

SUSTAINING LIVERPOOL

AUTUMN 2021



One of Australia's largest lizards, the Lace Monitor spends much of its time up fairly large trees, although they usually come down to the ground to forage for food.



Lace Monitor – *Varanus varius*
Photo © Belinda Hodges

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LIVERPOOL
CITY
COUNCIL





MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Welcome to the Autumn edition of Sustaining Liverpool.

One of the best things you can do is volunteer, and in this issue you can find out how you can join our local environment groups, and help protect and enhance our bushland and biodiversity.

Council recognised one of our environmental volunteers at Liverpool's Australia Day Awards Ceremony. Paul Sillato received the Fraser Environment Award. He has been a dedicated volunteer for the past 17 years. Congratulations and thank you Paul.

Now is a perfect time to prepare and plant a cold weather crop like broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, kale or leafy greens. Get more gardening tips on page 8 of this issue and be sure to register and learn how to make your own vertical wall garden. More details on the free sustainable workshops that you don't want to miss are on page 3.

Join Liverpool City Council's Nature Watch project to find, track and record species across our local government area. Observations are quick and easy to upload via the iNaturalist website or app.

There are plenty of exciting dates for your diary and thought-provoking activities taking place across Liverpool.

Hope you are able to enjoy attending some or all of the events on offer this autumn.



Mayor Wendy Waller
Liverpool City Council

RECEIVE YOUR NEWSLETTER VIA EMAIL.



Due to the impact of COVID-19 and to reduce our carbon footprint the Sustaining Liverpool newsletter will be delivered in digital format. To receive the latest Sustaining Liverpool e-newsletter send us an email.

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Chemical CleanOut



If you need to dispose of hazardous household chemicals, please do it safely by dropping them off at our next **Chemical CleanOut** event on **Sunday 11 April from 9am – 3.30pm**. Read more on page 12 of this issue.



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

FREE

Sustainability Workshops

Places are limited. Register by emailing your name, suburb, number of people attending and name of the workshop to erp@liverpool.nsw.gov.au



BREAKFAST WITH THE BIRDS

Saturday 27 March
8am – 11am
Moorebank

Would you like to get outdoors and learn about our unique birdlife? Join an avian expert for a scenic walk around Clinches Pond. Light refreshments provided. Exact location will be advised on booking.



VERTICAL GARDENS WEBINAR

Saturday 17 April
10am – 11.30am
Online

Short on space but want to have a garden? This online workshop is for you! Register now and get creative tips on reusing materials to make your own wall garden that is mobile and can be taken with you if you move home.



GREEN CLEANING

Sunday 23 May
10am – 12pm
Location to be advised on booking

In this workshop, you will learn how to make safe and effective cleaning products using natural, biodegradable ingredients. Make your own products to take home.



BLUE



Friday 4 June
6pm – 9pm
Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre

Our fate on this planet is tied to what happens to the ocean. Celebrate World Ocean Day and World Environment Day (5 June) by attending this free film screening and discover the impact humans have on the ocean. A marine ecologist will give a short talk on microplastics. Light refreshments and a 'Plastic Free Champions' kit will be provided. Limited free tickets available. Register now.

COMMUNITY TREE PLANTING

Haigh Park
Saturday 20 March | 9am – 11.30am
Meet on the grass at the top of the car park off Bridges Road, Moorebank

Peter Miller Park
Sunday 18 April | 9am – 11.30am
Meet in the car park at the end of Cedar Road, Casula

Rossmore Grange
Saturday 22 May | 9am – 11.30am
Meet in the car park on the corner of Ramsay Road and Whitaker Road, Rossmore

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

CONTROLLING WEEDS WITH SUGAR



Site covered in weeds before the sugar trial



Spreading the sugar after hand weeding the site



The site is clear of weeds six months later

In 2020, Council's Bush Regeneration Team trialled sugar treatment to control Farmer's Friend (*Bidens pilosa*) - a fast-growing weed. The aim of the trial was to test the effectiveness of sugar treatment on herbaceous weeds and reduce reliance on herbicide and labour-intensive techniques.

