

SUSTAINING LIVERPOOL

SPRING 2018



Did you know that the 'Tick Bush' has flowers in spring which attracts bees and nectar-loving birds?



Tick Bush
Kunzea ambigua

In this issue

National Tree Day success

Schools Recycling Right

National Water Week

What's On & Other Events

LIVERPOOL
CITY
COUNCIL





MESSAGE THE FROM MAYOR

Welcome to the Spring Edition of our Sustaining Liverpool newsletter.

It's a well-known fact that the more time you spend outdoors connecting with nature the happier you will be.

So I was pleased to see that we had such a big turnout for our National Tree Day on 29 July.

We planted more than 1500 native trees, shrubs and groundcovers at Elouera Nature Reserve in Fassifern Park, Cartwright to help combat climate change, provide food and shelter for native animals and beautify the area.

In the past few years more young people have been participating in our bushcare volunteer programs and we get new people joining every year.

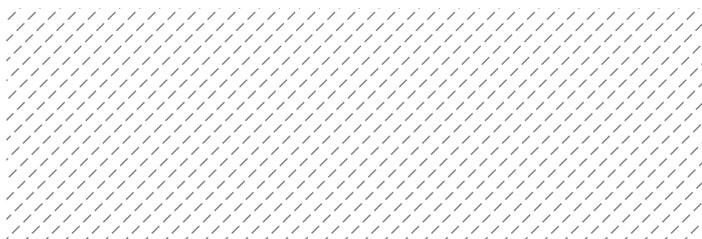
New volunteers are always welcome – no experience is necessary. We provide all the training and equipment.

Tree planting is a great opportunity to have some fun and help to make a difference. It's also a good way to get the kids off the couch and out into nature.

We have plenty more events and workshops on offer this year so now is the time to go outside and enjoy the spring weather.



Mayor Wendy Waller
Liverpool City Council



In this Issue

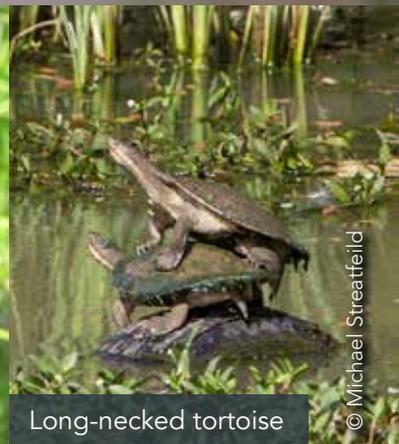
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Grevillea sericea



Tawny frogmouth



Long-necked tortoise

© Michael Streatfield

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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NATIONAL WATER WEEK

National
WATER
WEEK

21-27
OCTOBER
2018

Celebrated annually in the third week of October, National Water Week aims to inspire individuals, communities and organisations to work together to build community awareness about how we use water on a day-to-day basis and how we can protect it so we have water in the future.

This year's National Water Week theme was 'Water for me, Water for all' and encourages how we can all be water wise, particularly in context of the recent prolonged dry period.

National Water Week also provides the opportunity to remind residents and businesses about the Water Wise Rules that are in place across Sydney, the Blue Mountains and the Illawarra.

There are different ways we can all save water in and around our homes, schools and businesses. We've compiled a list of different things you can be doing to optimise your use of water in the home.

Water saving tips

Water saving tips are everyday common sense things you can do around your home and garden to use water more efficiently.

The home

Here are some tips and information to save water in different areas of your home:

- Make sure you have a full load before turning on your dishwasher and washing machine;
- Take shorter showers, every minute less in the shower saves on 3000 litres a year;
- Install water-efficient taps and showerheads and save on water and energy costs;
- Use the half flush toilet button and save up to four buckets of water per day;
- Turn off the tap while you brush your teeth or shave; and
- Check for water leaks and get them repaired.

The garden

About 35% of all household water used is outside, so there is a big potential to save water in your garden. Under the Water Wise Rules you can:

- Water lawns and gardens with a sprinkler, irrigation system or hose fitted with a trigger nozzle any day before 10 am and after 4 pm; and
- All hoses must now have a trigger nozzle.

