

SUSTAINING LIVERPOOL.

AUTUMN 2017

Riverside Park,
Chipping Norton

In this issue

Healthy Catchment,
Healthy River

Speaking 4 the Planet

Help catch a tosser!

What's On

Sustainability Tips and Apps

LIVERPOOL
CITY
COUNCIL



Image courtesy of Elvir Dugum

MESSAGE FROM MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS

Welcome to the autumn edition of the Sustaining Liverpool newsletter. With all of the rain we have experienced this autumn it's only appropriate that we highlight the importance of the Georges River to Liverpool.

Liverpool is located within the Georges River catchment, with 37km of the river flowing through the LGA. Starting near Appin, the river flows north towards Liverpool, through Chipping Norton Lakes and continues east until it reaches Botany Bay.

Last year, Council exhibited the draft Georges River Master Plan, which proposes a long-term vision for the urban renewal of the Georges River Precinct. It aims to create a true river city that has a vibrant mix of uses and activities. The riverfront will be rehabilitated and transformed with public access provided along the length of the Georges River, whilst ensuring the ecological value of the river is restored and protected. On this page are photos of some animal species which can be found along the banks of creeks and rivers like the Georges River.

Come along to some of the activities listed on page 10 to learn new skills and meet other like-minded people. We hope to see you outdoors enjoying our beautiful natural environment!

In this Issue

Streamwatch	3
Healthy Catchment, Healthy River.....	4
Speaking 4 the Planet	6
Household Energy Efficiency.....	7
Help catch a tosser!	8
Grey Box Psyllid Dieback in Western Sydney....	9
What's On	10
Other Events	11
Environmental News & Apps.....	12



Damselfly sp.



Eastern Dwarf Tree Frog *Litoria fallax*



Eastern Long-necked
Turtle
Chelodinea longicollis

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

Printed on recycled paper.

**LIVERPOOL
CITY
COUNCIL**



Customer Service Centre Ground Floor, 33 Moore Street, Liverpool NSW 2170

All correspondence to Locked Bag 7064 Liverpool BC NSW 1871

Call Centre 1300 36 2170 **Fax** 9821 9333 **Email** lcc@liverpool.nsw.gov.au

Web www.liverpool.nsw.gov.au **NRS** 13 36 77 **ABN** 84 181 182 471

STREAMWATCH

Cabramatta Creek

Streamwatch is a popular citizen science water monitoring program originally initiated by Sydney Water and the Sydney Catchment Authority in 1990. It has supported local communities across Sydney, the Blue Mountains, Illawarra and Southern Highland regions.

In 2012 the Australian Museum took over the running of Streamwatch with Sydney Water remaining as a founding partner. Streamwatch aims to ensure that everyone plays a role in keeping our waterways clean and healthy

– groups investigate and take action on water quality, catchment and ecosystem health.

In Liverpool there are two Streamwatch sites which have been initiated by local volunteers and they are supported by Councils Environment Volunteer Program. No experience is necessary to join – all equipment and training is provided.

LIGHT HORSE PARK, LIVERPOOL

Come along to investigate the water quality of the Georges River. Meet in the Light Horse Park car park on Riverpark Drive, Liverpool at 8.30am.

**Last Saturday of the month:
27 May, 24 June**

IRELAND PARK, LIVERPOOL

Come along to investigate the water quality of Cabramatta Creek, a tributary of the Georges River. Meet in the Ireland Park car park on Memorial Avenue, Liverpool at 12pm.

**Last Sunday of the month:
28 May, 25 June**

Both of these sites are in close proximity to bushland where volunteers participate in bush regeneration activities such weed removal and planting of locally native species.

All Streamwatch groups follow the same testing methods and use approved equipment which ensures the collected data is reliable and useful. Regular monitoring can help evaluate the positive impacts of remediation projects and identify local issues so that action can be taken. Streamwatch data also provides an early warning system for pollution events and a historical record of how waterways have changed.

