

SUSTAINING LIVERPOOL

SUMMER 2019/20



The sepals of the NSW Christmas bush turn bright red in December, putting on a bright display in time for Christmas



In this issue

Be Prepared for Bushfires

Liverpool's Wetlands

School Holiday Nature Apps

Sustainable Summer Home Guide

What's On & Other Events

LIVERPOOL
CITY
COUNCIL





MESSAGE THE FROM MAYOR

Welcome to the Summer Edition of our Sustaining Liverpool newsletter.

The heat is well and truly on and all over Liverpool. Many people will be struggling to cope with its effects.

The recent bushfire state of emergency and catastrophic fire conditions have put us on alert even earlier than usual. See the facing page for details.

It's also the time of year when a lot of people find their energy use increases significantly – along with their power bills.

This issue of Sustaining Liverpool includes many useful tips for reducing your energy use and saving money. On pages 6 and 7, you will find our summer guide to a sustainable home.

It's packed with handy advice about simple fixes around the house, best practices to save water and energy, and rebates available to help you make your home more sustainable.

Turn to page 8 for seven easy eco swaps. Find out how to reduce your household waste, cut power bills and plant a drought-resistant garden.

Elsewhere in Sustaining Liverpool, you can read about our precious wetlands and the important role they play in Liverpool's environmental health. Next year we will celebrate these watery wonderlands on World Wetlands Day, 2 February.

With summer upon us, many thoughts will be turning to the traditional activities at the end of the year – Christmas, New Year's Eve and of course school holidays.

The holidays always present a challenge for parents looking to entertain easily bored children. These days screens are ever present and hard to resist but there is a whole world of opportunity for children waiting outside.

On page 4 you will find some great tips for outdoor fun during the school holidays. Take your pick – explore the Georges River, trek through the bush or download an app packed with nature play ideas.

Whatever you choose to do this summer, I hope you have a fantastic time doing it. I wish you and your family a wonderful Christmas and a very happy new year.

Mayor Wendy Waller

Liverpool City Council

In this Issue

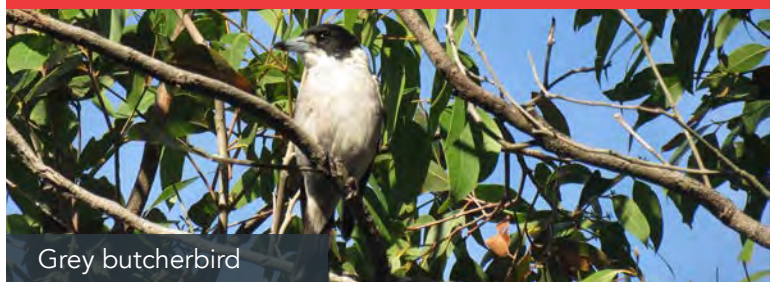
Liverpool's wetlands	4
School holiday nature apps	4
Thank you to our volunteers	5
Your summer guide to a sustainable home	6
Easy eco swaps	8
CRC holiday hours	9
Water restrictions	9
Dates for your diary	10
What's On	11
Events	12

RECEIVE YOUR NEWSLETTER VIA EMAIL



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

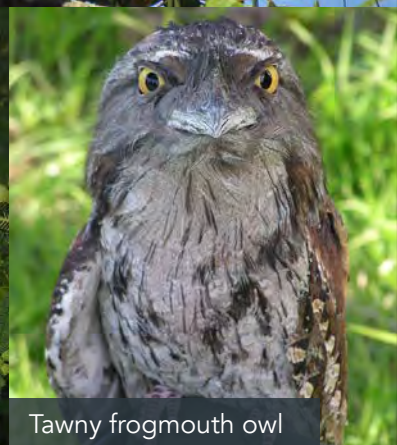
If you would like to receive it electronically rather than printed, email: lcc@liverpool.nsw.gov.au



Grey butcherbird



Acacia parramattensis



Tawny frogmouth owl

**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 **Email** lcc@liverpool.nsw.gov.au

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

RED ALERT

The bushfire season has arrived early this year and we face the prospect of a challenging summer unless conditions change dramatically.

More than 500 homes have already been destroyed in NSW while over 1.5 million hectares of land have gone up in flames. And tragically, lives have been lost.

Liverpool well knows the dangers of bushfires. Two years ago we were lucky to escape relatively unscathed when fire tore through Holsworthy and Casula.

Next time we may not be so lucky.

Our rural areas and those suburbs surrounded by bushland are particularly exposed.