Other water wise tips

- No hosing of hard surfaces such as paths and driveways, but washing vehicles is allowed;
- Use water-smart-approved garden products;
- Use mulch and compost;
- Install a rainwater tank;
- Check for leaks and get them repaired; and
- Select low-watering plants where possible – visit bit.ly/plantselector for plants that are suited to your local soil and weather conditions.



For more information visit:

National Water Week www.awa.asn.au/nationalwaterweek

Water saving tips www.smartwatermark.org/NSW-saving-water-home

Water Wise Rules www.sydneywater.com.au/SW/water-the-environment/what-we-re-doing/water-wise-rules/index.htm

GEORGES RIVERKEEPER

Georges River Combined Councils' Committee adopted a new business name in November 2017, Georges Riverkeeper! Georges Riverkeeper was formed in 1979 and consists of eight councils including Liverpool City Council, Bayside, Campbelltown, City of Canterbury Bankstown, Fairfield, Georges River, Sutherland and Wollondilly Shire Councils.

Georges Riverkeeper has recently adopted a new Strategic Plan, which sets the direction and Programs that will be implemented with its member councils and other relevant stakeholders, utilising the member and Program fees and any grant funding awarded over a four-year period. Georges Riverkeeper facilitates proactive waterway management that is adaptive and integrated across other areas of member councils, rather than being reactive and piecemeal. There are five focus areas in the Strategic Plan which are:

- Catchment Actions Program, previously the Riverkeeper Program
- River Health Monitoring Program
- Stormwater Program
- Research Program
- Education & Capacity Building Program

Georges Riverkeeper's aspirational goal is 'Best practice environmental management for a liveable urban river'. The strategic Programs encompass activities that will allow Georges Riverkeeper to work towards meeting this aspirational goal, with member councils and our other partners.

The Catchment Actions Program is a cornerstone program of the Georges Riverkeeper that removes litter from land surrounding the river and tributaries, preventing the litter from being transported to downstream waterways. The program also coordinates opportunistic bush regeneration and revegetation projects in line with member council natural resource management plans.

A vital component of an adaptive management framework is informing efficient and effective use of management resources directed towards waterway improvement, by monitoring the health of the river in the River Health Monitoring Program. Monitoring or appropriate and scientifically robust indicators is required to identify the types of scales of detrimental impacts; locations where conditions are notably improving or declining over time the 'business as usual' management; 'hotspot' locations requiring prioritised management actions; and, determining whether management actions are successful.

Urbanisation is the major land use influencing the condition of waterways managed by member councils across the Georges River catchment. With plans to increase the intensity of urbanisation in the Georges River catchment coupled with research in the Georges River catchment has shown that ecological degradation occurs in association with the increased catchment imperviousness that occurs in urban areas; a Stormwater Program is essential to work with Councils to implement

best-practice environmental management.

There are still many gaps in our knowledge about the effects of urbanisation on complex aquatic ecosystems, how best to mitigate those impacts, the features that will define liveable urban rivers in the future and how to overcome the multifaceted barriers acting to hinder progress towards making liveable urban rivers. Best-practice management is adaptive and requires keeping abreast of research developments and contributing research focused on local issues relevant to our councils through the Research Program.

To achieve best-practice management, Georges Riverkeeper must engage with a broad range of stakeholders who lack a shared understanding about the main issues affecting liveability of waterways across the catchment on how to effectively manage those issues. Through the Education & Capacity Building Program we will develop and disseminate education materials to foster a shared understanding of issues and solutions for best-practice management of urban waterways.

Article by Beth Salt, Program Manager, Georges Riverkeeper





Jellyfish blubber populations have increased in the river



Stormwater contributes to 95% of the contamination load into the Georges River



Our Catchment Action Programs



Our liveable urban river

Schools Tree Day and National Tree Day aren't just about planting trees. They're about getting outside, appreciating nature and connecting with those around you. The theme for Tree Day this year, 'Connect in Nature', explored *biophilia*, our innate connection to the natural world, and the possibility of combining 'screen time' with 'green time'.

Research shows that the more time you spend in nature and the more connected you feel to your community, the happier you are. The report *Connect in Nature*, commissioned by Planet Ark and sponsored by Toyota, examined Australians' attitudes towards technology and the role it can play in enhancing time spent in nature.

Research cited in the report found that Australians spend just three per cent of their week in nature, yet almost three hours a day on their phones (primarily social media). The report explored bringing nature and technology together – one in four Australians already use apps that encourage time spent in nature.