The data and other information gathered by Streamwatch groups is available to the public upon request. For more information visit australianmuseum.net.au/streamwatch.



Images courtesy of Michael Streatfeild

HEALTHY CATCHMENT HEALTHY RIVER

A healthy catchment is essential to a healthy river. Did you know that stormwater pollution is one of main causes of poor river health?

We all live in a catchment. A catchment acts like a basin, collecting rain that falls across the land which either soaks into the ground or runs across the surface. Sooner or later all this water ends up in the same place – your local creek or river.

The Liverpool local government area stretches across two catchments. In the east, the city is part of the Georges River catchment while the western areas are part of the Hawkesbury-Nepean catchment.

In a healthy river catchment, healthy functioning ecosystems are essential for river health. Just like in your body, vegetation and soil act like major organs, filtering out pollutants and turning nutrients and organic matter into food for other animals and plants.

Both the Georges and Hawkesbury-Nepean catchments are becoming more urbanised. The Georges River catchment in particular is one of the most highly urbanised in Australia. Weeds, introduced pests, erosion, sediment, pollution and increasing hard surfaces continue to place pressure on the system and its ability to maintain a healthy ecosystem.

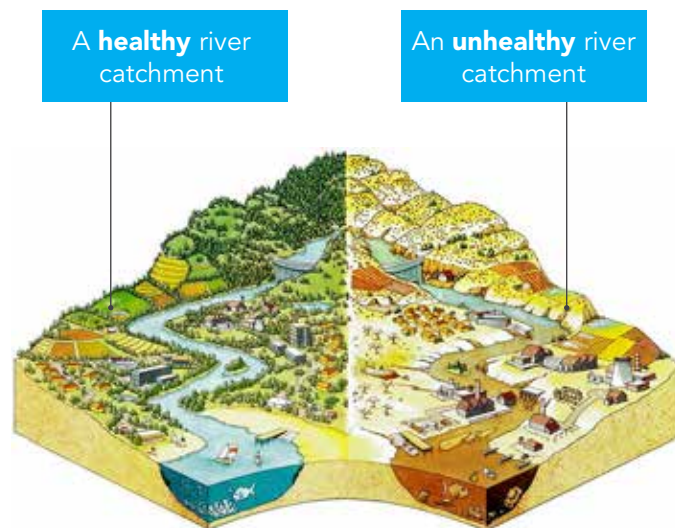


Image: Waterwatch Queensland



DID YOU KNOW?

A single residential building block can lose four truckloads of soil in one storm? 🗨️

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO PROTECT RIVER HEALTH

Keeping the Georges River healthy is everyone's responsibility. Did you know that water from your roof, backyard and streets flow directly into the Georges River?

Help us to prevent stormwater pollution by:

- Recycling your waste or placing it in a rubbish bin;
- Not littering in parks, streets or on footpaths;
- Not placing soil, waste, mulch or other materials where they can be washed or blown into stormwater drains;
- Washing the car on the grass not on the street;
- Using slow release fertilisers and not applying fertilisers if rain is predicted;
- Not disposing of oil, grease and detergents down the stormwater drain;
- Picking up after your pet;
- Preventing erosion on building sites and ensuring all stockpiles are contained with a sediment fence and covered to protect from rain;
- Covering your load if transporting soil or waste materials in a vehicle.



WARNING

DO NOT EAT CATCH TAKEN FROM THE GEORGES RIVER

Important: Fish and shellfish caught in the tidal waters of the Georges River and its tributaries, upstream from Rabaul Road boat ramp at Georges Hall to the Liverpool weir should not be eaten. This is due to the high levels of pollutants being found in these waters. NSW Department of Primary Industries recommends the public to release your catch.

