

# SUSTAINING LIVERPOOL

SPRING 2020



Songbirds such as Superb fairy-wrens take elements from their parents' songs to make their own new song.



Superb fairy-wren © Bruce Reardon  
*Malurus cyaneus*

LIVERPOOL  
CITY  
COUNCIL



## In this issue

Mosquito Control Program

Biodiversity Month

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How to get involved



# MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

## Welcome to the Spring edition of Sustaining Liverpool.

I hope you have been able to get outdoors and enjoy the sunshine, particularly during these strange times. Research tells us that being outside and spending time in nature is beneficial to physical wellbeing and mental health.

One way to spend more time outdoors, make a positive difference to our local environment and meet new people is by joining our Environment Volunteer Groups. More details on how you can be involved are on page 11 of this issue.

I was pleased to hear that one of our environment volunteer coordinators, Michael Streatfeild, was recognised by the Federal Member for Werriwa, Ms Anne Stanley MP, as a winner of the 2020 Werriwa Volunteer Award. Congratulations Michael for your tireless efforts towards the betterment of our local environment.

Despite the impact of coronavirus restrictions on our tree planting events, Council continues to maintain our local parks and green corridors. Around 2000 trees and shrubs were planted at Fassifern Park in Cartwright last month which will help combat climate change, provide food and shelter for native animals, and will enhance the open space.

September is Biodiversity Month and in this issue on pages 6-7 you can explore the importance of protecting our natural environment and the ecological communities and species in Liverpool that are facing extinction and learn what you can do to help.

"Those who can, do. Those who can do more, volunteer." Author unknown.

**Mayor Wendy Waller**  
Liverpool City Council

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## 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](#).



Michael Streatfeild with the Cessna Reserve Environment Group Volunteers.

*Congratulations Michael Streatfeild on receiving a 2020 Werriwa Volunteer Award!*



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Web [www.liverpool.nsw.gov.au](http://www.liverpool.nsw.gov.au) NRS 13 36 77 ABN 84 181 182 471

# MOSQUITO CONTROL PROGRAM

Mosquitoes are an unfortunate part of life during the warmer months in Liverpool, particularly near the Georges River.

To help address the problem, Council developed a Mosquito Control Program in partnership with NSW Health.

Council identified key breeding areas for the (*Aedes vigilax*) mosquitoes that carry zoonotic diseases. These areas were treated with a biological control agent (*Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis* or *Bti*) that specifically targets mosquitoes.

The sites were then monitored to ensure the treatment was effective and it was evident that Council's Mosquito Control Program played a key role in reducing populations of a range of mosquito species including the *Aedes vigilax*, as well as other nuisance-biting mosquitoes (*Aedes alternans* and *Culex sitiens*).

Mosquitoes are a natural part of the environment and their life cycle and numbers are affected by seasonal conditions. The Mosquito Control Program will resume ahead of summer.

To find out more about Council's Mosquito Control Program and for tips on how to protect your home and family from mosquitoes visit Council's [website](#).



## Zoonotic diseases

An infectious disease that is transmitted between species from animals to humans.



# NATIONAL Recycling WEEK

National Recycling Week will be celebrated from Monday 9 to Sunday 15 November.

Recycling can be a tricky process, but with a little bit of knowledge and effort we can all work together to recycle right. [Learn more here.](#)

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT RECYCLING

### WHERE DOES MY RECYCLING GO?

Your recyclable materials are taken to VISY's Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) in Smithfield.

Recyclable materials are sorted and processed locally to make something new.

For more information head over to Visy's [website](#).

### SHOULD I KEEP THE LIDS ON MY BOTTLE CONTAINERS?

If your plastic container or bottle has a plastic lid you can keep the lid on for recycling. If your glass container has a metal lid, you should not keep the lid on for recycling.

### WHAT TYPE OF PLASTIC CAN BE RECYCLED?

- The only types of plastics that belong in your recycling bin are plastic containers from your kitchen, laundry, and bathroom.
- Soft plastics like bread bags, plastic bags, and wrappers can be returned to supermarkets as part of the REDcycle program.
- Hard plastics like toys, broken outdoor furniture should be placed in your red-lid garbage bin.

### CAN I USE A BIN LINER IN MY RECYCLING BIN?

No. Bin liners should never be used in your recycling bin. Recycling should always remain loose as this ensures that your recycling can be sorted at the Materials Recovery Facility.

