

MESSAGE THE FROM MAYOR



Welcome to the Winter Edition of our Sustaining Liverpool newsletter.

With the cooler weather in full swing, it's a good time to clean up around the home and then get outdoors in nature.

The Chemical CleanOut on Saturday 14 July is a great opportunity to clear out your home, shed or garage of unwanted chemicals. This free event ensures your chemicals are disposed of in an environmentally safe way. It's for Liverpool City Council residents only and will be held at the Western Depot in Kemps Creek.

If you're unable to attend the CleanOut you can still get rid of old paint, oil, batteries and much more at the Community Recycling Centre, 99 Rose Street, Liverpool.

Winter is the time to check whether you are getting the best deals on your energy bills. In this issue of the newsletter you can learn how to calculate the energy usage of your appliances and discover rebates and discounts you may be eligible to receive.

National Tree Day is a great way to reconnect with nature. For a fun day out with the family come join us at Fassifern Park in Cartwright on Sunday 29 July from 9am to 12pm. With the help of the community we will be planting trees, shrubs and groundcovers that will provide food and shelter for native wildlife and enhance our parks. Kids can enjoy face painting and a native wildlife display, and there will be a BBQ by Liverpool Lions Club for everyone who helps out.

With lots of other useful information and plenty of dates for your diary, including some exciting events and workshops, I'm sure you will get a lot out of this newsletter.

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Mayor Wendy Waller Liverpool City Council

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RECEIVE YOUR NEWSLETTER VIA EMAIL

Your edition of Sustaining Liverpool can now be sent to your email address.

If you would like to receive it electronically rather than printed, email: lcc@liverpool.nsw.gov.au

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BUSHCARE'S BIG DAY OUT



Celebrating a day to restore and maintain Australia's remaining bushland

Held annually in spring, Bushcare's Big Day Out is a national day of community participation to restore remnant bushland. It is designed to give every one of us the opportunity to find out more about our bushland. Established in 2009, Bushcare's Big Day Out has seen thousands of eager participants get involved in restoring and maintaining local bushland, even a former Prime Minister! It is now a national day of action in caring for the environment and connecting with Bushcare, Landcare and other community environment groups.

The next Bushcare's Big Day Out is on Sunday 16 September 2018

It's a fun day where anyone can get involved and learn alongside experts. Activities can include weed removal, tree planting, mulching or even continued improvement of sites where rehabilitation has already begun. The day's events are also a fantastic opportunity for sharing knowledge and expertise through activities like bird watching, plant identification workshops and species monitoring. Come along, and bring a friend!

For more information and to find an event near you visit conservationvolunteers.com.au/what-we-do/bushcares-big-day-out

community Tree Planting at Glen Regent Reserve 9am – 11.30am Meet in the park on Tom Way, Casula



WONDERFUL WILD WEEDS





You will never look at weeds in the same way again after taking part in this workshop.

Diego Bonetto is a weed forager, artist, storyteller and an expert on identifying the nutritious plants that grow under our feet that most people call 'weeds'.

Take a walk in the park and discover the edible and medicinal plants that grow around us. Learn about the role weeds play in repairing and building soil. Find out how they have been used for food, craft and natural remedies. Discover ways to safely harvest from the urban wild and enrich your diet with vitamins and minerals.

Each participant will receive a booklet detailing 16 of the most common wild edibles of Sydney.

WHEN Saturday, 8 September 2018, 10am – 12:30pm

LOCATION To be confirmed upon booking.

RSVP Places are limited.

To book your place please call Council on 1300 36 2170

CUMBERLAND PLAIN BUSHLAND AN ASSET FOR EVERYONE

South West Sydney is one of NSW's fastest growing regions, creating greater pressure and challenges in balancing urban land use with biodiversity. Much of Western Sydney's native vegetation exists in patches that are highly fragmented.

Council's Environment Restoration Plan helps it meet its responsibilities under various legislation to protect, enhance and conserve the local environment and ensure that natural areas such as bushland, waterways and wetlands are managed responsibly for future generations as a vital community asset.