SCHOOLS TREE DAY

Class 5C, a group of enthusiastic and motivated students from Amity College (Prestons), got their hands dirty planting trees as part of the Schools Tree Day activities. On Tuesday 24 July they planted 450 locally native plants at Macleod Park. These plants will help enhance the existing bushland patch on site which belongs to the Cumberland Plain Woodland and is a critically endangered vegetation community.

Amity College is proud to be part of the local community – they educate and encourage their students to take up similar projects. The school recycles paper and food scraps, with the latter converted into fertiliser for the gardens in which they grow various types of fruits and vegetables.

Council looks forward to doing similar projects with local schools and sharing the importance of taking action to preserve nature.



LOCAL COMMUNITY PLANTS TREES IN CARTWRIGHT

Thank you to everyone who came along to Fassifern Park in Cartwright and planted a tree for National Tree Day on Sunday 29 July. It was a spectacular winter day with more than 270 people giving their time to plant locally native trees, shrubs, grasses and groundcovers to help expand the patch of remnant bushland along Cabramatta Creek. These native plants will help to provide food and shelter for native animals and increase the visual amenity of the area.

Tree-planting volunteers had the opportunity to get up close with some of our native animals, learning about their habitats and behaviours through an interactive wildlife display from Get Wild. 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 which prepared the site and provided planting assistance to the volunteers on the day;
- Middleton Grange Rural Fire Brigade which brought their fire truck to water all the plants;
- Warren Toyota Warwick Farm for providing branded merchandise; and
- All the volunteers who kindly gave up their time to help plant trees!

Thanks again and remember – every day can be tree day!



LIBRARIES GIVE AWAY NATIVE PLANTS

All six of Council's library branches joined the National Tree Day celebrations in the week starting from 23 July.

There was a special story time with books about trees and songs. At each library, children coloured in leaves to place on an indoor tree.

Three hundred native flowering plants were given away to children who attended the activities, and these were taken home to be planted.



WOODY WEED WOES

Woody weeds are some of the most invasive weeds around. Introduced to Australia for various reasons, including shade and aesthetics, they fast outgrew their intended purposes. Due to the size many of these plants can reach at maturity, they become some of the most difficult and expensive weeds to manage.

In Liverpool, common woody weeds include: Lantana (*Lantana camara*), Camphor Laurel (*Cinnamomum camphora*), African Olive (*Olea europaea* subsp. *cuspidata*), Privets (*Ligustrum* species) and Green Cestrum (*Cestrum parqui*).

Many of these species produce berry-like fruit attractive to birds and small mammals that are then responsible for spreading these weeds into backyards and bushland. They are referred to as "woody" due to their thick and hard, wood like trunk and branches. They often start as small and delicate plants but can eventually grow into large trees which often have a detrimental effect around the home and in natural areas.

You can help to control the woody weed invasion by:

- Know what plants are growing in your garden. If you need help with plant identification, please visit the Sydney Weed Committee (sydneyweeds.org.au) or NSW WeedWise (weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au).
- Remove Woody Weeds from your property. Ensure you know what plant you are dealing with and how best to manage it.
- Dispose of your green waste responsibly. Placing your green waste in Council reserve is not only illegal, but it can also promote the spread off weeds. Place weed fruit, seeds and other reproductive material in your general waste red lid bin NOT the green waste bin.
- Join Councils Environment Volunteer Program and help restore native vegetation.

The Biosecurity Act 2015 regulates how weeds are managed. For information on weed identification, management and control visit weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au or download the free NSW WeedWise app.

If you have any biosecurity weed-related enquiries, please contact Council's Bushland and Weed Management Officer on 8711 7577.



African Olive (*Olea europaea* subsp. *cuspidata*) © John Hosking
African olive berries ripen to purplish-black in summer.



Broad-leaf Privet (*Ligustrum lucidum*) © John Hosking
Broad-leaf Privet can produce many seeds which can be spread by birds.



Lantana (*Lantana camara*)
© A. Johnson
Flowering lantana was introduced to Australia as an ornamental plant.



Green cestrum (*Cestrum parqui*)
© G. Wisemantel
Green cestrum leaves produce a foul smell when crushed, and the flowers are distinctive in late spring to autumn.



