

SUSTAINING LIVERPOOL

AUTUMN 2019



Laughing Kookaburra
– *Dacelo novaeguineae*



The Laughing Kookaburra is not really laughing when it makes its familiar call — it is a territorial call to warn other birds to stay away.



In this issue

Earth Hour and energy rebates

Gross pollutants and water quality

Join the Composting and Worm Farm Movement

What's On & other events

LIVERPOOL
CITY
COUNCIL



MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR



Welcome to the Autumn Edition of our Sustaining Liverpool newsletter.

Liverpool City Council's Environment Volunteer Program has made a world of difference to our precious bushland areas in its 15 years of operation.

Our parks, creeks and bushland areas have been carefully nurtured by teams of volunteers who give up their time and energy to make Liverpool a better place.

Every year we take time to acknowledge some of those hard-working volunteers at the annual awards night.

Our volunteers received further recognition on Australia Day through the Fraser Environment Award, with two winners:

- Yu Ling Cui, who has helped to restore bushland at the Clinches Pond Environment Group since 2010; and
- The youth of the Collimore Park Environment Group, who have transformed a section of Brickmakers Creek into a wildlife haven.

Congratulations to all our winners and thank you to all the volunteers who do so much to improve our environment.

Visit www.liverpool.nsw.gov.au/volunteer if you would like to join one of our environment volunteer groups.

Our waterways are critical to the health of our communities and on the next page you can read about what Council is doing to reduce pollution – and what you can do at home.

Elsewhere in this issue you will find a host of tips on how you can help the environment and save money at the same time.

And if you're keen to learn more, there are plenty of workshops and opportunities to get out and get your hands dirty for a good cause!

I hope you enjoy this newsletter and all that our diverse environment has to offer.

Mayor Wendy Waller
Liverpool City Council

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RECEIVE YOUR NEWSLETTER VIA EMAIL

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

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

Printed on recycled paper.

LIVERPOOL CITY COUNCIL



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GROSS POLLUTANTS AND WATER QUALITY

Gross pollutant trap at Amalfi Park, Lurnea

Urban waterways are under pressure from past and ongoing development. The projected growth and development in Liverpool have the potential to produce significant pollution. Pollutants such as litter, pathogens, nutrients, other chemicals, oil and sediments can degrade waterways. Without proper water quality management strategies, these pollutants will adversely affect the water quality and ecological health of the waterways.

Council is committed to protecting the health of our waterways and adopted a Water Management Policy in 2016. The key objective of the policy is to guide Council's water management practices in a manner that reduces pollutants entering waterways. To treat stormwater, Council has installed more than 180 gross pollutant traps (GPT) across the Local Government Area (LGA).

GPTs are systems that filter stormwater and trap pollutants such as litter and sediments. Using these systems, about 216 tonnes of gross pollutants such as plastics, cans, bottles and organic debris were removed from stormwater runoff over the past three months. These systems collect pollutants that would otherwise enter waterways and cause damage.

In addition to Council's initiatives, the Georges Riverkeeper group (formerly known as the Georges River Combined Councils' Committee or GRCCC) has adopted the Riverkeeper Program to remove gross pollutants from the Georges River and its tributary creeks. The group has removed more than 28 tonnes of pollutants from the Georges River system (within Liverpool LGA) in the past year.

Despite these measures, significant amounts of pollutants still reach our waterways. It is our moral duty to ensure our waterways are clean and healthy for wildlife habitat as well as suitable for recreational activities.

You can contribute to keeping our waterways clean and healthy by:

- Disposing of litter appropriately;
- Cleaning up after your pets;
- Washing your vehicles on grass or at car washes so the water is recycled before entering waterways; and
- Being mindful when using fertilisers in your garden and opting for natural alternatives

For more information, please visit www.liverpool.nsw.gov.au/environment/water-and-waterways/water-quality



Litter on the banks of Brickmakers Creek, Warwick Farm

ENERGY & APPLIANCE REBATES AVAILABLE FOR THE COMMUNITY

Energy discounts and appliance rebates for households and businesses are now available. For further information on all energy discounts and rebates go to the Energy Saver website at energysaver.nsw.gov.au



APPLIANCE REPLACEMENT OFFER

Discounts of between 40-50% off the price of new energy-efficient fridges and televisions are available when you replace your old, inefficient model.