Since the Plan was introduced in 2007, Council has regenerated more than 184 hectares of natural bushland, rehabilitating areas that were dominated by invasive weeds such as green cestrum, African olive, lantana and privet. The program has also planted over 567,000 native plants to improve habitat, increase plant diversity and improve the health of local waterways.

Key challenges to bushland restoration include ongoing dumping of green waste and litter, arson and vandalism of planted areas.

SCHOOLS LEADING PUSH AGAINST PLASTIC POLLUTION



Speaking 4 the Planet (S4P) is a public speaking, drama and art competition for high school students which recognises and celebrates the United Nations' annual World Environment Day (WED). The competition aims to encourage young people to speak about their passion for the environment.

Liverpool City Council was proud to support a regional S4P event with Campbelltown City Council, Camden Council and 4Sustainability Education Consultancy. The event, opened by Liverpool Councillor Charishma Kaliyanda, was held at the Australian Botanic Gardens in Mount Annan on 5 June 2018.

Local high school students were invited to participate by preparing speeches, performances and artwork related to this year's *Beat Plastic Pollution* WED theme to raise awareness of acting against plastic pollution.

Plastic rubbish pollution is far too widespread, indiscriminately littering bushland and urban areas and posing a long-term problem for every sector of the environment. It is an ongoing cost to all residents to clean up.

Twelve high schools participated this year and the winners were:

- Prepared Speech Samar Abdel Aziz, Unity Grammar;
- Impromptu Speech Jamal Merhb, Unity Grammar;
- Impromptu Eco-Drama Mount Annan High School (Cyann, Alasdeni, Isabella, Jazmin, Lachlan)
- Art Amanda Snook, Mount Annan High School.

AQUATIC WEEDS

A number of aquatic plants once known for their beauty in home ponds and dams are now regarded as invasive aquatic weeds. They are the greatest threat to waterways, wetlands, floodplains and irrigation systems in NSW.

While plants like salvinia (Salvinia molesta), water hyacinth (Eichhornia crassipes) and alligator weed (Alternanthera philoxeroides) may look pretty when they are managed but disposed of incorrectly they pose a serious threat to the environment and the economy.

These plants float on the water surface and can form large, dense mats, rapidly covering whole waterways. These mats invade native vegetation, block irrigation channels and reduce the aesthetics of waterways and natural areas.

Generally aquatic weeds can reproduce vegetatively or from seed. They can be spread by rain, during maintenance activities, when carried in mud on machinery or boots, or on contaminated boating equipment and by birds.

They can be difficult to control in all freshwater aquatic environments. All infestations should be reported to Council for control as soon as possible to avoid seed build up.

The *Biosecurity Act 2015* regulates how weeds are managed. Depending on the plant, there may be different control requirements including the plant not being transported or sold. For information on weed identification, management and control visit **weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au** or download the free NSW WeedWise app.

If you suspect you have seen any of these priority aquatic weeds or you have any biosecurity weed-related enquiries, please contact Council's Bushland and Weed Management Officer on 8711 7577.







NSW WeedWise app

This smartphone app provides key information to help users reduce the impact of over 300 weeds in New South Wales. Users can search or browse weed names (common or scientific); recognise a weed by its physical description and image gallery; and find out about its impacts, where it occurs, how it spreads and its preferred habitat. Control options are described for each weed.





SPRING CLEAN YOUR HOME

HOUSEHOLD CHEMICAL CLEANOUT



There's no time like the present to clean and clear your home, laundry, shed or garage of unwanted household chemicals!



This event is for Liverpool City Council residents only, and a driver's licence may be requested at the gate.

This free event ensures that your chemicals are disposed of in an environmentally safe manner.