Camphor Laurel (*Cinnamomum camphora*) © Rod Ensbey
The leaves have three main veins arising from the base of the leaf.



**NATIONAL
RECYCLING WEEK**
PLANETARK

12 - 18
November
2018



NATIONAL RECYCLING WEEK

12-18
NOVEMBER

Recycling Tips and Tricks

National Recycling week will be celebrated this year from Monday 12 November to Sunday 18 November. It is a chance for all Australians to celebrate the benefits of recycling. To help you check your recycling knowledge, below are some tips and tricks.



SCHOOLS RECYCLING RIGHT



Liverpool City Council and local schools have been working together to promote better waste and recycling practices by students and their families. Council has been running the School Recycling Program since 2010 with growing success. The program is intended to introduce the concept of recycling to students from an early age, encouraging them to make the right waste choices at school and at home.

Council would like to congratulate the following schools for their efforts in promoting recycling and sustainability:

- All Saints Catholic College Liverpool;
- Amity College Prestons;
- Bringelly Public School;
- Cecil Hills High School;
- Christadelphian Heritage College;
- Good Samaritan Catholic College;
- Green Valley Public School;
- Hammondville Public School;
- Holsworthy High School;
- James Busby High School;
- Liverpool Boys High School;
- Newbridge Heights Public School;
- Nuwarra Public School;
- Sadleir Public School;
- St Christopher's Holsworthy; and
- St Joseph's Moorebank

If your school would like to be included in Council's School Recycling Program, please call the Waste Management team on 1300 36 2170.

1

Keep your recycling loose!

Please make sure your recycling is kept loose in your recycling bin. No plastics bags or soft plastics are accepted in your recycling bin.

2

Stick with:

- Paper, cardboard and magazines;
- Milk and juice containers;
- Aluminium, steel cans and trays;
- Plastic containers; and
- Glass bottles and jars

3

Soft plastics are not recyclable, but can go in special REDcycle bins at many supermarkets;

Please take note that soft plastics are not accepted in your kerbside recycling. Soft plastics are plastic items that can be easily crunched in your hand. These include; plastic bags, cling wrap, cereal packet liners, bags of rice and pasta, zip lock bags, frozen food and veggie bags and bread bags. Please check www.redcycle.net.au for details and locations of REDcycle bins.

4

Use the **Community Recycling Centre:**

Liverpool City Council's Community Recycling Centre offers the community a free and convenient way of dropping off problem waste for environmentally-friendly disposal and recycling. Located at 99 Rose St, Liverpool the centre is open Monday to Saturday 7am -3pm.

The Community Recycling Centre accepts cardboard, e-waste, fluoro globes and tubes, gas bottles and fire extinguishers, household and car batteries, ink cartridges, mobile phones, motor and other oils, paint, polystyrene, smoke detectors, and X-rays.

5

Please remember: **if in doubt, leave it out!**

Alternatively, contact Council's waste team with further questions on acceptable recycling items on 1300 36 2170.

ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS



iNaturalist



One of the world's most popular nature apps, iNaturalist helps you identify plants and animals around you. Every observation can contribute to biodiversity science, from the rarest butterfly to the most common backyard weed.

Discover species new to you, record your own observations and share them with the community, receive suggestions and crowdsourced identifications of what you've seen, help others identify what they've seen and follow projects by fellow citizen scientists passionate about a particular place and/or species.

Get connected with more than 750,000 scientists and naturalists who can help you learn more about nature! What's more, by recording and sharing your observations, you'll create research-quality data for scientists who are working to better understand and protect nature. Your findings will be shared with scientific data repositories to help scientists find and use your data.

Visit inaturalist.org

Light Bulb Saver



Choosing light bulb replacements for your home can be confusing. With lighting taking up between 8% to 15% of the average household electricity bill; there are lots of options to reduce the amount of energy used for lighting.

The Light Bulb Saver mobile app helps you calculate how much money you can save by using energy efficient alternatives, and offers tips to help in designing effective and efficient lighting solutions for each room in your home.

The app also provides a useful table to convert the wattage of traditional incandescents and halogens into lumens, and provides information about household lighting technologies available in Australia.

Light Bulb Saver is free and works without connecting to a mobile network.

