
- recording all movement of vehicles/animals/people to and from your property.

Visit [agriculture.vic.gov.au/biosecurity/animal-diseases/foot-and-mouth-disease](https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/biosecurity/animal-diseases/foot-and-mouth-disease) for "Practical biosecurity steps on your farm" and events.

## Developing Hume's next Climate Action Plan

Hume is developing a new Climate Action Plan. The rural community has been identified as a key stakeholder in the plan because of the impacts of climate change on land management, livelihoods and health and wellbeing.

There are two ways to share your experiences and ideas on how Council could best support climate action including: reducing emissions; adapting to climate change; and advocating to others for action.

**Thursday 22 September, 7.30pm – 9pm (via Zoom).**

Please email Michelle Bennett on [michelleben@hume.vic.gov.au](mailto:michelleben@hume.vic.gov.au) to RSVP and receive a Zoom invite to the event.

Find out more at [participate.hume.vic.gov.au](https://participate.hume.vic.gov.au)



## Weed of the season: Artichoke Thistle

### Thistle be gone!

**Just like celery, the Mediterranean ‘artichoke thistle’ is grown for its delicious stalks in its country of origin. Unfortunately in Australia and particularly in Hume, it grows rapidly across our landscapes, on vacant land and in neglected pasture, as a weed. Artichoke thistle (*Cynara cardunculus*) competes with beneficial plants by shading and competing for moisture and nutrients. Stock are reluctant to graze on this Mediterranean delicacy due to its prickly nature.**

The seeds, with a pappus of feathery hairs up to four centimetres long act like a parachute carrying seeds up to 20 metres from the parent plant. Birds, livestock, water, and soil movement can also spread the seeds.



Artichoke thistle requires a weed management plan for successful eradication. The plan can include several different species or just one troublesome weed. When developing a weed management plan for artichoke thistle, consider:

- Seeds can survive up to five years in the soil making it important that your plan is covering numerous years and includes ongoing weed control.
- Knowing the level of infestation is important as this may determine your approach.
- Consider combining control methods for better success, including manual and chemical removal.
- Removing seed heads manually when they form can assist with reducing the spread across your property and neighbouring properties.
- Consider pasture re-establishment once plant has been removed to cover bare ground.
- Speak to neighbours to align weed management timelines. This will assist with reducing re-infestation from surrounding land.

If you are interested in learning more about Artichoke thistle or how to develop a weed management plan, please call the Biodiversity Strategy team on **9205 2200** or email [ruralenvironment@hume.vic.gov.au](mailto:ruralenvironment@hume.vic.gov.au)

## Silo art comes to Clarkefield

**Along Konagaderra Road, Clarkefield, is a new and intriguing public art project. Two CFA water tanks have been transformed into colorful and engaging art, depicting native fauna.**

Hume’s Arts and Culture team and Waste and Resource Recovery team collaborated with the CFA to address graffiti on several of the tanks dotted around the rural areas of Hume.

The design references some of the beautiful wildlife that can be found around these regions. The Clarkefield site was chosen because of its location next to an active Landcare planting area and due to it being on a rural road that receives high traffic numbers.

Anna Clabburn from Hume Arts and Cultural Team said, “Not everyone is aware that half of Hume is rural. The murals help make the silos a real feature of the landscape. The CFA provided information about the tanks and contributed to the design selection process. Apparently, the artists had some direct feedback as they were painting on site from a few people who called by too!”



Design by Just Another Agency (artist Sugar)

Public art is an evolving feast in Hume – learn more and visit the murals at [hume.vic.gov.au/public-art](http://hume.vic.gov.au/public-art)



## Hume Small Business Grants Now Open

**Small businesses make a large contribution to the local economy and add to the vibrancy and energy of Hume City. We are pleased to be offering the Business Support Grants and give businesses a much-needed boost!**

Examples of projects that may be funded include:

- research in innovative product development or service design
- capital works, for example business fit out
- digital strategy development
- marketing and website development
- recruitment and training
- energy efficient/specialised equipment and/or software support
- export related activities
- outdoor dining furniture and shades
- dining canopy improvements
- facade improvements including the installation of green infrastructure.

Find out more information and apply at [hume.vic.gov.au/small-business-grants](http://hume.vic.gov.au/small-business-grants)

## Upcoming workshops

**Hume Rural Engagement Team will be partnering with neighbouring Councils – Mitchell and Whittlesea, to deliver an exciting and informative range of workshops in the coming 12 months. Some of the topics to be covered are:**

- Effective weed control / Safe herbicide handling
- Biosecurity on the Farm
- Sustainable Land management for horse owners
- Serrated Tussock management.

If you have suggestions for other workshops, please drop us a line at [ruralenvironment@hume.vic.gov.au](mailto:ruralenvironment@hume.vic.gov.au)

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.

This newsletter is printed on ecoStar+ 100% Recycled Silk

## Useful Resources

### Agricultural Victoria Services

[www.agvicservices.com.au/](http://www.agvicservices.com.au/)



AVS helps improve the productivity and competitiveness of Victorian farmers where private sector route-to-market research outputs are needed.

### Agriculture Victoria

[www.agriculture.vic.gov.au](http://www.agriculture.vic.gov.au)



Agriculture Victoria works in partnership with farmers, industries, communities, and other government agencies to grow and secure agriculture in Victoria. See Support and resources.

### Equiculture course

[www.equiculture.net/equiculture-free-mini-course](http://www.equiculture.net/equiculture-free-mini-course)



Self-paced, subsidised course for horse owners. Normally \$125, but only \$25 for Hume residents.

Further information: [equiculture.net](http://equiculture.net) or contact the Biodiversity Project Officer on 9205 2465 to register and receive your discount coupon.

### Bee Friendly Farming® (BFF) Australia

[www.beefriendlyfarming.org.au](http://www.beefriendlyfarming.org.au)

Bee Friendly Farming provides guidelines for farmers and gardeners to promote pollinators health on their lands.

### Virtual Extension Officer

[www.virtualextensionofficer.com.au](http://www.virtualextensionofficer.com.au)



A new interactive tool designed to help you manage three of Victoria's worst invasive species - gorse, serrated tussock and rabbits.

### Victorian Serrated Tussock Working Party

[www.serratedtussock.com](http://www.serratedtussock.com)



Everything you need to know about the management of serrated tussock.