HELP FOR HOUSEHOLDS FACING ENERGY BILL STRESS

Energy rebates are available for eligible NSW households to cover the costs of their energy bills. If you're eligible, you can apply for one or a combination of the following energy rebates:

- Family Energy Rebate
- Low Income Household Rebate
- Medical Energy Rebate
- Life Support Rebate
- Gas Rebate



DISCOUNTED ENERGY-EFFICIENT LIGHTING

If you replace old lights with new energy efficient lights such as LEDs, you may be eligible for a discount. The offer targets the replacement of halogen downlights with LED downlights by an approved supplier and installer.



DISCOUNTED ENERGY-EFFICIENT AIR CONDITIONERS

Discounts of between \$200 and \$1000 are available if you install a new energy-efficient air conditioner (depending on the size of the air conditioner).

CASULA POWERHOUSE AWARDED GREEN ENERGY SOLAR GRANT

The Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre will receive a \$100,000 'Heritage Near Me' Green Solar Energy Grant to improve energy efficiency and reduce power bills.


The funds will go towards installing a 100kW solar

power system and consolidation of 11 electric meters.

The project is one of 24 initiatives across the state focusing on energy efficiencies in heritage buildings.



INTRODUCTION TO ENERGY MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP FOR BUSINESS

TUESDAY,  26 MARCH 2019

Liverpool City Council and the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage, are running an Introduction to Energy Management workshop for small to medium-sized businesses.

- Adopt a long-term approach to the management of energy.

For more information, please contact **energy.saver@environment.nsw.gov.au**.

To book, visit **energysaver.environment.nsw.gov.au/enrol/index.php?id=50**
 Registrations are limited to 20 participants. Full cost is \$250, breakfast included. Sign up by 4 March 2019 to receive 25% off.

- The workshop will help businesses:
- Understand their energy use;
 - Identify and implement improvements to reduce energy costs;
 - Put into place a practical energy plan; and



FREE ONLINE TOOL CALCULATES SOLAR SAVINGS FROM YOUR ROOFTOP



This tool will help you to decide if solar panels are right for you. The APVI Solar Potential Tool (SunSPoT) is a free online tool used to estimate the potential electricity generation from solar panels on your roof.

Simply insert your property address and the tool accounts for solar radiation and weather at your site, PV (Photovoltaic) system area, tilt, orientation; and shading from nearby buildings and vegetation.

Visit the SunSPoT page at pv-map.apvi.org.au/sunspot

LIGHTS OUT FOR EARTH HOUR



Earth Hour is a campaign to raise awareness of climate change and environmental issues. On **Saturday 30 March 2019 at 8:30pm**, Liverpool City Council will join millions of businesses, government organisations and people across the globe in "switching off the

lights" of our administration premises for one hour to participate in Earth Hour. Register your participation at www.earthhour.org.au/register, spread the word **#Connect2Earth** and don't forget to turn off your lights on the night!

The NSW Government's guide to sustainable living www.environment.nsw.gov.au/households

Australian Government's Your Energy Savings yourenergysavings.gov.au

The Australian Government's energy efficiency rating for consumers www.energyrating.gov.au/consumers

Your Home - Australia's guide to environmentally sustainable homes www.yourhome.gov.au/energy

HOLSWORTHY COMMUNITY GARDEN



Costa Georgiadis and Councillor Charishma Kaliyanda, representing Mayor Wendy Waller, at the opening of the Holsworthy Community Garden.

A new community garden on the grounds of Holsworthy High School near the School Communities Recycling All Paper (SCRAP) Environmental Education Centre will teach local youth important skills to lead a sustainable life.

Liverpool City Council provided \$9400 for the Holsworthy Community Garden project through a Matching Grants program.

SCRAP has been part of the Liverpool LGA for more than 25 years. This project is a great way for their valuable knowledge to be passed onto the rest of the community.

Costa Georgiadis, host of ABC TV's Gardening Australia, was the keynote speaker at the garden's launch in December 2018.

"This garden is so much more than just a plot of land, it is about food security for tomorrow. In a changing world, your capacity to have power over your future begins in the garden," Mr Georgiadis said.

Thank you to Holsworthy High School, the school's P&C Association, corporate partners and the SCRAP Centre for all their work making this community garden possible.

JOIN IN AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Every fortnight on a Saturday or Sunday throughout 2019 the Holsworthy Community Garden will be open to the community to come and contribute to the gardening effort.

Learn about growing your own food and in return for your donated labour we will donate some of the harvest to you!

For details, visit www.facebook.com/scrapltd



RETURN AND EARN

Collect eligible bottles and cans and take them to your closest return point to earn 10 cents per container.