The use of sugar reduces seed germination rates of herbaceous weeds, removing their competitive edge over native groundcovers.

The project was established by a team member who had observed the practice being used successfully at Sydney Olympic Park. The trial was based on a scientific [study](#) conducted by the CSIRO.

Wattle Grove Lake was selected for the trial due to the historic *Bidens pilosa* infestation on the site and community concern about herbicide use near playgrounds.

Two test plots were established side-by-side, with the rest of the site acting as a control (i.e. traditional control measures). The trial areas were weeded and mulched to establish a baseline for the treatment. The test plot with treatment had a thin layer of white sugar applied before being mulched. Sugar is reapplied every three months.



Bidens pilosa flowering stem –
Image © Australian National Botanic Gardens

Within the first three months, only a few *Bidens pilosa* specimens were present, and at six months no specimens were germinating. Both the control area and the mulched trial area have had continued weed species present, although the mulched area has had fewer weeds.

While other exotic grasses have germinated, the photos show a clear distinction between the trial area and the rest of the site.

With the trial showing promising results, the Team will be applying this methodology across several other locations and will monitor their progress over the coming months.



***Bidens pilosa* is a common weed that is easily dispersed by human activities and, when allowed to spread, can easily outcompete native plant species.**

COUNCIL AWARDED FOR ASBESTOS MANAGEMENT

Liverpool City Council has been recognised by Local Government NSW (LGNSW) for its successful asbestos risk assessment and management program, winning the Excellence in the Environment Award 2020 - Asbestos Management Award, Division C category.

Asbestos is a nationwide concern, and it requires a collaborative approach between all levels of Government to increase awareness and manage this difficult problem.

Council also promoted Asbestos Awareness Week from 23-29 November 2020. If you are

planning home improvements, it is important to carry out an asbestos check or ask Council prior to undertaking the work.

Houses built or renovated before 1990 possibly have asbestos present.



Know the health risk, be aware of where asbestos might be found before starting work and call a professional for advice and help.

SPEAKING 4 THE PLANET 2021: ONLINE COMPETITION

Speaking 4 the Planet (S4P) is an arts-based sustainability competition for high school students inspired by the United Nations World Environment Day. The competition encourages young people to think creatively about ways to be sustainable and share them in a public forum.

The theme for the 2021 competition is Ecosystem Restoration. In June this year, the United Nations will launch the Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, which aims to "prevent, halt and reverse the degradation of ecosystems on every continent and in every ocean."

Due to COVID restrictions, the competition will be held online. Liverpool City Council is keen to support this competition again and encourages all students in our local government area to participate.

The tagline for the theme is '**Rewind the clock – reversing ecosystem degradation**'. Students can enter in the following categories: speaking, writing, drama, art, meme and short video.

Find out more about S4P.

REGISTER YOUR SCHOOL

To register your school, or to find out more information about this competition contact Phil Smith at phil@speaking4theplanet.org.au.

A support package will be provided with links to various resources to support student research.

Entries open 1 July to 31 July 2021.



RECYCLING

FEEDBACK AND EDUCATION

Placing the wrong items in the recycling bin is considered contamination and can affect the quality of recycling.

Common mistakes include:

- Placing recycling items in plastic bags
- Disposing of soft plastic items (biscuit wrappers, plastic bags, garbage bags, chip packets and salad mix packets)
- Disposing of tissues and paper towels
- Disposing of textiles
- Disposing of polystyrene



Council has been running an education program where it provides feedback to residents on their recycling.

A visual inspection of recycling bins is conducted and feedback tags are placed onto the handle of the bin.

From September to December 2020 more than 3500 recycling bins were surveyed:

- 61 per cent of recycling bins had three or less incorrect items.
- Most residents were using their recycling bins with 76 per cent of bins more than half full.