You can drop off the following materials:

- Solvents and household cleaners
- Floorcare products
- Ammonia-based cleaners
- Fluorescent globes and tubes
- Batteries
- Motor oils, fuels and fluids
- Paint and paint-related products
- Pesticides and herbicides
- Poisons
- Gas bottles
- Fire extinguishers
- Pool chemicals
- Hobby chemicals
- Acid and alkalis
- Unknown chemicals

Please remember that:

- Only household quantities are accepted
- Maximum container size is 20L or 20kg

Visit www.liverpool.nsw.gov.au/chemicalcleanout for more information.

COMMUNITY RECYCLING CENTRE



Do you want to get rid of paint, oil or batteries but are unable to attend the Chemical CleanOut?

The Community Recycling Centre accepts, for free, these problem wastes, gas bottles, fire extinguishers and so much more!

Location:

99 Rose Street, Liverpool
Open:

Monday to Saturday, 7am to 3pm

For more information about Liverpool City Council's Community Recycling Centre visit www.liverpool.nsw.gov.

au/crc or contact Council's Customer Service Centre on 1300 36 2170.



Have unwanted clothes and don't know what to do with them? Never fear, Clothing Cleanup is here!



GREEN CLEAN YOUR HOME

While we are removing unwanted chemicals, many of us may be ready to spring clean our homes. Most of the conventional cleaning products are chemical-based and have environmental and health impacts.

Natural cleaning is a simple way to clean and reduce the chemical load in your home by choosing safer, less harmful, natural alternatives.

To get started you require only a few basic ingredients that can be used

for many different applications. The four key natural cleaners – vinegar, salt, lemon juice, and baking soda – can make your home tasks easier on you, your family and the environment. Why not opt for natural cleaning products and methods that keep a house clean and fresh with no impacts on your health?

Here is a list of basic ingredients to get you started on your natural cleaning crusade!

Ingredient	What is it used for?
BICARBONATE OF SODA (baking soda)	An all-purpose, non-toxic cleaner. Cleans, deodorises, removes stains and softens fabrics.
BORAX	A natural mineral, kills mould and bacteria. An alternative to bleach, it deodorises, removes stains and boosts the cleaning power of soap.
CASTILE SOAP (or vegetable oil-based soaps)	Cleans everything.
CORNSTARCH	Starches clothes, absorbs oil and grease.
ESSENTIAL OILS	Provide fragrance.
EUCALYPTUS OIL	Disinfectant, deodoriser, stain remover and insect repellent.
LEMON JUICE	Cuts through grease and removes perspiration and other stains from clothing. Use as a mild bleach.
METHYLATED SPIRITS	Solvent and disinfectant.
OLIVE OIL	Polisher, moisturiser and sealant.
SALT	An abrasive.
VINEGAR (white)	Cuts grease, removes stains and is an excellent fabric softener, leaving no odour in your laundry. Also great for cleaning glass and mirrors when diluted in water.



Would you like to give your house a spring clean without all the nasty chemicals?

Come along to a hands-on, practical and informative workshop where you will see why chemical cleaners are harming people and the environment. We will look at the steps you can take to make your indoors safe for everyone and discover simple, low cost ways to clean your house from top to bottom using everyday items.

Participants will learn to make their own natural cleaning products.

Date: Wednesday 18 July, 10am – 12pm

Location: Carnes Hill

RSVP: To book your place please call Council on 1300 36 2170.

It has never been more convenient to clean out your closet with this free collection service. Using the online booking portal you can pre-book the collection of your clothes, for free, as many times as you like. It really is that simple.

Visit **clothingcleanup.com.au** or call **1300 889 014** for more information.

Why use Clothing Cleanup?

Australians dispose of 600kg of clothing every minute, equal to the weight of almost eight people. This makes us the second largest consumer of textiles in the world.

Only 15 per cent of Australia's unwanted clothes are given a new life or recycled properly, meaning most are thrown away to landfill.

Clothing Cleanup is committed to reducing our environmental footprint. By using the free Clothing Cleanup service, we can together reduce the amount of textile waste that gets sent to landfill every year.

The clothes collected are reused. They mostly are sent to developing countries to be worn by people in need.