A Return and Earn reverse vending machine is located at the SCRAP facility on Heathcote Road, Holsworthy (opposite Keato Ave). Open 8am – 5pm daily. Visit returnandearn.org.au for more details.



SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT GRANTS NOW OPEN

The Sustainable Environment Grants program helps schools and community groups to reduce their impact on the environment and implement environmentally sustainable actions.

Key funding priorities fall under the categories of natural environment, sustainable gardening, sustainable water use and waste minimisation or recycling.

Up to \$5000 in funding is available.

Applicants that demonstrate a commitment to the project through either financial or volunteer support are considered favourably.

Grant round 2 is open 18 February to 24 March 2019

For more information and to apply for a grant, visit www.liverpool.nsw.gov.au/community/grants-and-sponsorship

AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDS 2019



The **Fraser Environment Award** recognises the work of an individual or group that has devoted time, energy and passion to the Liverpool environment. In 2019 we have two award recipients from Councils Environment Volunteer Program.

Yu Ling Cui

Yu Ling has been volunteering her time to restore the natural environment at the Clinches Pond Environment Group since 2010. She has helped restore bushland surrounding the wildlife haven of Clinches Pond by planting native plant species, in addition to weed removal and litter collection.

By volunteering her time consistently on a monthly basis, Yu Ling has gained valuable knowledge of the local environment. Using the knowledge and experience she has developed, she willingly provides valuable support to new volunteers. Her consistent participation, hard work and achievement has earned her the Fraser Environment Award. Congratulations and thank you!

Youth of the Collimore Park Environment Group

The youth members of the Collimore Park Environment Group are a positive role model for other young people through their ongoing commitment, enthusiasm and natural area restoration achievements. They have strategically transformed a section of Brickmakers Creek from a weed-infested area into what is now a haven for native wildlife.

The young volunteers inspire others through the sustained dedication of their time every month to restoring a degraded creek in the central area of Liverpool, even while managing their studies and sporting activities. They are a positive example of how a new generation of volunteers are contributing towards protecting our natural areas for future generations. Congratulations and thank you!

ENVIRONMENT VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION EVENT

Council is proud to acknowledge and celebrate the contributions that volunteers give to our community by looking after our parks, creeks and bushland areas. The 15th annual environmental awards night was held on November 30 at the Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre.

During the 15 years of Council's Environment Volunteer Program our volunteers have contributed more than 21,500 hours to restore the natural environment of Liverpool. The volunteers have planted more than 130,000 native plants in this period.

The awards night was well attended by volunteers and their families. Councillors Peter Harle and Geoff Shelton, representing Mayor Wendy Waller, thanked volunteers for their efforts and helped present the awards.

New members are always welcome – join in a worthwhile activity in a social and friendly environment. Visit www.liverpool.nsw.gov.au/volunteer to find out more.

The major awards included:

Environment Volunteer of the Year – Maree Stacy
Environmental Leadership Award

– Adriana and Warren Laws

Environmental Encouragement Award – Patricia Acton

Environment Volunteer Group of the Year

– Clinches Pond, Moorebank



Environment Volunteer Group of the Year – Clinches Pond, Moorebank with Councillor Geoff Shelton



Environmental Encouragement Award – Patricia Acton with Councillor Geoff Shelton

SPEAKING 4 THE PLANET

SOUTH WEST SYDNEY COMPETITION



Friday 7 June 2019

The Bowden Centre at the Australian
Botanic Garden, Mount Annan

9am – 2.30pm

To celebrate World Environment Day on 5 June, 4Sustainability Education and four South West Sydney councils are inviting high schools in Liverpool, Campbelltown, Camden and Wollondilly local government areas 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 awareness for the need to take positive environmental action – locally, nationally and globally.

There will be four categories in the competition:

1. Art
2. Drama
3. Public Speaking
4. Video

**STUDENT WORKS WILL BE BASED AROUND THE
2019 WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY THEME**

REGISTER YOUR SCHOOL

Places are limited.

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

Entries open on 4 March 2019 and close on 6 May 2019.

**LIVERPOOL
CITY
COUNCIL**


Wollondilly
Shire Council


camden
council


campbelltown
city council


The Australian
BOTANIC GARDEN
Mount Annan


Sutherland Shire
Environment Centre


WORLD
ENVIRONMENT
DAY

JOIN THE COMPOSTING AND WORM FARM MOVEMENT

– AND GET A WRIGGLE ON!

With International Compost Awareness Week fast approaching (May 5 – 11, 2019), it's a great time to try it at home.