INTERNATIONAL COMPOST AWARENESS WEEK AUSTRALIA

Sunday 2 May – Saturday 8 May 2021



Did you know compost is a valuable organic resource? In addition to building better soils, it can help reduce carbon pollution by diverting organic waste from landfills. For more information, visit [Compost Awareness Week](#).

To help get the community composting, Liverpool City Council offers residents a Composting and Worm Farming Rebate. Residents can receive

\$50 back off the purchase of a compost bin or worm farm. To get started head to [Council's website](#).

Keep an eye out for our free workshops to help you learn how to set up and care for your compost or worm farm!

If you don't have a compost bin or worm farm of your own, see how you can compost your food using [ShareWaste](#) and find a friendly composter near you who will accept your food scraps.

NEW BINS ARE COMING TO LIVERPOOL IN 2021

Liverpool City Council will be commencing a new domestic waste collection contract from July 2021. All residential properties in the LGA will have their existing bins replaced with a new set of bins. This process will take place between mid-March 2021 and late June 2021. After receiving your new bins please carefully read the instructions about the collection of your old bins.



FAQS

When will I get my bins?

Between mid-March 2021 and late June 2021. If you have not received your bins by late June 2021 please contact Council.

When will my old bins be removed?

After you receive your new bins please keep your old bins on the kerbside for disposal at the next collection day even if they are empty. More detailed instructions will be placed on your new bin when it is delivered.

What happens if I keep my old bins?

Old bins must be surrendered. The new bins are visually different to the old bins and after the changeover period, old bins presented to the kerbside will not be emptied.

How many bins and what size will I receive?

The number of bins and the size of the bins that you receive will be determined by what Council

records show that your property is entitled to. If you require additional bins please contact our Customer Service Centre for more information.

What will happen to my old bins?

All old bins will be recycled. Some of the old bins will be used to make new bins.

What happens if I am away?

Please ask a neighbour or a friend to assist you.



ONLINE BOOKING SYSTEM

Council has a new online booking system for **household clean-up service**

Book Online



www.liverpool.nsw.gov.au/householdcleanup

Call



1300 36 2170

Monday – Friday | 8.30am – 5pm

ASBESTOS COLLECTION PROGRAM

Monday 17 May – Friday 21 May

Council is offering free collection of up to 10m² of bonded asbestos sheeting. Limited spaces are available.

Register now and check your eligibility by contacting Council on **1300 36 2170**.



PLANTS TO GROW THIS AUTUMN

With the heat of summer gone, autumn is a great time to get busy in your veggie patch. This is the perfect time to prepare and plant a cold weather crop.

To get started:

- 1 **Remove any weeds**
- 2 **Turn over the soil to aerate it**
- 3 **Spread some compost and cow or chicken manure if you like, and mix it in.**

The classic winter veggies are in the brassica family: broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, kale, brussel sprouts and bok choy. Root veggies like carrots, turnips and beetroot are well suited for the cooler weather. Make sure to include blood and bone into the soil before planting.

Leafy greens like lettuce, rocket, silverbeet, spinach, beans, peas and Asian greens are great to plant this time of the year. Add a nitrogen-rich fertiliser to the soil where you are planting these as it helps to promote their growth.

If you are short on space, herbs are perfect for pots and they will thrive at this time of the year. In May, plant strawberries in a pot a few sizes larger for a delicious harvest in spring.

Tips FOR YOUR GARDEN



Here are a few tips and ideas to ensure your garden is ready heading into autumn:

- Start out small, grow plants in a pot on your balcony or garden
- Always check soil moisture before watering your plants, as soil may already be moist
- Feed with seaweed tea, worm tea or any low environmental impact liquid fertiliser
- Top up mulch - this is important for weed suppression

To find out what to plant each month during the Autumn season, see the [online seasonal planting guide](#).

If you are short on space but would still like to have a garden, register to attend our Vertical Gardens online workshop on Saturday 17 April. See page 3 for more details.

