# SUSTAINING SPRING 2017 LIVERPOOL

Did you know that galahs make their nest in a tree hollow lined with leaves?

Galah Eolophus roseicapillus

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What's On

LIVERPOOL CITY COUNCIL.



## MESSAGE THE FROM MAYOR



## Welcome to the Spring Edition of the Sustaining Liverpool Newsletter.

I'm sure that everyone has heard about all the things happening in Liverpool at the moment – our growing population, new developments and more businesses coming to the area.

It has never been more important to think about our impact on the environment and the world we are creating for future generations. Part of our vision for Liverpool is to create a natural, sustainable city. The work of our fantastic volunteers helps us to achieve this. I enjoy seeing the enthusiasm that goes into preserving our open spaces for future generations by planting trees and cleaning up local parks, some of which you will read about in this issue.

There is a wrap-up on National Tree Day, which saw our biggest-ever turnout. Congratulations to everyone who took part for such a fantastic result. There is also a story about the new Edmondson Regional Park that is opening shortly and will be a great addition to the area. You will get some handy tips for environmentally friendly ways to clean your home, and can read about bushland restoration projects underway. There are plenty of dates for your diary including some exciting events and workshops that I'm sure you will get a lot of out of.

Thank you for supporting Council's Environment programs, your contribution is truly valued and will remain of utmost importance for years to come.

I hope you enjoy the newsletter.

Mayor Wendy Waller

Liverpool City Council

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Planet Ark celebrates 22 years of the popular National Tree Day campaign!

Thank you to everyone who came along to Brownes Farm Reserve in Hoxton Park and planted a tree for National Tree Day on Sunday 30 July. It was a spectacular winter day with more than 170 people giving their time to plant local native trees, shrubs, grasses and groundcovers to help expand the patch of remnant bushland near Cabramatta Creek. These native plants will help to provide food and shelter for native animals and increase the visual amenity of the area.

Research shows that outdoor learning helps students develop crucial skills they will need for the future. A new report Learning from Trees: Life Lessons for Future Generations, commissioned by Planet Ark and sponsored by Toyota, examined how prepared the next generation is to tackle the biggest global challenges facing humanity. These challenges have been defined by the United Nations, with climate change the most concerning overall. Research cited in the report shows children

can develop key skills by learning outdoors, during and outside school hours. Providing opportunities for outdoor learning is a critical priority for parents, teachers and the wider community.

Tree planting volunteers had the opportunity to get up close with some of our native animals and learn about their habitats and behaviours through an interactive display from Australian Wildlife Display. In appreciation of their efforts, volunteers were treated to a BBQ lunch supplied by the Lions Club of Liverpool and face-painting for kids from Council's talented Children's Services staff. Special thanks go to:

- Council's Bush Regeneration Team who prepared the site and provided planting assistance to the volunteers on the day
- Middleton Grange Rural Fire Brigade who brought their fire truck to water all the plants
- Warren Toyota Warwick Farm for providing branded merchandise
- All the volunteers who kindly gave up their time to help plant trees.

## EDMONDSON REGIONAL PARK





nationalparks.nsw.gov.au

Edmondson Regional Park will soon be opened by the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS). The park is made up of four precincts in the heart of the suburb of Edmondson Park. The Cabramatta Creek Precinct is the first area that will be open to the public in the latter half of this year. Once fully established, the park will be 150 ha.

Regional parks provide recreational opportunities and protect the natural, cultural and landscape environment. Edmondson Regional Park continues to be a place of significance to Aboriginal people who have a strong association with the land and its natural features such as Cabramatta and Maxwells creeks.

The park contains important vegetation communities that are under real threat within our urban environment. Both Cumberland Plain Woodland and River-flat Eucalypt Forest communities occur in Western Sydney.

NPWS is undertaking extensive bush regeneration in the park by controlling weeds and revegetating areas. The park also provides habitat for many native animals, including the Swift Parrot and the Grey-headed Flying Fox.

The park is on the site of the former Ingleburn Army camp which was the first purpose-built military training camp during WWI, and was used for military training for 60 years up until its closure in 1999. Like the suburb, it is named after John Edmondson VC, the first Australian in WWII to be awarded the Victoria Cross, who grew up in the area and trained at the Ingleburn Army Camp.

If you would like to know more about the park and its planned opening contact Toni Clark, NPWS Ranger on 4632 4507.

# CARING FOR ELOUERA NATURE RESERVE

There's a narrow corridor of bushland that follows the gentle bends of Cabramatta Creek right in the heart of urban Liverpool. This area of bushland, known as Elouera Nature Reserve, comprises remnant vegetation of the original plant communities that were known to grow along the riparian corridor.