For more information visit:
www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing



SNAPSHOTS FROM THE PAST

The Georges River was an important location for Aboriginal life and culture in the southern Sydney region for food, transport and dreamtime links. European settlers migrated to the area and cleared much of the catchment for farmlands and housing with the area remaining predominantly rural until the mid-1950s. In 1948 sand extraction in the area began as a small operation and it grew significantly until the 1970s to meet the demands of the Western Sydney construction boom.

Located nearly 20km from the sea, Chipping Norton Lake is in the middle reaches of the Georges River and it is both tidally affected and brackish (mixture of fresh and saltwater). The lake and much of the current day surrounding parklands are a product of the sandmining excavation and the resulting rehabilitation activities. It is a key recreational facility in the Liverpool area with significant bushland on the foreshores.



Image: Chipping Norton on the left in 1943 and the Chipping Norton Lake area at the same location today. Note how the lake in its current form didn't exist until after sand mining operations.

The catchment is extremely urbanised, placing great pressure on the lakes environmental health. Issues such as stormwater pollution, flooding, increased runoff, erosion and vegetation loss are all of great concern. Water quality monitoring results in the Chipping Norton Lakes indicate that people should not swim in the water or eat fish caught there.

SPEAKING 4 THE PLANET

COMPETITION – LIVERPOOL



Wednesday

14 June 2017

Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre

9am – 2.30pm

To celebrate World Environment Day on 5 June, 4Sustainability Education and Liverpool City Council are inviting all high schools in the Liverpool Local Government Area to join us for the Speaking 4 the Planet competition.

The United Nations World Environment Day is celebrated in over 100 countries each year to raise worldwide awareness for the need to take positive environmental action – locally, nationally and globally.

There will be three categories for the competition:

1. ART 2. DRAMA 3. PUBLIC SPEAKING

The Drama and Public Speaking Categories are focused around the 2017 theme for –

CONNECTING PEOPLE TO NATURE

For the Art Category students are asked to take the theme local and explore

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS TO THE GEORGES RIVER.

REGISTER YOUR SCHOOL

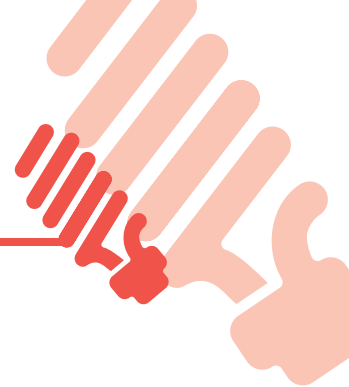
To register your school or to find out more information about these competitions contact Phil Smith – 4Sustainability Education Consultancy on 0412 338 687

Entries open on 1 March 2017 and close on 31 May 2017.

LIVERPOOL
CITY
COUNCIL



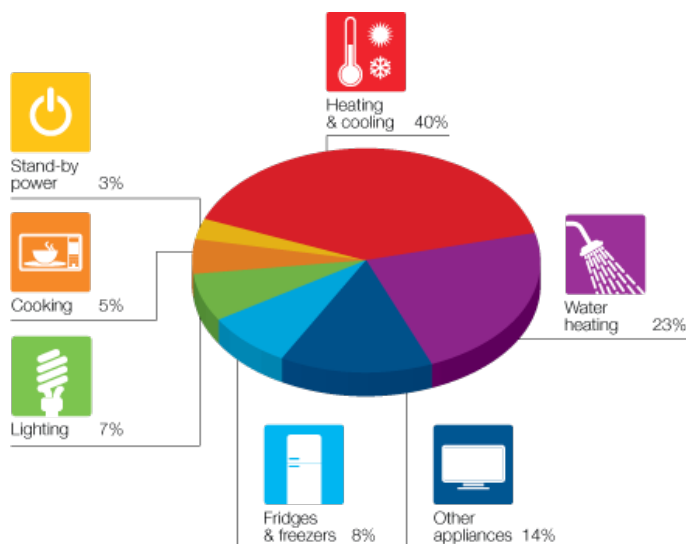
HOUSEHOLD ENERGY EFFICIENCY



Energy costs are increasing. To avoid energy bill shock and learn about how to make your home more energy efficient come along to the free upcoming energy workshop on Thursday 15 June 2017 led by energy expert John Caley.