### SHOULD I FLATTEN MY CANS AND BOTTLES TO FIT MORE IN?

It is not required and can make the sorting process difficult.

### CAN ALL GLASS GO IN THE RECYCLING BIN?

Not all glass can be recycled in your kerbside recycling. Drinking glasses and glass kitchenware cannot be placed in your recycling bin. Jam jars and glass food containers from the supermarket can be recycled.

YES

BUTTER

**Yes** plastic containers go in your recycling bin.

NO

SOFT PLASTICS

Go in **REDcycle bins** at supermarkets or in the **red bin**.

HARD PLASTICS

Go in the **red bin**.



# SCHOOLS EXCEL IN RESOURCE RECOVERY



**SCRAP (School Communities Recycling All Paper) Ltd is a non-profit company that has been running since 1991 from Holsworthy High School.**

Started by three teachers, SCRAP organised paper recycling in schools as a way of making environmental education practical and continuous.

By 1998 it had almost 1000 schools and other educational organisations recycling and reducing their waste to landfill by almost one third.

In 2001, SCRAP built its Sustainable Education Centre on spare land at Holsworthy High School. The Centre is a recycled army barracks, with water tanks, composting toilet, grey water system, solar power and almost zero waste to landfill.

It also features 12 large worm farms, compost systems and gardens including the Holsworthy Community Garden that was established in 2018.

Today, SCRAP has been able to fund worm farming and composting at a larger scale and engage schools in this critical aspect of waste reduction.

Our audits showed that around 40 per cent of school waste is organic and if it is collected and used in compost and worm farming the school can, with paper recycling, reduce waste to landfill by more than 70 per cent.

The cost savings can be used to support the effort and at the same time, the school can produce its own soil and fertiliser for gardens. In this way, environmental education can be integrated into both the school curriculum and management.



*Written by Peter Carroll, Company Secretary, SCRAP Ltd.*

# SEPTEMBER IS BIODIVERSITY MONTH!

**Biodiversity month is celebrated in September each year to promote the importance of protecting, conserving and improving our natural environments and habitats for future generations both in Australia and across the world.**

Biodiversity is the variety of living organisms existing in an ecosystem. Healthy environments have many species living together, each having its own role.

Australia is one of 12 countries with mega biodiversity, hosting a great number of species, many of which can only be found here.

Unfortunately, many Australian species are facing extinction at an alarming rate. Here in Liverpool, there are numerous threatened ecological communities and species.

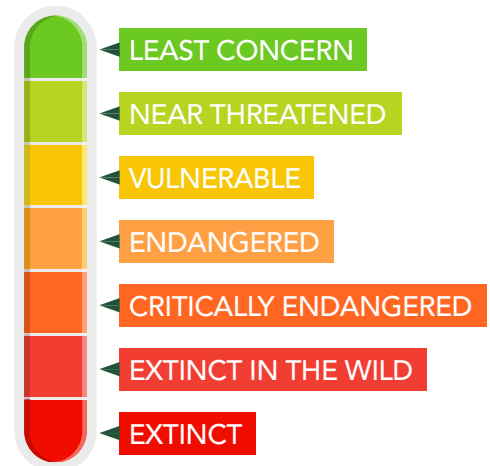
You can find out more [here](#).



## International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Categories:

The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species has evolved to become the world's most comprehensive information source on the global extinction risk status of animal, fungus and plant species. It is an indicator of the health of the world's biodiversity and provides information to guide conservation decisions.

To learn more visit the IUCN [website](#).



## FLORA

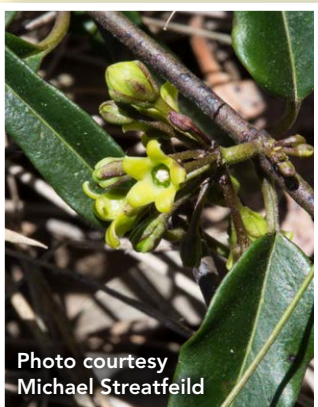


Photo courtesy Michael Streatfeild

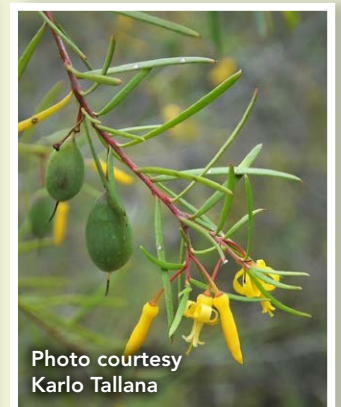
**Marsdenia**  
*Marsdenia viridiflora*  
subsp. *viridiflora*  
**ENDANGERED**