Take a stroll early in the morning or just on dusk and hear the bushland come alive with bird song. The reserve is a patch of biodiversity in the heart of the city, home to endangered flora and fauna species, such as *Pteropus poliocephalus* (Grey-headed Flying Fox) and *Marsdenia viridiflora* ssp. *Viridiflora*. Regionally significant species are also recorded in the reserve such as *Eucalyptus baueriana* (Blue Box). The vegetation community is identified as Endangered Ecological Community, *River-flat eucalypt forest on coastal floodplains of the NSW North Coast, Sydney Basin and South East Corner Bioregions*, listed under the NSW *Biodiversity Conservation Act* 2016.

Council and the community have shared a long history caring for the area through bush regeneration works that continue today. Council has two Environment Restoration Plan Projects currently underway to help restore and recover the natural bushland of Elouera Nature Reserve.

## **ERP PROJECT SPOTLIGHT**

#### Tepper Park Bushland Restoration Project ASHCROFT

IMPLEMENTATION PHASE

Commenced April 2017 – Expected completion June 2018

\$78,500 funding available

Area under management 28,700m² (2.87 hectares)

Revegetation goal: 5,700 plants

Bush regeneration works will target a range of Weeds of National Significance (WONS) and environmental weeds known to smother and overtake native species and degrade habitat. The work zone is adjacent to previous bush regeneration areas completed in 2016.

#### Lehmanns Oval Bushland Restoration Project LIVERPOOL

**IMPLEMENTATION PHASE** 

Commenced April 2017 – Expected completion June 2018

\$96,500 funding available

Area under management 10,400 m<sup>2</sup> (1.4 hectares)

Revegetation goal: 10,400 plants

Bush regeneration works are focused on improving and expanding the existing remnant vegetation along the northern and western boundaries of the old sports field. Removing dense thickets of Green Cestrum, Privet and vines, the works will restore native plant communities along Cabramatta Creek and protect the banks from erosion.



#### **Management Issues**

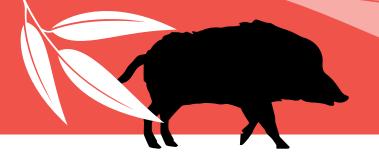
Valuing and caring for Elouera Nature Reserve into the future requires Council and the community to manage threats that introduce weeds and pollutants or degrade the quality of the local environment. These include:

- Illegal dumping of household and building waste
- Illegal dumping of garden green waste
- Arson
- Illegal tree and vegetation clearing
- Unauthorised motorbike and vehicle access
- Uncontrolled animals e.g. cats and dogs

#### **HOW YOU CAN HELP**

- Join the Elouera Nature Reserve Environment Volunteer Group (see page 8 for details)
- Report illegal activities to Council on 1300 36 2170
- Establish a native garden in your backyard





## PRIORITY PEST MANAGEMENT IN VOYAGER POINT BUSHLAND

During recent bush regeneration works within Voyager Point Bushland Reserve, Council staff and contractors noticed unusual tracks, digging and disturbance to the vegetation. Following an investigation and discussion with the Greater Sydney Local Land Services (LLS) Biosecurity team, it was confirmed that a feral pig had found its way into the bushland.

A feral pig is one that has been born in or has lived in the wild. It is not domesticated, displays unpredictable behaviour and has different features such as long coarse hair or an elongated snout. Feral pigs can cause significant economic losses to agriculture by killing lambs and sheep and damaging crops, pastures, water holes and fencing.



Image caught on trail camera confirming the existence of feral pig in Voyager Point bushland.

Feral pigs can cause significant damage to native vegetation, in this case the saltmarsh, wetlands and vegetation of the Georges River foreshore. They leave areas open and bare, susceptible to erosion and weed establishment as well as depleting food supplies for native species.

Images of the pig were captured on a remote trail camera which confirmed its existence and monitored its movements. While there are a number of options available to control feral pigs, in this instance LLS decided a cage trap in the reserve would be the best course of action. In a little over a week after its installation, the trap had worked.

The animal was tested for a number of serious infectious diseases that can have health implications for humans and other animals, with negative results. As per legislative requirements, the animal was euthanised using humane methods.

An active pig population poses a serious threat to the Voyager Point Bushland, so Council is pleased the threat was eliminated.

Council, with the help of the local community, continues to monitor the Voyager Point Bushland for signs of feral pig activity, however it is suspected that this was the only one. It is important that the community is aware of the signs of feral pigs and other pest animal activity, even in residential areas. Biosecurity experts are calling for locals to report signs of strange animal activity in the future.