GET INVOLVED *in nature*

Nature Watch



Learn more about nature with iNaturalist. This handy tool helps you identify the plants and animals around you by crowdsourcing the expertise of a large community of scientists and naturalists.

By sharing your observations, you help create quality data for scientists working to better understand and protect nature.

Join Liverpool City Council's [Nature Watch](#) project to find, track and record species across our local government area. Observations are quick and easy to upload via the iNaturalist [website](#) or app.

Volunteer for Creating Canopies



Greater Sydney Landcare Network is looking for people who want to help green their local area.

The new project - *Creating Canopies in Greater Sydney* is looking for keen planters to help plant trees for habitat and shade. Head to the [website](#) for more information or to get involved.

THE DRAIN IS JUST FOR RAIN

Did you know that things you do around your house can affect your local waterways?

In Liverpool we are fortunate to have local creeks that support native animals and plants. You can help protect the creeks and rivers by assisting with a few simple tasks.



1 Fertilising your lawn and garden – fertilisers contain nutrients such as phosphate and nitrogen which are detrimental for creeks by contributing to issues such as algal blooms and weed growth. Never overwater your lawn and check the weather before fertilising to reduce the chances of runoff into the street gutters.

2 Roof Gutters – cleaning out your gutters regularly to prevent excessive organic matter entering stormwater will help our waterways and improve the lifespan of your gutters.

3 Car washing – wash your car on the grass and avoid runoff into the street and gutter. The grass will assist in reducing the nutrient loads and other pollutants.

4 Never dispose of paints or chemicals down the drain. Instead safely dispose of them at Council's [Community Recycling Centre \(CRC\)](#) located at 99 Rose Street, Liverpool and keep an eye out for Council's Chemical CleanOut events.

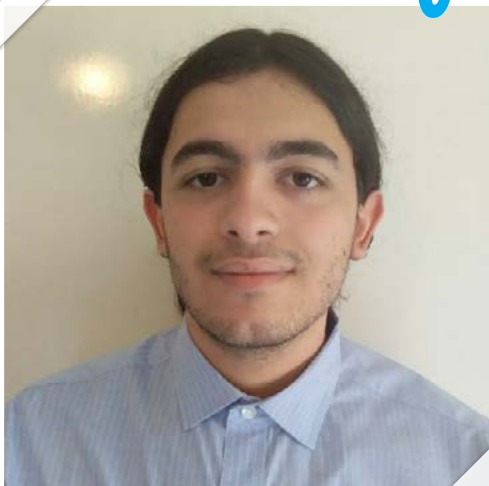
5 Clean up after your dog – whether in your yard or in public areas, always pick up, bag and dispose of dog waste thoughtfully.

6 Be community minded and take responsibility for maintaining your nature strip and the gutter in front of your house. Pick up litter and green waste to reduce waste entering our waterways.

Remember outdoor drains, including roof gutters, street gutters and stormwater pits lead to the Georges or Nepean River and eventually the ocean. This means the drain is just for rain.

Protection of our waterways is covered by the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997* (POEO Act) and fines can apply for polluting a waterway.

ENVIRONMENT VOLUNTEER Profile



Name:
Joel Silva

Environment groups:
Weaving Garden, Tucker Road Reserve and Light Horse Park

What got you interested in environmental volunteering?

My interest in environmental volunteering was piqued after the Australian bushfires. Knowing that millions of hectares were burned and hundreds of millions of animals died broke my heart, and I wanted to help out. Although indirect, I feel like this is a good start.

How has your experience in the Environment Volunteer Program been?

My experience has been fantastic, the supervisors who oversaw the volunteering were very kind and informative. They would differentiate native plants from weeds, teach us how to remove them and made sure the volunteers were safe.

What do you enjoy most about Bushcare?

I love that when I come home from volunteering, I can rest easy knowing that I helped rejuvenate Australia's native species, helping to give it another chance to thrive like it did before being deforested. Also, it's nice being outside.

What do you hope to see for the future of Liverpool's environment?