The benefits of composting and recycling include:

Reduces the amount to landfill

About 50% of our household waste is organic and compostable. This means that composting and worm farming has the potential to save you space in the garbage bin.

Cheap and easy way to reduce your organic waste to landfill

Composting and worm farms are more cost-effective than sending

waste to landfill. Liverpool City Council offers residents a \$50 rebate for any new compost bin or worm farm. See Council's website for terms and conditions.

Create nutrient soil

Compost, worm castings and worm tea all return vital nutrients to the soil, creating healthier plants and gardens.

Save money on fertilisers

Composting and worm farming is 100% natural fertiliser so no need

to buy expensive artificial chemical fertilisers.

Why not join in on one of Liverpool City Council's free composting and worm farming workshops to learn how to set up your very own worm farm or compost system. Our next workshop will be held on the 11 April 2019. For bookings please call **1300 36 2170**.



CHILDREN'S COMPOSTING STORY TIMES

Story times are held weekly at 10.30am at your local libraries. Visit mylibrary.liverpool.nsw.gov.au/whats-on-kids for more information.

Come along and listen to some stories about composting and worms!

- 1 April – Miller Library
- 3 April – Moorebank Library
- 8 April – Casula Library
- 9 April – Liverpool Library
- 10 April – Carnes Hill Library
- 12 April – Green Valley Library



COMPOSTING AND WORM FARMING REBATE

Composting and worm farming are easy to do and Council would like to make it even easier for you.

Council will provide a \$50 rebate for any compost bin or worm farm you purchase.

Visit

www.liverpool.nsw.gov.au for more information and to download your rebate form.



COMPOSTING AND WORM FARMING WORKSHOP

Thursday 11 April (6-7pm)

Composting or worm-farming your food scraps and garden waste instead of putting them in your red-lid bin doesn't just help the environment – it also produces fantastic nutrient-rich fertiliser to make your garden really bloom. This workshop will show you how to set up and maintain your own worm farm and compost bin. To book your place, call Council on **1300 36 2170**.



DATES

FOR YOUR

Diary

Clean Up Australia Day

Sunday 3 March 2019

Liverpool City Council urges everyone to help look after the environment we live in by joining Clean Up Australia Day. Individuals and groups can host a clean-up site or join an existing site. Participants are encouraged to bring sunscreen, a bottle of water and wear a hat and closed-in shoes. Schools and businesses can also register for Business Clean Up Day (Tuesday 26 February) or Schools Clean Up Day (Friday 1 March). For more information and to register your site, visit www.cleanupaustrialiaday.org.au or call 1300 36 2170.



Pollinator Surveys

We are looking for enthusiastic volunteers to help us survey for pollinators and butterflies at our bushcare sites in the endangered Cumberland Plain Woodland. We run two pollinator surveys per year at selected bushcare sites – one in autumn and another in spring – to monitor how pollinators and butterflies are responding to bushcare work.

The whole family is welcome, but please wear a hat, long-sleeve shirt, long pants and enclosed shoes.

Please RSVP at bringbackthebuzz.org.au if you are planning to come to a pollinator survey – insects are very weather-dependent and we may have to cancel at short notice.

AMALFI PARK

Sunday 7 April 2019, 11am-12.30pm
Amalfi Park, Reilly Street, Lurnea

CESSNA RESERVE

Sunday 14 April 2019, 11am-12.30pm
Corner of Hemsworth Ave and Stanley Ave, Middleton Grange



National Volunteer Week

20 – 26 May

This is the largest annual celebration of Australia's volunteers who generously give their time to various causes and activities. This year's theme *Making a World of Difference* represents the millions of volunteers who make a significant impact in their communities and on society, by giving a little of their time. For more information, visit www.volunteeringaustralia.org



International Day for Biological Diversity

22 May

Also known as World Biodiversity Day, it has been celebrated annually to raise awareness about maintaining biodiversity and encourage voluntary community education and activity to help protect the planet. For more information, visit www.un.org/en/events/biodiversityday/



Wild Pollinator Count

14 – 21 April

Australia has lots of wild pollinators that often get overlooked. European honey bees get lots of attention because they are adaptable but many native insects also contribute to pollination in crops and gardens across the country. Help us build our understanding of wild pollinator ecology and activity – all you need to do is watch any flowering plant for 10 minutes and submit your observations at wildpollinatorcount.com or follow the conversation at [#OzPollinators](https://twitter.com/OzPollinators).