Strict laws are in place to deter people from transporting and releasing feral pigs. Authorised officers continually monitor for these illegal practices. For detailed assistance or advice contact Greater Sydney Local Land Services on 4724 2100.



The feral pig is successfully captured in a cage trap.



FeralScan – help map feral animal sightings in your area www.feralscan.org.au

FeralScan Pest Mapping app is available on iTunes and Google Play.

Pest animals cause significant damage to our environment, the economy and society. This app can be used at any time to record the location of pest animals in your local area, record the problems they are causing, and record control actions you undertake. This information can be used to monitor populations and better target pests through coordinated control programs.

#### GEORGES RIVER COMBINED COUNCIL COMMITTEE

## **RIVERKEEPER PROGRAM**



The Georges River Combined Council Committee (GRCCC) was formed in 1979 and consists of eight councils including Liverpool City Council, Bayside, City of Canterbury Bankstown, Campbelltown, Fairfield, Georges River, Sutherland and Wollondilly Shire Councils. The GRCCC has taken on many environmental issues over the years and helps facilitate a coordinated approach to the management of the Georges River. The Riverkeeper Program is one of the GRCCC's key programs, which focuses on bush regeneration and litter collection from sites across the Georges River catchment.

A catchment refers to the area of land that drains into a river. Everything that occurs within this catchment area affects the river. The Georges River catchment covers 960 square kilometres from Appin in the south, northwards to Prospect Reservoir and east to Botany Bay. The Georges River flows through a very varied landscape: 45% of the catchment is in high quality natural condition and 55% has various land tenures, including residential and commercial usage. There are 1.2 million people living in this catchment area, making it one of the most highly urbanised catchments in Australia.

Urban and commercial development depend upon stormwater to prevent flooding events. However stormwater contains litter, oils and pollutants, and can degrade water quality of rivers to the point where it is not drinkable and cannot be swum in. By improving the water quality through preventative and remedial actions, we can improve the overall health of the river so there are less impacts on the flora and fauna of the river system.

In Liverpool, there are more than 30 Riverkeeper litter collection sites that are routinely cleaned. These sites typically have recurring litter which includes bottles, fast food packaging, single-use plastics bags, plastic packaging, and household dumping. The Riverkeeper litter collection teams include CSNSW Community Service volunteers and Green Army groups.

In the past year, the Riverkeeper Program removed 113.2 tonnes of rubbish from the Georges River. As part of this a total, 27 tonnes was removed from Liverpool Council waterways alone, and an additional 19.3 tonnes of litter was removed upstream of the Liverpool LGA, preventing it from reaching the Liverpool foreshores.







#### **DID YOU KNOW?**

In 2016/17, 27 tonnes of rubbish was removed from Liverpool Council waterways.



For more information on the GRCCC and the Riverkeeper Program please visit http://georgesriver.org.au or like the GRCCC Facebook page at www.facebook.com/Georges-River-NSW-282773121775000/

## ENVIRONMENT VOLUNTEERING







On the last Sunday of each month, the Elouera Bushland Reserve Environment Group (EG) meets on the banks of Cabramatta Creek in Ireland Park to undertake environmental monitoring and restoration activities.

Elouera Bushland Reserve is a large and important ecological pocket of remnant bushland winding through an urban setting in Miller and Ashcroft. The reserve plays an important role in providing habitat and refuge for native fauna to cope in an urban built environment. The reserve contains the endangered flora population *Marsedenia viridiflora* spp *viridiflora*, four threatened ecological communities and one threatened fauna species.

The reserve is heavily impacted by weed invasion and rubbish accumulation. Since 2005, passionate volunteers have been conscientiously working to restore selected areas of bushland along the creek. Their works have included targeting of noxious vines, woody weeds and various annual weeds. In more recent times, the group has moved their focus

to restoring areas containing higher ecological conservation significance.

For those who would prefer to test their chemistry skills, the EG has been involved in the Streamwatch program since 2013. Water monitoring is conducted in a stream of Cabramatta Creek to test for phosphorous, dissolved oxygen, turbidity, nitrates, pH, temperature and general observations about water quality and wildlife. All parameters are recorded with final results sent off to the Australian Museum for addition into their database. Comparisons in water quality results are placed on the Elouera Bushland Reserve Streamwatch Facebook page run by the volunteer group coordinator for general viewing.