Where to start?

To make the biggest impact on your energy use and costs, target the biggest sources of energy use around your home and look for high impact and low cost changes. The pie chart shows the energy use for a typical household (without a swimming pool). It shows that the biggest energy users are hot water, heating and cooling devices.



www.sa.gov.au/__data/assets/image/0007/234997/Home-energy-use-pie-chart-with-percentages-web.png

Your Energy Usage

In understanding how you are using energy in your home, reading your utility bills are the key;

- Find your average daily electricity usage in kWh/day (hint - look for a small bar graph on your bill)
- Find your daily gas usage in MJ/day (if you use gas)
- Look at the difference in daily usage for a summer vs winter and across Autumn and Spring bill

If your energy usage is over 30kWh/day, there will almost certainly be 10-20% savings possible and it is time to assess what is happening.

Free energy savings

- Set your washing machine to cold wash and rinse
- Choose an energy efficient appliance with low kWh per year, see: www.energyrating.gov.au
- Switch equipment off at the power point when not in use

Low cost saving

- Use plug-in timers for devices like pool pumps to set intermittent energy usage
- Install a remote control switch to hard-to-reach power points

Further Information

- Go to www.energymadeeasy.gov.au to determine how your energy usage compares to households of a similar size in your area
- Go to www.yourenergysavings.gov.au if replacing or upgrading household items, including how to use equipment efficiently
- Go to www.greenityourself.com.au for practical energy efficiency demonstration videos
- Go to www.energyrating.gov.au to compare the energy rating of electrical products

WANT TO LEARN MORE?



More information is available at the upcoming FREE workshop

Date: Thursday 15 June, 10 – 12pm

Location: Carnes Hill

RSVP: To book your place call Council on 1300 362 170

Please bring your current energy bills to this session.

HELP CATCH A TOSSER!



Liverpool Council as a member of WSROC has teamed up with the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) and Roads and Maritime Service (RMS) to tackle roadside litter – and is calling on the community to help.

Last year councils in Western Sydney collectively spent \$14 million on litter management, making it a major issue for both councils and the community. Roadside litter is unpleasant and expensive to manage, but it can also increase risk to motorists and, in the case of cigarette butts, cause dangerous grass fires.

Liverpool Council will be working with WSROC, NSW EPA and RMS to conduct coordinated litter pick-ups and enforcement activities across roads in the local area.



TAKE ACTION

Residents wanting to lend a hand can help report littering from vehicles by registering on the 'Report to EPA' website at www.epa.nsw.gov.au/pollution/reporttoepa.htm and adding the icon to your mobile's home screen. Simply note down the vehicle's registration plate and where the littering incident occurred, and log it on the Report to EPA website. Fines of up to \$900 apply for each littering offence.

While we encourage residents to get involved with the program, safety should be first priority. It is unlawful for drivers to use a mobile phone whilst driving. If you have a passenger in the car ask them to record the details for you, or report the incident once you have reached your destination.

SNAP, SEND, SOLVE



Snap Send Solve is a free app for your iPhone or Android device that lets you report issues and provide feedback to Council. It determines your current Council area using your smartphone's GPS location.

You can easily capture and report issues including litter and illegal dumping, damaged roads or footpaths, parking issues, street cleaning, trees, general requests and feedback.

All details including incident type, notes, address of incident, photo, current location and email contact are submitted to Council using your email address.



DUMPING IN BUSHLAND

You might think that there is nothing wrong with dumping garden waste into bushland because the material is natural, however it can have a negative impact on native bushland and animal habitat by introducing weeds, pests and disease.