**Dillwynia tenuifolia**  
**VULNERABLE**  
**ENDANGERED**  
(in Liverpool)



**Downy wattle**  
*Acacia pubescens*  
**VULNERABLE**



**Nodding geebung**  
*Persoonia nutans*  
**ENDANGERED**



# FAUNA



Photo courtesy Bruce Thomson and www.auswildlife.com

## Little bent-winged bat

*Miniopterus australis*

VULNERABLE



## Hooded robin

*Melanodryas cucullata cucullata*

VULNERABLE



## Green & golden bell frog

*Litoria aurea*

ENDANGERED



## Koala

*Phascolarctos cinereus*

VULNERABLE

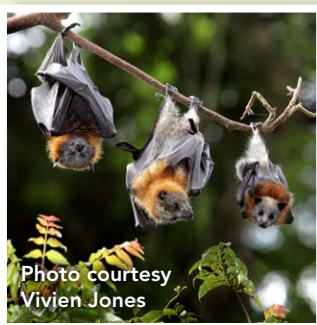
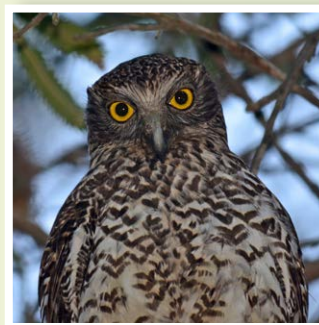


Photo courtesy Vivien Jones

## Grey-headed flying fox

*Pteropus poliocephalus*

VULNERABLE



## Powerful owl

*Ninox strenua*

VULNERABLE



## Cumberland plain land snail

*Meridolum corneovirens*

ENDANGERED  
(Only found in Western Sydney)



# THREATS TO BIODIVERSITY AND HOW WE CAN HELP

## Predation by feral animals

Feral animals such as foxes and cats prey on native animals. Cats (including pet cats) can kill up to six million animals in Australia per day. You can help by:

- De-sexing pet cats and keeping them inside, particularly at night, it can save billions of animals.
- Download the FeralScan Pest Mapping [app](#) to document feral animals such as foxes, pigs, rabbits and goats. This helps to identify hotspots and implement management strategies.



## Clearing of vegetation

Removes suitable habitat, food sources and hunting and breeding grounds for many species.



## Invasion of native plants by exotic plants

Did you know that many bushland weeds escape from backyards? We all have a biosecurity duty to control the spread of weeds (*Biosecurity Act 2015*). You can help by:

- Ensuring weeds are placed in your green waste bin; and
- Joining our environment volunteer groups.

## Loss of hollow bearing trees

Many animals such as owls, bats and possums rely on hollows in trees for habitat. Hollows are found in old trees which have become increasingly rare. Although conserving these trees is the best scenario, there has been a surge in creative solutions, from building nest boxes to lego houses.

## Climate change

Climate change can affect biodiversity. From drying up water bodies, increasing temperatures, droughts and more intense and frequent bushfires. Climate change is complex and will continue to change life as we know it.

# #SeaToSource

## TACKLING OCEAN LITTER FROM THE SEA ALL THE WAY TO THE SOURCE

SeaToSource, a Conservation Volunteers Australia initiative, is helping to act on one of the world's most solvable environmental issues – ocean litter.

They are committed to reducing the amount of plastic litter entering our creeks, rivers and oceans and causing harm to the animals that call these places home.

Plastic accounts for around 60-95 per cent of the litter in our waterways and oceans, causing a wide range of environmental issues.

This program looks at the source of litter, which can be our rivers and creeks.

#SeaToSource will be profiling the Georges River in the coming months, sharing information about the river and its importance to the local environment as well as the threats to its health, including plastic litter.

The Georges River has a large amount of plastic pollution, which flows from the river into the sea, polluting the water and harming wildlife and the environment.

If you'd like to get involved in #SeaToSource, head over to the [website](#) for more details and information about what you can do to reduce ocean litter.



