# Environmental Newsletter March 2020

## What's happening around Campbelltown

### Environment Plan Consultation

**Closes 5pm Friday 17 April 2020**

Council is developing a new Environment Plan for 2020 and beyond and would like your input to help shape what areas are most important to the community.

The Information Sheet available on Council's Have Your Say website will give you a good overview of actions Council has implemented in the last five years supporting a Connected and Healthy Landscape, Sustainable Resources and Sustainable Living.

Take a moment to see what we have achieved together.

Have your say on the way Council is tackling the environmental challenges facing our community and the proposed future directions for Council.

For further details and to provide your input, visit the Strategic Plans at: www.campbelltown.sa.gov.au/haveyoursay or the direct link here: https://www.campbelltown.sa.gov.au/council/have-your-say/haveyoursay/strategic-plans-2024/environmental-management-plan-2020

Any questions contact Rachael on 8366 9257 or rhamilton@campbelltown.sa.gov.au

### Healthy Parks, Healthy People - Citizen Science Project

Tell us about your green space!

We know that **GREEN SPACE** plays an important role in helping us to have good health and wellbeing. So we are looking for citizen scientists to complete a short evaluation of the green spaces used in their daily lives.

General findings of this project will be reported to all metropolitan Adelaide councils and may be used to support open space and community and social infrastructure planning, maintenance planning and asset management planning.

> Are you 18 years or older?

> Do you have access to a mobile device (smartphone or tablet) with internet?

> Can you attend a two hour training workshop and participate in data collection over the six weeks following?

Then we would love you to hear from you!

For more information or to register your interest, visit:

citizensciencecitycampbelltown.eventbrite.com.au

## Climate Emergency Declaration

On the 5th of November 2019 Council passed a motion declaring a Climate Emergency.

The motion noted the October 2018 Special Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and acknowledged that the City is facing a climate emergency and that urgent action is required by all levels of Government.

Council acknowledged that Campbelltown City Council already faces and will continue to face the growing impacts of climate change and recognised all of the programs, projects and work already being undertaken by the Council and Community aimed at addressing climate change.

Further they planned to adopt climate change as a key priority as part of Council's Strategic Plan and develop a Climate Change Policy to guide all future decisions of Council to ensure that we do our part to mitigate the effects of climate change.

Subsequently several elected members and staff attended a meeting in Victoria of local governments that had made the declaration to workshop the potential pathways forward.

At the last Council meeting, after detailed discussion, Council resolved that it:

1. form a Climate Solutions Working Party which consists of Staff (led by the CEO) and Elected Members
2. develop a Climate Solutions Strategy by June 2021
3. allocate an ongoing recurrent budget in the Draft 2020/2021 Annual Business Plan and Budget as a Climate Solutions Strategy Fund which includes the engagement of a part time Staff member
4. purchase 100% renewable energy as soon as practical
5. establish a Climate Solutions Circular Fund to transfer all financial savings from Climate Solutions Initiatives to fund additional programs.

This is a very significant step forward by Council in addressing the impacts of Climate Change and will significantly change the way we do business in Campbelltown.

# And further afield:

## City Nature Challenge

City Nature Challenge is an international competition to find and document plants and wildlife in cities across the globe. Last year 159 cities were involved, with more than 35,000 participants, but none in Australia.

That is changing this year, with four cities representing our nation: Adelaide, Geelong, Redlands (Brisbane) and Sydney.

You can participate as an individual and help spread the word to get friends and colleagues involved too.

**When?** Any time from 24 April to 27 April – you can participate for four minutes or four days (any time you can spare).

**How?** Find wild plants and wildlife in Greater Adelaide and record it using the iNaturalist app or website, working solo or working as a group. Your contributions along with everyone else's will appear on the iNaturalist website ready for identification.

**Why?** Participate to learn more about local nature, demonstrate the importance of nature in Adelaide, make a contribution to global knowledge about nature in cities, and have some fun along the way.

**Where?** You can participate anywhere in Greater Adelaide, which includes all of the metropolitan area and extends to places like Kapunda, Murray Bridge, Goolwa, Victor Harbor and Aldinga (see the map when you register).

Need help? Come to a training session.

- Port Adelaide: 6 pm – 7pm Thursday 2 April, to book visit:

https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/city-nature-challenge-port-adelaide-training-session-tickets-93277239735

For updates follow City Nature Challenge 2020 Adelaide on social media:

- https://twitter.com/CNCAdelaide
- https://www.facebook.com/CNCAdelaide/

## Native trees in burnt areas

Source: Natural Resources SA

In the weeks and months immediately after a bushfire, affected landholders commence the major task of clean-up and repair.