Everyone is welcome to join the group's activities – no experience is necessary. Come along on **Sunday 29 October** and **Sunday 26 November** from **12pm to 3pm**. Meet in the Ireland Park car park on Memorial Ave, Liverpool.

## 

#### What is a habitat tree?

Old trees become habitat trees as they age and develop cracks, crevices and hollows. Many of our most important habitat trees are generally known as gum trees. Living and dead trees can become habitat trees, which provide habitat, food, breeding and shelter. Habitat trees provide diverse living spaces for a range of plants and animals – without them many of our native animals wouldn't survive.

#### Importance of habitat trees

Habitat trees are an important part of our natural heritage and can be considered among our most valuable and increasingly scarce environmental assets. These trees are essential for the health of the environment and the survival of some of our threatened fauna species. In Australia, many native species need tree hollows, including 17% of bird species, 42% of mammals and 28% of reptiles. These include bats, possums, gliders, owls, parrots, antechinus, ducks, rosellas and kingfishers as well as numerous species of snakes, frogs and skinks. Even epiphytic plants like some native orchids need habitat trees to live in.

By playing an important role for natural native forests, habitat trees are like apartments for a range of native animals. Even after the tree has died it can remain standing for up to 50 years providing habitat and other services. When these dead trees do eventually fall to the ground, they continue to be useful by providing habitat for reptiles and various other ground dwelling animals.

## GREEN CLEAN YOUR HOME



With Spring in the air, many of us may be ready to undertake a 'Spring clean' in our homes. Modern cleaning products are everywhere in the home: on kitchen countertops, dishes, furniture, floors, clothes and floating through the air. Most of the conventional cleaning products are chemical based and have environmental and health impacts.

Natural cleaning, also commonly known as 'green 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 and the environment. So why not consider for your next spring clean, opting for natural cleaning products and methods that keep a house clean and fresh with no impacts to 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 SODA (baking soda)	Mixed in with warm water, this all- purpose vinegar and baking soda can be used to clean just about anything.
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. Used 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 on your laundry. Also great for cleaning glass and mirrors when diluted in water.

#### For more information:

- Office of Environment and Heritage www.environment.nsw.gov.au/households/green-cleaning.htm
- Safer solutions www.safersolutions.org.au

#### Threats to habitat trees

A lot of trees will only form suitable hollows, cracks and crevices when they are 100 to 150 years old. Habitat trees are being lost or destroyed for a number of reasons including development, safety concerns, firewood or vandalism, resulting in fewer important habitat trees available for our native animals. This has contributed to the decline of some of our endangered species like the Swift Parrot and Glossy Black Cockatoo.

These trees are important to the environment and we need to carefully consider whether we need to remove a tree that might have been around longer than most living people. If you see a large old tree near your home, look up and appreciate the range of native animals that may be living in these apartments of the bush – you could be surprised by what sort of neighbours you have!







#### **ENVIRONMENT ACTIVITIES CALENDAR: OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2017**

# 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:

- 7 October
- 4 November

## Amalfi Park Environment Group

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

- 1 October
- 5 November

#### Clinches Pond Environment Group

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

Saturday 9am-11am:

- 14 October
- 11 November

## Weaving Garden Environment Group

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

14 October

11 November

### Cessna Reserve Environment Group

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

Sunday 9am-11am:

8 October 12 November

## Chauvel Park Environment Group

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

21 October 18 November

## Leacocks Lane Environment Group

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

Sunday 10am-12pm: 15 October

#### 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 October 25 November



Meet in the Light Horse Park car park, Riverpark Drive, Liverpool Saturday 9am-11am: 28 October

25 November

## **Voyager Point Environment Group**

Meet in the car park at Voyager Park on Orlando Crescent, Voyager Point Sunday 9.30am-11.30am:

29 October 26 November

#### Streamwatch

19 November

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 October 26 November

#### Elouera Bushland Reserve Environment Group

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

Sunday 1pm-3pm:

29 October 26 November

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













#### **BEARD CREEK**

SATURDAY 7 OCTOBER, 9AM - 11.30AM

Meet near the skate park at the Carnes Hill Community and Recreation Precinct on Kurrajong Road, Carnes Hill

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.



WORKSHOP

Places are limited.

To book your place call Council on 1300 36 2170.

### **GARDENING FOR WELLNESS**

Wednesday 18 October 10am-12pm

Did you know that getting your hands dirty can actually make you happy? Daily gardening can reduce your chances of getting dementia by 36% and it can relieve stress at the same time. Gardening is an easy form of therapy and can be done by anyone young or old. Discover what research says about the links between gardening and improved mental health, and learn how you can make simple changes to your lifestyle using gardens as a tool for better health and wellbeing.