CAR PARK LED LIGHTING UPGRADE 'SAVES' COUNCIL



Liverpool City Council began upgrading lighting in its Warren Serviceway car park in September 2017. This was in response to audits that identified opportunities for energy efficiency and improved safety.

Traditional fluorescent lighting was replaced with LED chameleon lighting, starting with the ground floor, level 1, circulation, fire stairwells and lift areas. A review in May showed the lighting upgrade has already delivered eight per cent in energy savings.

The remaining lighting upgrade to levels 2 to 6 of the carpark will be completed over the 2018-19 period.

New, lighter ceiling colours are also increasing illumination, safety and energy efficiency.



WINTER IS THE TIME TO CUT ENERGY BILLS



Winter is here, and Liverpool residents and small businesses are being reminded to check whether they are getting the best deals on their energy bills and appliances.

A new **Power to Save** website that provides all the information on energy efficiency programs has been launched by the NSW Government to help households and small businesses save money.

Liverpool Mayor Wendy Waller said the package includes advice on getting the best value energy supplier, cutting energy use and getting rebates and discounts on upgrades to appliances and equipment.

"At a time when family and business budgets are being stressed by ever rising energy bills, the package ensures there are now no exit fees when customers want to change energy retailers," she said.

"This makes it easier for consumers to shop around to get the best energy supply deal."

For households, the package offers:

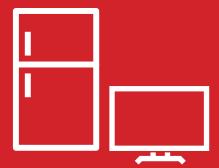
- Rebates of up to 50 per cent of the cost of upgrading to energy-saving fridges and TVs;
- Energy rebates, including a Low Income Household Rebate of \$285 and a Family Energy Rebate of \$180; and
- Discounts for energy-efficient lighting and air conditioning upgrades.

For small business, the package offers:

- Free courses and webinars on energy management across several technologies;
- Discounts on upgrading to energy efficient equipment; and
- Discounted energy-efficient lighting for business.

Visit the Power to Save website at: www.powertosave.nsw.gov.au

DID YOU KNOW?



Did you know there are discounts available for replacing your old fridge or TV?

The appliance replacement discounts offered under a NSW Government program called "Power to Save", make it easier for you to upgrade your old fridge or television to a new, more efficient model.

Who's eligible?

The discounts are offered to those who hold a:

- Pensioner Concession Card;
- Health Care Card;
- Low Income Health Care Card from Centrelink; or
- Veterans' Affairs Gold Card.

What's on offer?

When you replace your old, inefficient model, you can receive:

- 40% off the cost of a fridge; or
- 50% off the cost of a television.

Apply Now

For valid concession card holders replacing their fridge or TV, fill out an application form at the "Power to Save" website;

www.powertosave.nsw.gov.au



Did you know you could be eligible for the Family Energy Rebate?

The Family Energy Rebate helps NSW family households with dependent children who have received the Family Tax Benefit payment from the Federal Department of Human Services.

Depending on your eligibility, you will receive either a partial (\$20) or full (\$180) credit on your electricity bill per financial year.

If you pay your electricity to an electricity retailer you can simply apply online here.

https://applications.fer.trade.nsw.gov.au/



Use the Energy Rating Calculator

Did you know you can use online tools to work out how much energy each of your appliances is likely to be using?

The Energy Rating Calculator shows expected energy usage, and estimated running cost of many appliances.

You can:

- Input the brand and model of the appliance;
- Check the annual energy usage, and the expected running cost; or
- If your electricity price is different from the calculator amount, multiply the kWh price on your bill by the energy usage to get an expected running cost.

For more information, visit: www.energyrating.gov.au/calculator



Plastic Free July 1 – 31 July



The plastic bottles, bags and takeaway containers that we use just for a few minutes can be made of a material designed to last forever. Plastic Free July aims to raise awareness of the problems of singleuse disposable plastic and challenges people to do something about it. Joining the challenge is quite simple... choose to refuse single-use plastic during July. You'll be joining more than a million people worldwide from 130 countries making a difference. Visit www.plasticfreejuly.org for more information.