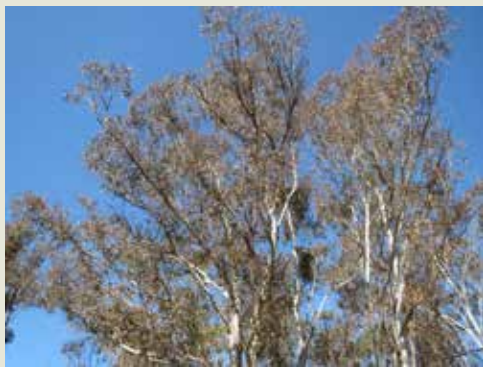
Protect your local parks and bushland by:

- Not dumping garden waste over the back fence or in nearby bushland
- Disposing of your garden waste (small twigs and branches, leaves, grass clippings and flowers and prunings) in the council green waste bin (one with the lime green lid)
- Compost your garden waste and return the nutrients to your own garden as mulch

GREY BOX PSYLLID DIEBACK IN WESTERN SYDNEY

The Grey Box eucalypts (*Eucalyptus moluccana*) on the Cumberland Plain in Western Sydney are being attacked by a psyllid which is causing the tree canopy to die back.

Psyllids are a common and a varied group of sap sucking insects. They look like a miniature cicada approximately 3-4mm in length that lays its eggs on the leaves. While each eucalypt has its specific group of psyllid species that naturally occur at low densities it's still a mystery why some species have the occasional population explosion.



Grey Box eucalyptus defoliated by psyllids in Hoxton Park Reserve, Hinchinbrook

Once one of the most common tree species on the Cumberland Plain, the Grey Box is currently experiencing a widespread and ongoing loss of leaves. This has had a devastating effect on Western Sydney's Cumberland Plain as the Grey Box is a fundamental species in this already critically endangered ecological community. The Grey Box is an important tree which provides nectar and pollen for bees, native insects and birds and also supports native animals including koalas and flying foxes.

There have been Grey Box psyllid outbreaks in Western Sydney since the late 1990s however the current outbreak is unusually serious and long lasting with chronic defoliation of host trees. This psyllid can be identified by its distinguishing feature - a sugary protective covering (lerp) that uniquely looks like delicate white lace.

The full nature of the impacts of this outbreak are unknown, but it may include threats to biodiversity and ecosystem function, changes to the local climate and increased soil salinity. While currently there is little that can be done to control this outbreak, general improvements to ecosystem health may give trees a better chance to resist and recover from this outbreak.



Photo of psyllid adults, nymphs and eggs on a leaf courtesy of Markus Riegler, Western Sydney University

WHAT'S ON

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. No experience is necessary. All equipment is supplied.

Collimore Park Environment Group

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

Saturday 8am-11am:
3 June

Amalfi Park Environment Group

Meet near the Brickmakers Creek bridge crossing at Reilly Street, Lurnea

Sunday 9am-11am:
4 June

Clinches Pond Environment Group

Meet at the playground on Swain Street, Moorebank

Saturday 9am-11am:
10 June

Weaving Garden Environment Group

Meet at the Casula railway station car park at the end of Casula Road, Casula

Saturday 12pm-2pm:
10 June

Cessna Reserve Environment Group

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

Sunday 9am-11am:
14 May
11 Jun

Chauvel Park Environment Group

Meet at the car park on Epsom Road, near the roundabout on Alfred Road, Chipping Norton

Saturday 8am-11am:
20 May
17 June

Leacocks Lane Environment Group

Meet at the park bench in Glen Regent Reserve below Astley Way, Casula

Sunday 10am-12pm:
21 May
18 June

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:
27 May
24 June

Light Horse Park Environment Group

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

Saturday 9am-11am:
27 May
24 June

Voyager Point Environment Group

Meet in the car park at Voyager Park on Orlando Crescent, Voyager Point

Sunday 9.30am-11.30am:
28 May
25 June

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:
28 May
25 June

Elouera Bushland Reserve Environment Group

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

Sunday 1pm-3pm:
28 May
25 June

DOWNLOAD YOUR BIN CALENDAR TODAY

Simply enter your address*, then download, print or save the annual calendar for your residential property or just make a note of the days your waste is collected.