30 MARCH • 5-10PM
GREENWAY PARK • WEST HOXTON
BITES | BEATS | LOCAL PRODUCE

LIVERPOOL
CITY
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[f](#) [@](#) <#> #LOAR2019
www.liverpool.nsw.gov.au

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:
 2 March
 6 April
 4 May

Amalfi Park Environment Group

Meet inside the park near the footpath on Riley Street, Lurnea
Sunday 9am-11am:
 3 March
 7 April
 5 May

Clinches Pond Environment Group

Meet inside the park at the Gloria Taylor Reserve sign on Swain Street, Moorebank
Saturday 9am-11am:
 9 March
 13 April
 11 May

Weaving Garden Environment Group

Meet at the seats inside the reserve at the end of Casula Road, Casula
Saturday 12pm-2pm:
 9 March
 13 April
 11 May

Cessna Reserve Environment Group

Meet in the reserve at the intersection of Hemsworth Avenue and Stanley Avenue, Middleton Grange
Sunday 9am-11am:
 10 March
 14 April
 12 May

Chauvel Park Environment Group

Meet at the park entrance at the end of Sammut Cres, Chipping Norton
Saturday 8am-11am:
 16 March
 April – cancelled due to Easter public holiday
 18 May

Leacocks Lane Environment Group

Meet at the park bench in Glen Regent Reserve below Astley Way, Casula
Sunday 10am-12pm:
 17 March
 April – cancelled due to Easter public holiday
 19 May

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:
 30 March
 27 April
 25 May

Light Horse Park Environment Group

Meet in the Light Horse Park car park, Riverpark Drive, Liverpool
Saturday 9am-11am:
 30 March
 27 April
 25 May

Voyager Point Environment Group

Meet in the car park at Voyager Park on Orlando Crescent, Voyager Point
Sunday 9.30am-11.30am:
 31 March
 28 April
 26 May

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:
 31 March
 28 April
 26 May

Elouera Bushland Reserve Environment Group

Meet in the Ireland Park car park, Memorial Avenue, Liverpool
Sunday 1pm-3pm:
 31 March
 28 April
 26 May

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



COMMUNITY TREE PLANTING



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

PETER MILLER PARK

SUNDAY 24 MARCH,

9AM-11.30AM

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

CLINCHES POND RESERVE

SATURDAY 13 APRIL,

9AM-11.30AM

Meet in the park on Church Road, Moorebank

WHITLAM PARK

SUNDAY 5 MAY,

9AM-11.30AM

Meet in the park on Orchard Road, Heckenberg



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

LIBRARY WORKSHOPS



Green Cleaning

Tuesday 2 April (10.30am-12pm)

Moorebank Library

Come along for an interactive and educational class on how to make your home cleaning toxin-free! Join us to learn some natural, safe, effective and affordable solutions. Simple demonstrations, DIY recipes and ideas to reduce the toxin load.

Age suitability: Adults

Bookings essential:

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



Sustainable Beeswax Wraps

Monday 8 April (10am-12.30pm)

Casula Library



Want to kick the habit of using cling wrap? Homemade beeswax wraps are a great alternative.

Join us for this workshop to learn how to make your own beeswax wraps – and take home the wraps you make.

Age suitability: Adults

Bookings essential:

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

FREE SUSTAINABILITY WORKSHOPS

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

SOLAR ENERGY

Sunday 3 March

(1pm-3pm)

In this workshop you will learn what a solar power system is and why you would install one. We will also cover how to choose a solar power system, how to choose an installer and whether to install battery storage.



PICKLING AND PRESERVING

Saturday 6 April

(10am-1pm)

Pickling and preserving is an age-old practice to sustainably keep food and reduce household waste. This workshop is interactive, hands-on fun where participants will learn about food preservation and the current trends, techniques, the pantry toolbox, fermenting and salting, drying, homestead pickling, jams, relishes, stocks, dressing and seasoning, plus the working pantry – how to keep it, store it and use it. You will be making your own preserves and pickles from seasonal food, with plenty to take home and enjoy.

MEET A BAT NIGHT

May

(details to be confirmed – see www.liverpool.nsw.gov.au/whats-on)

Did you know we have a colony of flying foxes in Liverpool? Come and learn all about these fascinating creatures and the important role they play in our environment. Wildlife experts will be on hand to demystify these marvellous creatures and dispel some of the myths about them, giving you an opportunity to meet one up close. The evening will include a range of activities including displays and kids' craft. Light refreshments will be provided. Age suitability: All ages