It is during this time that some people seek to clear native trees that have been burnt or scorched during the fire. Eucalypt trees found in the Mount Lofty Ranges region are well adapted to bushfires and most will continue to grow normally following a fire. This means that unless a specific tree poses a safety risk, it is much better for the recovery of our native flora and fauna to retain as many trees as possible.

Our trees look dead, will they recover?

Eucalypts are well adapted to bushfires and have an amazing capacity to recover quickly. Even severely burnt trees that might initially appear dead will be actively recovering, however this activity occurs out of sight, beneath the bark! The first signs of recovery can usually be seen after a few months when new leaves push their way out from beneath the blackened bark. Known as epicormic growth, new shoots emerge from the trunk and base of the tree. During this time it is important to control the total grazing pressure to give regrowth and seedlings a chance to establish.

Eucalypts with rough or stringy bark may appear to have been more severely burnt than trees with smooth bark. However this doesn't affect their ability to recover from fire as bark can protect the inner layers of the tree, and does not make them more likely to collapse. In the following months it may become apparent (when all other trees have resprouted) that some trees haven't survived. Trees that don't recover from fire are likely to be those that are under some other 'stress' (e.g. from prolonged drought, soil diseases, excess soil nutrients from fertiliser etc.). However, even dead trees provide important habitat so they shouldn't be removed unless absolutely necessary. You can help your local environment recover from fire by allowing native trees to remain in the landscape and naturally regenerate.

What about dead trees or fallen timber?

Dead trees and fallen timber are also essential aspects of the landscape and play an important role in recovery from bushfire. After a fire, the vegetative understorey is removed and therefore small fauna species can be particularly vulnerable to predation. For native wildlife, dead trees and fallen timber can provide the required structure to allow refuge and foraging opportunities in the fire scar. One of our last remaining small marsupials in the Adelaide Hills, the Yellow-footed Antechinus, use these particular sites preferentially, as do echidnas, who use fallen hollow logs for shelter.

Dead trees and branches still retain their hollows which are features that our declining Mt Lofty woodland birds rely on (e.g. Brown Treecreeper). Tawny Frogmouths love hunting from dead branches as it gives them the perfect vantage. Logs and branches can also slow wind speeds, provide cover

and protection to native flora and trap seeds. These seeds will later germinate and grow to help stabilise the soil, shade the soil surface and reduce soil water evaporation.

Are trees significant fuel for bushfires?

In a bushfire, the most significant fuels are 'fine fuels' such as grass, leaves, bark and twigs, that are less than 6 mm in diameter. Fine fuels catch fire easily when dry and 'carry' a fire. To reduce bushfire risks, it is important to manage debris and vegetation that makes up these fine fuels near your home and around other assets. In areas around assets, you may need to trim low branches as they can help connect fine fuels below a tree with the tree canopy. Any trees within 20 metres of your home should not overhang the house and it's recommended to have spaces between tree canopies. But remember trees are not your enemy. They can trap embers, reduce wind speeds and act as a radiant heat shield' (source: CFS booklet 'Your guide to bushfire safety'). For further information about managing native vegetation to reduce bushfire risks, refer to the CFS website: www.cfs.sa.gov.au

## Native bees in the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges

The University of Adelaide has produced a new guide on how to provide habitat for native bees in the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges through your gardening techniques.

Get started by:

- leaving some areas of your garden free of vegetation, as many native bees nest on the ground
- cutting back on mulch and weed barriers; while mulch is beneficial, it's important to leave some mulch-free areas for native bees to be able to dig nests
- planting a range of native plants that flower from early spring to late autumn, such as eucalypts, hakeas, banksias, peas and eremophilas
- planting buzz pollinated species such as senna, fringe, flax and chocolate lilies, Hibbertia, Solanums and Lasiopetalum. Honeybees can't use buzz pollinated plants, so this gives an edge to native bees
- planting species with pithy vines or canes so masked and resin bees can construct a nest
- limiting pesticide use as chemical pesticides can negatively impact bee populations
- leaving dead wood for wood-nesting bees like resin bees which often use old beetle bores in dead wood
- mowing your lawn less often if you don't have many native plants yet, as weeds can provide nectar and pollen when nothing else is flowering
- installing artificial nests for resin, masked and leafcutter bees who make tube-shaped burrows, in which they lay their eggs. Having a small bee hotel will allow you to observe them provisioning their nest. You can find information about the Adelaide Native bee bnb project here: https://www.naturalresources.sa.gov.au/adelaidemtloftyranges/water/ managing-water/water-courses/improving-river-torrens-foothills-tosea/native-bee-bnb-project

But remember: you won't get many residents in your hotel if it doesn't have a restaurant… So start by planting bee food!

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If you have any issues or topics you would like to learn more about or think would make a good article for the newsletter please let me know at: SGraham@campbelltown.sa.gov.au

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