Photo courtesy of Conservation Volunteers Australia. Volunteers at a planting day on the Georges River. Large amounts of plastic litter can be seen along the waterline.

### #SeaToSource Schools poster competition (K-10)

This competition helps students to think about litter entering our waterways by participating in a solvable challenge!

Students have to think of a plastic item they use at home, at school or in the community and design a poster that shows how they could repurpose or replace the item with a better alternative, or show how they would inspire others to change their use of the plastic object.

The project can be completed by a student, a group or class. Entries close on 27 November 2020, 5pm.

Curriculum links and ideas for integrated learning design are provided on the website.

For more information and to enter visit the [website](#).







## SUSTAINABLE HOUSE DAY – VIRTUAL EVENT

This is an opportunity for people to visit some of Australia's leading green homes that are not only environmentally friendly, but cheaper to run and more comfortable to live in.



Take a virtual tour of these sustainable homes, ask questions of homeowners, sustainable architects and other professionals in online discussions and webinars.

These houses have been designed, built or renovated with sustainability design features including:

- Renewable energy;
- Passive heating and cooling;
- Active heating and cooling;
- Water harvesting and water saving;
- Solar and energy efficiency measures; and
- Water-wise gardens.

For more details visit the [website](#).



## SAVE ENERGY AND REDUCE YOUR BILLS!

Do you want to save energy and reduce electricity bills in your household? Endeavour Energy is helping customers save money through its AtHomeSaver program.



### What is AtHomeSaver?

The AtHomeSaver is a free energy saving program for households to:

- Learn simple tips to reduce your energy use;
- Save money on your energy bill; and
- Help to reduce carbon emissions.

### How do I access the AtHomeSaver program?

It is accessible via [website](#) OR download the PowerSavers app to your mobile or tablet from the App Store or Google Play store.



## RIDE2WORK DAY

WEDNESDAY  
21 OCTOBER 2020

Liverpool has numerous shared paths or cycleways along its streets and through its parklands.

Visit Council's [website](#) to download a copy of the Liverpool Bike Plan 2018-2023 and discover existing bike paths and amenities in the area



### Cycle friendly spots:

- Chipping Norton Lake
- Casula Parklands and Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre
- Western Sydney Parklands (the Shale Hills Loop).

### Liverpool Bicycle Users Group

The Liverpool Bicycle Users Group (Liverpool BUG) advocates on behalf of people who ride bicycles in the Liverpool LGA.



The group has an optional membership fee, which goes towards promotional material and cycling advocacy activities.

You do not have to be a member to participate in their rides. See the Bike Liverpool [website](#) or the group's [Facebook page](#) for more information.

# DATES FOR YOUR *Diary*

## World Car-Free Day 22 September

Enjoy the many benefits of going car-free: reduced air pollution, walking and cycling in a safer environment. View more details [here](#).

## Aussie Backyard Bird Count 19-25 October

Join the Aussie Backyard Bird Count and keep an eye out for birds in your backyard or local area. All you need to do is observe your green patch for 20 minutes and record the results using the Aussie Bird Count app. There is a field guide built into the app to help you identify birds. For more information, [visit](#) or join the conversation with **#aussiebirdcount**.

## National Water Week 19-25 October

The theme for 2020 is Reimagining our Water Future. As our population grows, this will put more stress on our water resources, so how can we reimagine the way we use and reuse water to ensure there's enough of it in the future? For more information [visit](#) or to learn ways of saving water at home click [here](#).

## PHOTO COMP!

Do you have photos of nature or local wildlife in your neighbourhood that you would like to share? Send us an [email](#) for a chance to be featured in the next edition of Sustaining Liverpool. Please include your name, a brief description of the photo and the place the photo was taken in Liverpool.

## Australian Pollinator Week 8-15 November

Did you know we have about 200 species of native bees in the Greater Sydney area? Bees and other insects are very important for our food production and biodiversity. Click [here](#) for more information.

## FrogID Week November

Australia's Biggest Frog Count, held annually for citizen scientists to help record frog calls as a measurement of frog health and distribution around the nation. [Visit](#) for more details and to get involved.



This is an end of year event to thank and recognise the work of volunteers who are restoring the natural environment of Liverpool through Council's Environment Volunteer Program.