REDcycle Program



The REDcycle Program makes it easy for consumers to keep plastic bags and packaging out of landfill. Collect all the soft plastics that you can't recycle at home (if it's soft plastic and can be scrunched into a ball) then drop them off into your nearest REDcycle collection bin – there are participating supermarkets all around Australia.

The collected plastic is returned to RED Group's facility for initial processing, then delivered to Victorian manufacturer Replas where it undergoes an incredible transformation. Replas uses the material as the resource to produce a huge range of recycled-plastic products, from fitness circuits to sturdy outdoor furniture, bollards, signage and

For more details and to find your nearest drop off point visit www.redcycle.net.au

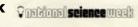
Australian Citizen Science Project Finder



Anyone can become a citizen scientist. Want to volunteer? Use the Project Finder to discover and connect with citizen science projects in Australia. Developed in partnership with the Atlas of Living Australia, the project finder has been designed to help members of the citizen science community learn about each other's projects, and provide opportunities to volunteer or get involved.

You can search for projects in your local area, projects related to a particular subject or theme, projects which are suitable for children, or projects which require minimal experience. There are many ways to find and get involved with projects that interest you. Visit citizenscience.org.au to get

National Science Week Communications 11 - 19 August 2018



This is Australia's annual celebration of science and technology. Thousands of individuals get involved, taking part in science events across the nation. Science Week is designed for everyone - it's definitely not restricted to schools and universities - with events and activities and talks and shows for every age group.

It provides an opportunity to acknowledge the contributions of Australian scientists to the world of knowledge. It also aims to encourage an interest in science among the general public, and to encourage younger people to become fascinated by the world we live in.

Use the official app to find out how to get involved.

The National Science Week app is available for Android and IOS (iPhone and iPad). For details visit www.scienceweek.net.au

GOOD ON YOU



With so much of our clothing, footwear and accessories being imported these days, it's a complicated exercise to work out whether you are making an ethical purchase. Finding digestible information on the production processes of most fashion brands is hard.

The free Good On You app provides you with the knowledge and power to make choices. Using information sourced by independent projects such as Fair Trade and Ethical Clothing Australia, the app has rated over 1000 brands on labour,

environment and animal welfare. The environment assessment takes into account specifics like the use of hazardous dyes and water, and indirect issues like energy efficiency.

Just type in the brand name to find out how it performs. The app helps you find similar brands that match your style and your values. You'll need to register to use the app.

goodonyou.eco/app/





ENVIRONMENT ACTIVITIES CALENDAR: JULY – SEPTEMBER 2018

WHAT'S

Join our enthusiastic volunteers who beautify their local parks and bushland by removing weeds and litter and planting native plants. Meet like-minded people, increase your knowledge of the environment and create habitat for local wildlife. Don't have any experience? Don't worry – our qualified staff are happy to provide training. All equipment is supplied.

Collimore Park Environment Group

Meet in the Collimore Park car park on Collimore Avenue, Liverpool

Saturday 8am-11am:

- 7 July
- 4 August
- 1 September

Amalfi Park **Environment Group**

Meet inside the park near the footpath on Reilly Street, Lurnea Sunday 9am-11am:

- 1 July
- 5 August
- 2 September

Clinches Pond Environment Group

Meet inside the park at the Gloria Taylor Reserve sign on Swain Street, Moorebank

Saturday 9am-11am:

- 14 July
- 11 August
- 8 September

Weaving Garden **Environment Group**

Meet at the seats inside the reserve at the end of Casula Road, Casula Saturday 12pm-2pm:

- 14 July
- 11 August
- 8 September

Cessna Reserve Environment Group

Meet in the reserve at the intersection of Hemsworth Ave and Stanley Ave, Middleton Grange

Sunday 9am-11am:

- 8 July
- 12 August
- 9 September

Chauvel Park Environment Group

Meet at the park entrance at the end of Sammut Cres, Chipping Norton Saturday 8am-11am:

- 21 July
- 18 August
- 15 September

Leacocks Lane **Environment Group**

Meet at the park bench in Glen Regent Reserve below Astley Way, Casula Sunday 10am-12pm:

- 15 July
- 19 August 16 September

Streamwatch

Come along to investigate the water quality of the Georges River. Meet in the Light Horse Park car park, Riverpark Drive, Liverpool

Saturday 8.30am-9am:

- 28 July
- 25 August
- 29 September

Light Horse Park **Environment Group**

Meet in the Light Horse Park car park, Riverpark Drive, Liverpool

Saturday 9am-11am:

- 28 July
- 25 August
- 29 September

Voyager Point Environment Group

Meet in the car park at Voyager Park on Orlando Crescent, Voyager Point Sunday 9.30am-

- 11.30am:
- 29 July
- 26 August
- 30 September

Streamwatch

Come along to investigate the water quality of Cabramatta Creek. Meet in the Ireland Park car park on Memorial Avenue, Liverpool

Sunday 12pm-1pm:

- 29 July
- 26 August
- 30 September

Elouera Bushland Reserve **Environment Group**

Meet in the Ireland Park car park, Memorial Avenue, Liverpool

Sunday 1pm-3pm:

- 29 July
- 26 August
- 30 September

For more information, call 1300 36 2170 or visit www.liverpool.nsw.gov.au









COMMUNITY TREE PLANTING

KELSO PARK

SATURDAY 18 AUGUST, 9AM-11.30AM Meet in the park at the end of Kelso Crescent, Moorebank

GLEN REGENT RESERVE BUSHCARE'S BIG DAY OUT

SUNDAY 16 SEPTEMBER, 9AM-11.30AM

Meet in the park on Tom Way, Casula



There will be a free BBQ lunch for all participants after the tree planting.

No experience is necessary. Council provides all tools and plants. Make sure you have closed-in shoes, a hat, gloves and long-sleeved shirt.







National Student Volunteer Week

13 - 19 August

This week aspires to challenge and celebrate young people who are striving to make a difference through volunteering. For more details visit **nationalstudentvolunteerweek.org.au**

Biodiversity month

1 - 30 September

Biodiversity Month is held in September each year and aims to promote the importance of protecting, conserving and improving biodiversity both within Australia and across the world. We can all help protect biodiversity in our own backyards and in our local communities. For more information visit

www.environment.nsw.gov. au/biodiversity/helping-biodiversity.htm

Save the date

Environment Volunteer Recognition Event

30 November 2018

This is an annual event to thank and recognise the work of volunteers who are restoring the natural environment of Liverpool through Council's Environment Volunteer Program. Regular volunteers will receive an invitation to this event in the mail. If we haven't seen you in a while there are still plenty of opportunities to get involved in our activities.

FREE SUSTAINABILITY WORKSHOPS

Places are limited. To book your place call Council on 1300 36 2170.

NATURAL GREEN CLEANING

Wednesday 18 July 10am – 12pm

Come along to a hands-on practical workshop where you will see why chemical cleaners are harming people and the environment. We will look at the steps you can take to make your indoors safe for everyone and discover simple, low cost ways to clean your house from top to bottom using everyday items. Participants will learn to make their own natural cleaning products.

SOLAR & HOUSEHOLD ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Saturday 11 August 10.30am – 12.30pm

In this workshop you will learn what a solar power system is and why you should install one. We will also cover how to choose a solar power system, how to choose an installer, whether to install battery storage and how you can use less energy in the first place.

FORAGING IN WESTERN SYDNEY Saturday 8 September 10am – 12.30pm

You will never look at weeds in the same way again after taking part in this workshop. Take a walk in the park and discover the edible and medicinal plants that grow around us. Find out how they have been used for food, craft and natural remedies. Discover ways to safely harvest from the urban 'wild' and enrich your diet with vitamins and minerals.