If you are in a bushfire-prone area you should be doing all you can to prepare for bushfires. Make sure you have a bushfire survival plan, and that your home and your family are prepared.

BE PREPARED

- Find out what you can do to get ready for bushfires:

www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/plan-and-prepare

- Download the Get Prepared app:

www.redcross.org.au/get-help/emergencies/preparing-for-emergencies/get-prepared-app

- Download the Fires Near Me app:

www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/news-and-media/stay-up-to-date

FOUR STEPS TO GET READY FOR BUSHFIRES

1

Talk to your family about what to do if a bushfire threatens your home.

2

Prepare your home by trimming trees and shrubs, mowing lawns, removing flammable material, clearing gutters and making sure you have hoses ready.

3

Know the bushfire alert levels.

4

Stay up to date on bushfire conditions. Check the Rural Fire Service website (www.rfs.nsw.gov.au) or the Fires Near Me app.

LIVERPOOL'S WETLANDS

World Wetlands Day is 2 February 2020.

If rainforests are the lungs of the planet, then wetlands are the kidneys. Wetlands play an important role in improving water quality by filtering pollutants and offering a buffer from severe storms and flooding. They are also biodiversity hotspots, providing habitat for many plants and animals. Birds such as herons, pelicans, egrets, cormorants and water hens may be seen feeding and nesting in these environments. Meanwhile, beneath the surface are numerous plants, frogs and aquatic insects, many of which serve as indicators for the health of our waterways.

We are very fortunate to have a number of natural and constructed wetlands in the Liverpool area, such as those at Cabramatta Creek and Voyager Point.

Unfortunately, due to a recent lack of rain, you may notice that the water levels in some of these wetlands have receded. Other threats to wetlands include development, draining for agricultural use, wildlife disturbances by people, domesticated or feral animals and pollution including litter.



A great white egret at Harris Creek Reserve.

GO WILD THESE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

Want to get the most out of the outdoors these school holidays? Check out these interactive apps and websites for great ideas on places to go and things to explore:

GEORGES RIVER MAP

Find out the best spots to enjoy walking, cycling, boating, fishing and even swimming along the Georges River in this interactive map.

 www.georgesriver.org.au/learn-about-the-river/georges-river-map



WILDWALKS

This online guide book aims to help people get out and safely enjoy the many great bushwalks and camping opportunities in NSW. There is something here for everyone - from newcomers to experienced walkers.

 www.wildwalks.com



THE NATURE PASSPORT APP

The app is designed as a tool to help families and schools replace kids' sedentary screen-time with playing, exploring and learning outdoors.

 www.natureplay.org.au/nature-passport-app



- Is your school or community doing something great to sustain Liverpool? Tell us about it at erp@liverpool.nsw.gov.au
- The current round of the Sustainable Environment Grant closes on 15 December 2019. If you have a great idea for a project that makes a significant environmental impact on your school or community, go to www.liverpool.nsw.gov.au/community/grants-and-sponsorship





THANK YOU TO ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS

Thanks to the contributions of our volunteers and everyone who came to our community tree planting events, more than 6000 trees were planted across various parks and reserves this year. In addition, our volunteers help to maintain our parks and reserves by removing litter and invasive weeds. This is a tremendous effort by everyone involved. It has been great to see such a cross-section of our community come together to improve our parks and the ecological communities that call them home.

Special thanks to:

- All the volunteers who kindly gave up their time!
- Council's Environment Restoration Plan staff who prepare the sites and provide assistance to the volunteers on the day.



There has never been a better time to take action for our living world. If you would like to get involved in any of our volunteer programs or community tree planting events, please call 1300 36 2170.

YOUR SUMMER GUIDE TO A SUSTAINABLE HOME



New solar loans and rebates are available as part of the NSW Government's Empowering Homes Scheme. See www.energy.nsw.gov.au



Did you know that some AC units use up to 14 times more energy than a fan? Avoid or minimise the use of air-conditioning. See page 8 for more tips.



Swap old-fashioned lights for LED lights.



REBATES

Lighting upgrade offer:

Get a government rebate to replace your halogen downlights with new LED bulbs. See www.energysaver.nsw.gov.au



Install a rainwater tank.



REBATES

Replace appliances:

Eligible residents can get a discount when replacing an old, inefficient fridge or television. See www.energysaver.nsw.gov.au



A leaky tap can waste up to 70 litres of water a day. Check all of your taps and don't delay in getting them repaired.