This year we hope to celebrate with a Christmas party instead of the regular awards night. 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 safely get involved in our activities.

# WHAT'S ON

Now is a great time to get outdoors and make a difference in the community. Join other enthusiastic volunteers as they maintain our local parks and bushland by removing weeds, litter and planting native plants.

No experience is necessary - 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 October**  
**7 November**

## Amalfi Park Environment Group

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

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

## Clinches Pond Environment Group

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

**Saturday 9am-11am:**  
**12 September**  
**10 October**  
**14 November**

## Weaving Garden Environment Group

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

**Saturday 12pm-2pm:**  
**12 September**  
**10 October**  
**14 November**

## Cessna Reserve Environment Group

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

**Sunday 9am-11am:**  
**13 September**  
**11 October**  
**8 November**

## Chauvel Park Environment Group

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

**Saturday 8am-11am:**  
**19 September**  
**17 October**  
**21 November**

## Tucker Road Environment Group

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

**Sunday 2pm-4pm:**  
**20 September**  
**18 October**  
**15 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:**  
**26 September**  
**31 October**  
**28 November**

## Light Horse Park Environment Group

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

**Saturday 9am-11am:**  
**26 September**  
**31 October**  
**28 November**

## Voyager Point Environment Group

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

**Sunday 9.30am-11.30am:**  
**27 September**  
**25 October**  
**29 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:**  
**27 September**  
**25 October**  
**29 November**

## Elouera Bushland Reserve Environment Group

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

**Sunday 1pm-3pm:**  
**27 September**  
**25 October**  
**29 November**



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

# SUSTAINABILITY WORKSHOPS

Places are limited. Register by emailing your name, suburb and name of the workshop to [erp@liverpool.nsw.gov.au](mailto:erp@liverpool.nsw.gov.au).



## AUSTRALIAN WILDLIFE DISPLAY

**Monday 28 September**

**11.30am – 12.30pm**

**Location: Online**

Do your kids love animals? September is Biodiversity month and what better way to celebrate than meeting some local wildlife! Join us online for a live wildlife display where you can see frogs, spiders and a bird feeding.



## SMART POOLS AND SPAS

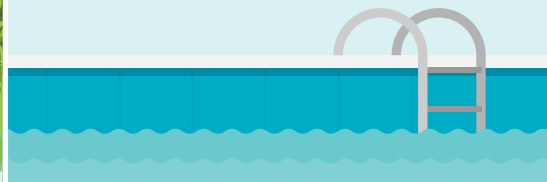
**Sunday 18 October**

**1pm – 2pm**

**Location: Liverpool**

Do you know how much it costs to run your pool or spa? Get tips from the Swimming Pool and Spa Association of Australia on ways to:

- Reduce the energy costs and water usage;
- Identify ways to improve the efficiency of your pool; and
- Get useful tips for choosing the right pool and equipment for your backyard.



## FROGID DISCOVER FROGS AND CONTRIBUTE TO SCIENCE

**Saturday 28 November**

**Time: 11.30am – 12.30pm**

**Location: Liverpool**

When it comes to understanding a healthy ecosystem, frogs can tell us a lot. They are important to food webs and provide indicators of healthy rivers and streams.

Sadly, frog numbers are in decline. To protect Australian frogs, scientists need to understand where frogs are and how they are doing.

You can help with this huge task by recording frog calls through the FrogID app.

This presentation will showcase the frogs that are often found calling in our backyards, ways that FrogID data is informing science and how kids and adults can get involved.

## COMMUNITY TREE PLANTING

Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 the Community Tree Planting events have been cancelled for the remainder of the year.

However our teams continue working towards a green city by planting trees and maintaining our parks, reserves and green corridors.

Thank you for understanding.



## LIBRARY

## WEED FORAGING VIDEO

**17 August – 17 September 2020**

Diego Bonetto is an artist, forager and wild food advocate based in Sydney. Building on the knowledge he acquired growing up on a farm in Italy, Diego has become an expert on edible wild plants in the Greater Sydney area. In this 10-minute film created specifically for people in the Liverpool Area, Diego introduces us to the abundance of

nutritional and medicinal plants that grow in our own backyard. Liverpool locals can watch the video and download the PDF guide before embarking on their own backyard forage. There are a limited number of downloads available, so get in quick.

Click here to watch it [online](#).