I hope to see it expand, giving our wildlife a place to flourish. It's a very big wish, but post-industrial society has been detrimental to the environment.

FRASER ENVIRONMENT AWARD



Paul Sillato

Paul is a valued member of Council's Environment Volunteer Program. He has consistently volunteered his time, passion and energy for the last 17 years for the benefit of Liverpool's environment, most notably at Clinches Pond in Moorebank.

Paul has protected, restored and enhanced biodiversity and contributed to improving habitat for wildlife. He is very committed to improving our local areas for all to enjoy.

Paul is also an active committee member and fundraiser for various animal rights charities.

Congratulations and thank you Paul!

NEW VOLUNTEER GROUP IN CASULA



The new Tucker Road Environment Group commenced in March 2020 after a passionate resident became concerned about an invasive weed that was threatening the Eucalypts and other native plants in his neighbourhood.

The group meets on the third Sunday of every month. New volunteers are always welcome – no experience is necessary. For details of the group meeting times and locations, see page 11.

WHAT'S ON

Join our enthusiastic volunteers who beautify our 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, 9am – 11am
3 April
1 May

Amalfi Park Environment Group

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

Sunday, 9am – 11am
4 April – cancelled due to Easter public holiday
2 May

Clinches Pond Environment Group

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

Saturday, 9am – 11am
10 April
8 May

Weaving Garden Environment Group

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

Saturday, 12pm – 2pm
10 April
8 May

Cessna Reserve Environment Group

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

Sunday, 9am – 11am
11 April
9 May

Chauvel Park Environment Group

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

Saturday, 9am – 11am
20 March
17 April
15 May

Tucker Road Environment Group

Meet at the playground. Entry via the path off the crossing on Kendall Drive, Casula

Sunday, 2pm – 4pm
21 March
18 April
16 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
27 March
24 April
22 May

Light Horse Park Environment Group

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

Saturday, 9am – 11am
27 March
24 April
22 May

Voyager Point Environment Group

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

Sunday, 9am – 11am
28 March
25 April – cancelled due to Anzac Day public holiday
23 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
28 March
25 April – cancelled due to Anzac Day public holiday
23 May

Elouera Bushland Reserve Environment Group

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

Sunday, 1pm – 3pm
28 March
25 April – cancelled due to Anzac Day public holiday
23 May



For more information, phone 1300 36 2170 or go to our [website](#).

Chemical CleanOut

Sunday 11 April 2021

9am – 3.30pm

Liverpool City Council Operations Centre,
99 Rose Street, Liverpool

www.cleanout.com.au

You can drop off for free:



Only household quantities accepted (20L or 20kg), except paint. Up to 100L (in 20L containers) of paint accepted.



SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT GRANTS ROUND 2

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.

Applications are open until 2 April 2021.

Visit Council's [website](#) for more information and to apply for a grant.

EARTH DAY

22 APRIL



Celebrated annually worldwide in support of the environment and to raise awareness for environmental protection and care of our planet. Learn more [here](#).

For Earth Day you could:

- Join an online citizen science project to help conserve threatened species. No special skills needed – just start tagging images taken by scientists in the field. Get started [here](#).
- Plant locally native plants in your back yard or school.
- Start a new vegetable garden at home. Learn how to start a veggie garden for beginners [here](#).
- Get out in nature and enjoy off-leash dog areas, outdoor gyms, skate parks, cycleways and more.

For details of places to enjoy in Liverpool, click [here](#).

WORLD POLLINATOR COUNT

11 – 18 APRIL



Australia has lots of wild pollinators that often get overlooked. Count wild pollinators in your area and help build a database on wild pollinator activity. It only takes 10 minutes! Click [here](#) for more information or follow the conversation at **#WildPollinatorCount**.

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK

17 – 23 MAY



This is the largest annual celebration of Australia's nearly six million volunteers who generously give their time to various causes and activities. For more information, visit the official [website](#).

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 [here](#).