Consider low-impact food choices and buy local and seasonal produce where possible.

Sydney Water offers a range of fixed-price plumbing services through their WaterFix® Residential program. For enquiries or bookings, contact 1800 807 475. To find out about Sydney Water's WaterFix® Residential program, go to www.sydneywater.com.au/SW/your-home/saving-water-at-home/kitchen-and-laundry/index.htm



Keep hot air out of the house by keeping windows and blinds closed before it gets hot.



A regular shower head uses 20 litres of water a minute. Install a water-saving shower head with a 3-star WELS rating and capture water in a bucket while you are waiting for the water to heat up. Remember to limit showers to 4 minutes.



Using the half flush on your toilet uses about 3 litres of water, while full flush uses 6-12 litres!



It's a great time of the year to have a clean-up. Don't forget to book your free Council clean-up and visit the Community Recycling Centre.



Use cold water and wait to have a full load when washing clothes.



Plant drought-tolerant native plants, which need much less water once established.



Dishwashers save more water than handwashing, but only when full! Turn the water off while scrubbing if washing by hand.



KEY



Energy



Water



Rebates



Waste



Biodiversity

7 EASY ECO SWAPS

Using your air conditioner for extended periods

TRY

Keeping hot air out during the day. Cool the room down by letting in cool air at night and then using a fan to circulate it. Or cool the room down with the air conditioner and then turn it off and circulate the cool air with a fan.

Throwing unwanted items in the bin

TRY

Regifting or donating to charities. Otherwise check out your recycling options, including the Community Recycling Centre at 99 Rose Street, Liverpool.

Throwing out vegetable scraps

TRY

Composting or freezing them and use later to make a preservative-free vegetable stock. Just boil with water and simmer for one hour.

Wrapping gifts in paper or plastic

TRY

The Japanese art of Furoshiki gift wrapping using materials such as a scarf.

Using body wash and shampoo in plastic bottles

TRY

Using unpackaged soaps and shampoo bars for a waste-free shower.

Planting non-native plants in your garden

TRY

Planting drought-tolerant natives such as Sydney Golden Wattle (*Acacia longifolia*), Bottle brush (*Callistemon spp*), Hairpin Banksia (*Banksia spinulosa*), Hardenbergia (*Hardenbergia violacea*) and Austral Indigo (*Indigofera Australis*).

Our food consumption contributes to greenhouse gas emissions, water scarcity, land clearing, biodiversity loss and ocean pollution. Animal products such as beef and lamb tend to have the highest environmental impact.

TRY

Moderating consumption of red meat that has the highest environmental impact and instead go for chicken, pork, sustainably sourced seafood or plant-based foods. Local, seasonal produce also requires fewer resources and needs to travel less to the store. For locally produced seasonal produce, head to the Liverpool Growers and Foodies Market every Saturday from 7am-1pm and Childs Park, Ascot Drive, Chipping Norton.

CRC Opening Hours and Household Clean-up

Are you completing a clean out this season? Why not make the most of Council's Household Clean-Up. Don't forget it is important to book your clean-up before you place your items out. Bookings can be made by contacting Council's Customer Service Centre on 1300 36 2170. Please see www.liverpool.nsw.gov.au for more details.

Don't forget that you can dispose of the items at right from your house at our Community Recycling Centre at 99 Rose Street, Liverpool.

Tuesday 24 December	7am-1pm
Wednesday 25 December	CLOSED
Thursday 26 December	CLOSED
Friday 27 December	7am – 3pm
Saturday 28 December	7am – 3pm
Sunday 29 December	CLOSED
Monday 30 December	7am – 3pm
Tuesday 31 December	7am – 3pm
Wednesday 1 January	CLOSED
Thursday 2 January	7am – 3pm



 CARDBOARD	 E-WASTE*	 FLUORO GLOBES & TUBES
 MOBILE PHONES	 HOUSEHOLD & CAR BATTERIES	 INK CARTRIDGES
 POLYSTYRENE	 MOTOR AND OTHER OILS	 PAINT
 SMOKE DETECTORS	 X-RAYS	 GAS BOTTLES & FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

WATER RESTRICTIONS ARE GETTING TOUGHER

Level 2 water restrictions come into effect in Sydney on 10 December. Sydney dam levels have dropped well below 50 per cent for the first time since 2004. Fines apply. Remember:

- ⊘ Gardens can be watered only by bucket or watering can before 10am or after 4pm;
- ⊘ Smart irrigation systems may be used for 15 minutes before 10am or after 4pm;
- ⊘ Washing hard surfaces is banned; and
- ⊘ Cars can be washed only with a bucket or at a commercial car wash;

See here for information on exemptions and what is allowed under the current restrictions:
www.sydneywater.com.au/SW/water-the-environment/what-we-re-doing/water-restrictions/index.htm

See here to get an idea of how much water your family uses and tips to cut back:
www.hunterwater.com.au/save-water

DATES FOR YOUR *Diary*

International Volunteer Day

5 December 2019



Give a volunteer a high five or, if you are a volunteer, give yourself a pat on the back. Volunteers build communities and make our societies better places. We love our volunteers here at Liverpool!



New Year's Eve - Light up the Lake

31 December 2019

Join us at Chipping Norton Lake to bring in the new year. A family-friendly event with food, fun and fireworks. Check the Liverpool Council 'What's On' page for more details.



Environment Volunteer Recognition Event

5 December 2019

This annual event is to thank volunteers and acknowledge the work they are doing to restore the natural environment of Liverpool through Council's Environment Volunteer Program. If we haven't seen you in a while, or if you would like to sign up to our volunteer program, there are still plenty of opportunities to get involved in our activities.

World Wetlands Day

2 February 2020



Wetlands support a large range of biodiversity and play an important role in mitigating the effects of climate change by providing protection from flooding. One of the easiest ways we can show our appreciation for wetlands is to keep litter off our streets, as it often ends up in our waterways. See page 4 for our wetlands feature.

Clean Up Australia Day

1 March 2020



Clean up Australia day will be entering its 30th year in 2020. Be part of the movement with thousands of other Aussies. To join a local clean up event near you, see www.cleanup.org.au/events and remember, every day can be clean up Australia day!

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.

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 Ave, Liverpool

Saturday 8am-11am:
1 February

Amalfi Park Environment Group

Meet inside the park near the footpath on Reilly St, Lurnea

Sunday 9am-11am:
2 February

Clinches Pond Environment Group

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

Saturday 9am-11am:
8 February

Weaving Garden Environment Group

Meet at the seats inside the reserve at the end of Casula Rd, Casula

Saturday 12pm-2pm:
8 February

Cessna Reserve Environment Group

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

Sunday 9am-11am:
9 February

Chauvel Park Environment Group

Meet at the park entrance at the end of Sammut Cres, Chipping Norton

Saturday 8am-11am:
15 February

Voyager Point Environment Group

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

Sunday 9.30am-11.30am:
23 February

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:
23 February

Elouera Bushland Reserve Environment Group

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

Sunday 12pm-3pm:
23 February

Streamwatch

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

Saturday 8am-9am:
29 February

Light Horse Park Environment Group

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

Saturday 9am-11am:
29 February

For more information, call 1300 362 170 or visit www.liverpool.nsw.gov.au



LIBRARY WORKSHOP

SUCCULENT WREATHS

Saturday 30 November 2019

11am – 12pm

Liverpool City Library

Grow a Christmas wreath with a mix of colourful and intricate succulents. Display in your home as a piece of living art, or gift it this Christmas.

Bookings essential. For more information and to book, go to:

mylibrary.liverpool.nsw.gov.au/whats-on

CASULA POWERHOUSE ARTS CENTRE

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY

Tuesday 3 December 2019

10am – 1pm

Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre



International Day of People with a Disability has run since 1996 and aims to increase public awareness, understanding and acceptance of people with disability and to

celebrate the achievements and contributions of people with a disability.

With a strong position of advocacy for engagement in the arts, Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre will be hosting a day that will be accessible to everyone. The event will feature performances, an arts market with the opportunity to buy the works of artists living with a disability, coffee van, garden tours, mosaic workshops and virtual reality experiences.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED!



The Royal
BOTANIC GARDEN
Sydney

The National Herbarium of New South Wales is recording digital images of its 1.4 million specimens ahead of its move to Australian Botanical Garden in Mt Annan.

Can you help prepare them for the digitising process? You will get to meet expert plant scientists and to see the incredible collection.

There are two sessions per day, with each session running for about three hours. If you would like to help and gain valuable experience, please contact Melissa Wong on **melissa.wong@rbgsydney.nsw.gov.au**

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!



If you are going away on holidays, don't forget to drive slowly, especially at dawn and dusk as this is when many animals are feeding.

If you come across injured wildlife, contact WIRES on 1300 094 737. Native animals only. See **www.wires.org.au** for more information.