Visit www.energyrating.gov.au

Field Guide to NSW Fauna



This is a valuable tool for anyone with an interest in wildlife. Use it in urban, bush and coastal environments to learn more about the animals around you by browsing more than 1000 species including birds, mammals, fishes, amphibians, reptiles, insects, arachnids and more. Discover detailed species descriptions including conservation status, see stunning images of every species and view maps of recorded observations

Please note: this app is a subset of the Complete Fauna of New South Wales. Scientists will continue to add species over time.

COMMUNITY RECYCLING CENTRE



Do you want to get rid of paint, oil or batteries?

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**.

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 Avenue, Liverpool

**Saturday 8am-11am:
3 November**

Amalfi Park Environment Group

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

**Sunday 9am-11am:
4 November**

Clinches Pond Environment Group

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

**Saturday 9am-11am:
10 November**

Weaving Garden Environment Group

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

**Saturday 12pm-2pm:
10 November**

Cessna Reserve Environment Group

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

**Sunday 9am-11am:
11 November**

Chauvel Park Environment Group

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

**Saturday 8am-11am:
17 November**

Leacocks Lane Environment Group

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

**Sunday 10am-12pm:
18 November**

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:
24 November**

Light Horse Park Environment Group

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

**Saturday 9am-11am:
24 November**

Voyager Point Environment Group

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

**Sunday 9.30am-11.30am:
25 November**

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:
25 November**

Elouera Bushland Reserve Environment Group

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

**Sunday 1pm-3pm:
25 November**

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



Activities will re-commence in February 2019

DATES

FOR YOUR

Diary

National Waterbug Blitz Spring 2018

The National Waterbug Blitz is Australia's first nationwide waterway monitoring event.

In spring, we are all encouraged to become 'citizen scientists' and investigate how healthy our local waterways and wetlands are, simply by exploring and identifying what waterbugs they contain. Learning about freshwater ecosystems can be fun, easy and enjoyed by all. Waterbugs (also called 'freshwater macroinvertebrates') are small animals like mayfly nymphs and shrimp that live in fresh water. The type and number of waterbugs found in a waterway can tell us a lot about how healthy that waterway is.

National Recycling Week 12 – 18 November

Recycling aids in 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

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.

THE WATERBUG APP



The Waterbug app helps you identify waterbugs from south-eastern Australia.

Use the key to answer questions that help you identify your waterbug, or whizz through speedbug and see if you recognize it. The app also has a list function that acts as an index if you already know some waterbugs and just want more info on them, and a gallery if you are simply interested in browsing pictures that demonstrate the diversity of waterbugs.



Australian Pollinator Week 11 – 18 November 2018

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 more than 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/beeawareofournativebees.



OTHER EVENTS

Limited
numbers.
RSVP
essential

KIDS WORKSHOP

What's the buzz about native bees?

Saturday 17 November

10.30am – 12pm, Carnes Hill

Celebrate pollinator week with us and have an unBEElievably good time learning about native pollinators! We have a SWEET workshop planned of:

- Treasure hunts to find bee habitat;
- Creating 'air bee n bees' (native bee habitat);
- Looking at native bees under the microscope; and
- Native plants for you to take home.

The enthusiastic Amelie Vanderstock (University of Sydney) will be facilitating the workshop and helping you and your family discover - 'What's the buzz about native bees?'

This activity is suitable for 8-12 year olds, with a supervising adult.

Register on Eventbrite
pollinatorweekkidsworkshop.eventbrite.com.au

Limited
numbers.
RSVP
essential

ADULT WORKSHOP

Busy Bee community pollinator workshop

Saturday 17 November

1pm – 2.30pm, Carnes Hill

Celebrate pollinator week with us and learn all about your local native pollinators. The enthusiastic Amelie Vanderstock (University of Sydney) will help you:

- Learn to identify some common native bees;
- Create 'air bee n bee' for native bee habitat for your backyard; and
- Decide which native plants are appropriate for your backyard - we will have free plants for you to take home.

Register on Eventbrite
busybeecomunitypollinatorworkshop.eventbrite.com.au

Bringing back the Buzz to the Cumberland Plain Woodland is managed by the National Parks Association of NSW in partnership with Liverpool Council and with support from the NSW Government Environmental Trust.