#### **Spring Clean to the Community Recycling Centre!**

Located at **99 Rose Street, Liverpool** you can drop off the following items:

























See website for further details including terms and conditions.

www.liverpool.nsw.gov.au/crc

## **OTHER** EVENTS

#### 1ST BRIDAL CREEPER BLITZ!

Sunday 8 October, 9am – 11am Cessna Reserve, Middleton Grange

Do you want to keep fit, stay social and protect the hidden gem of Middleton Grange? Enthusiastic volunteers are needed to help restore the rare plants and animals of the critically endangered Cumberland Plain Woodland from invasive weeds. Bridal creeper came to Australia as a garden plant but over time it has become a major bushland weed where its climbing nature smothers native plants and threatens biodiversity. Talk a walk on the wild side and join us! You will learn about your local bushland and help to provide habitat for native animals. No experience is necessary, all training and tools are provided. Meet in the reserve at the intersection of Hemsworth Ave and Stanley Ave. Make sure you have closed-in shoes, a hat, gloves and wear long-sleeved clothing. For more information call 9821 7788.

## ENVIRONMENT VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION EVENT

Wednesday 15 November 2017

This is an annual event to thank and recognise the work of volunteers who help restore 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.



**DATES** 



#### National Mental Health Month 1 – 31 October

Evidence shows that connections to the natural environment have therapeutic effects. This awareness month encourages us to think about our mental health and wellbeing. For more information visit mentalhealthmonth.wayahead.org.au

National Water Week 15 – 21 October

Water must be used wisely so there is enough to meet the needs of our future generations. Get involved in the Streamwatch programs to learn more about your local aquatic ecosystem **australianmuseum.net.au/streamwatch** 

> Wild Pollinator Count 12 – 19 November

Many native insects contribute to pollination in crops and gardens. Help us build our understanding of wild pollinator ecology and activity – just watch any flowering plant for 10 minutes and submit your observations at

wildpollinatorcount.com

**National Recycling Week** 

13 – 19 November

Recycling aids the fight against global warming by reducing the amount of new materials we use to sustain our lifestyle. Visit **planetark.org/campaigns/nrw.cfm** for more details.

# ENVIRONMENTAL NEVVS

## Aussie Backyard Bird Count 23 – 29 October 2017



Join the Aussie Backyard Bird Count and keep an eye out for birds in your backyard or local area. By participating you will be helping BirdLife Australia find out about the common species that live where people live. These common species give us the best indicators of health of the environment – think of birds as a barometer for nature!

All you need to do is observe your green patch for 20 minutes and record the results using the Aussie Bird Count app. There is a field guide built into the app to help you identify birds. For more information visit **aussiebirdcount.org.au** or join the conversation with **#aussiebirdcount.** 

#### Australian Pollinator Week

12 - 19 November



Did you know we have about 200 species of native bees in the Greater Western Sydney area? Bees and other insects are very important for our food production and biodiversity. Pollinators drive biodiversity, and over 75% of the world's flowering plants rely on insect pollinators to reproduce.

This is a designated week in spring when the community can come together to raise awareness of our important and unique insect pollinators and support their needs. For more information visit beesbusiness.com.au/pollweekmain. html or www.facebook.com/groups/beeawareofyournativebees.

# SMARTPHONE APPS FOR AN ECO-FRIENDLY HOME & LIFESTYLE

#### **LANDSMART**



Get access to information about smart land management practices on rural properties to help land managers look after their land sustainably and responsibly. For city-based landholders, managing a property remotely can be challenging and could result in weed, pest and productivity issues, and might even affect neighbouring properties.

This app helps landholders look after their land by providing useful information at their fingertips. Topics include soil, groundcover, pest animals, weeds, native vegetation, conservation, farm biosecurity and other information on being a responsible rural landholder.

You can also find your nearest Local Land Services (LLS) office to receive further information and support, and find nearby Landcare groups.

#### **FISHSMART NSW**



The official app from NSW
Department of Primary Industries
(DPI) provides you with the essential
information you need to fish
recreationally in NSW.

The app includes bag and size limits, closed seasons and fishing gear rules. It provides maps to show your nearest Fisheries Aggregating Devices, artificial reefs, recreational

fishing havens and where Marine Park zones are. It also includes downloadable guides including spearfishing, fishing safely, trout fishing, regional fishing information and more.

Contact DPI for illegal fishing, fish kills and pest species, as well as local Fisheries Offices. You can view our Facebook newsfeed and pay your recreational fishing licence fee using the app.