*Applies to houses, villas and townhouses only. Residents of units and apartment buildings are advised to contact Council to confirm their bin collection day.

Can't get on the internet?

You can still have your calendar delivered, just call **1300 36 2170** and we'll post you a calendar for your property.

To improve our waste collection service, Liverpool City Council has moved its bin collection calendars online.

Go to www.liverpool.nsw.gov.au/binday or scan this code with your smartphone to view your calendar.



LIVERPOOL
CITY
COUNCIL





COMMUNITY TREE PLANTING

PETER MILLER PARK

SATURDAY 3 JUNE, 9AM-11.30AM

Meet in the park at the end of Witchhazel Place, 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.



WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

Monday 5 June

Celebrate our planet's biggest day for positive environmental awareness and action. For more information visit www.unep.org



national tree day

PLANET ARK



TOYOTA

**Sunday 30 July
9am – 12 noon**

BROWNES FARM RESERVE
Meet in the park at the end of First Ave,
Hoxton Park

FREE SUSTAINABILITY WORKSHOPS



ATTRACTING NATIVE WILDLIFE WORKSHOP

**Saturday 24 June
9.30am – 12.30pm**

Private gardens can act as essential stepping stones for native wildlife by providing food, water and shelter. In this workshop you will learn how to create habitat to attract native wildlife, like birds, butterflies and native bees, to your area so you can both co-exist together in balance and harmony while still maintaining a beautiful garden.

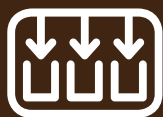


REDUCE YOUR WATER AND ENERGY BILLS

Thursday 15 June, 10am – 12pm

Come and learn practical and simple ways you can reduce water and energy use in your home. Learn about solar power, what to look out for when choosing household devices, how to use less energy for heating and lighting, and where to go for technical advice and support.

ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS



Community Recycling Centres

Liverpool City Council's Community Recycling Centre, located at 99 Rose Street, Liverpool is open six days a week, Monday to Saturday, from 8am to 3pm. You can drop off, for free, paint (water- and oil-based), gas bottles, fire extinguishers, motor oil, polystyrene, cardboard, x-rays and so much more.

For more information about Liverpool City Council's Community Recycling Centre visit www.liverpool.nsw.gov.au/wasteandrr or contact Council's Customer Service Centre on 1300 36 2170.

Growing veggies safely: how to get your soil tested for free

Have you ever wondered whether your garden soil may be contaminated? Do you want to grow your veggies safely? You can get your soil tested for FREE by the VegeSafe program at Macquarie University.

Under the VegeSafe program, you simply submit soil samples from your garden and vegetable patch. Your soil will be tested for concentrations of metals and metalloids and you'll receive a formal report on your garden results with information and garden advice about 'what to do next'.

For more information on the VegeSafe program go to: research.science.mq.edu.au/vegeseafe/how-to-participate/



SMARTPHONE APPS FOR AN ECO-FRIENDLY HOME & LIFESTYLE

ENERGY RATING



Our electrical appliances are responsible for a huge percentage of our home energy usage. If you are in the market for a new washer dryer, air conditioner, TV, computer, dishwasher or fridge, this smart phone app can help you make an energy efficient purchase and compares the running costs of popular appliances.

www.energyrating.gov.au/apps

ABC VEGIE GUIDE



Do you need to know the best month to plant your seedlings and when best to harvest? The ABC has created the ABC vegie guide app and offers gardening tips and troubleshooting basics. You can tailor the information especially for a Sydney (temperate) climate. Have all the information you need for producing healthy crops at your fingertips.

www.abc.net.au/gardening/resources/vegie_app.htm