

# **Environmental Newsletter July 2020**

### What's happening around Campbelltown

### **Food Scrap Basket roll out**

Campbelltown City Council has secured a grant from the SA government's Green Industries agency to provide Food Scrap Baskets to every household in our council area that does not already have one.



This project aims to get <u>all</u> our food waste out of the blue bin and stop it going to landfill. Keeping food out of landfill has enormous benefits for our environment. By sending that material to be composted it contributes to carbon storage in our soils while making those soils far more biologically active and productive.

Food that goes to landfill not only shortens the lifespan of the landfill by filling it faster, it also creates methane, a greenhouse gas 20 times as potent as carbon dioxide, and can contribute to the development of toxic leachates that can contaminate soils and groundwater.

Sending all our food waste to be composted also saves large amounts of money. It costs at least five times as much to dispose of general waste compared to sending organic material to be composted.

Some people get concerned about placing food in their green bin, because it only gets collected fortnightly, and they are worried about smells and attracting vermin but there are many things you can do to minimise that risk. Lining the bin with newspaper and/or adding shredded paper helps absorb any moisture. If you are using the compostable liners these also help with containing and minimising odours and placing other green waste, such as leaves, prunings or lawn clippings, on top of the food will assist as well.



These new baskets are made from 100% recycled material and will come with a roll of compostable bags to line the basket. A new roll of bags will be provided annually.

If you already have a basket you will not be delivered a new one and your service will carry on as normal.

The baskets will be delivered by community volunteers and contractors during August, September and October so keep an eye out for the basket at your front door. If you would like to volunteer to help with delivery contact Tracy Johnstone on 8366 8214.

## **Campbelltown Community Planting Day**

### **Liascos Avenue Reserve**

### Sunday the 9th of August, 9am - 11.30am



With the official National Tree Day cancelled due to the national COVID-19 situation, Council has decided to hold a community planting for all those keen planters to get out and grow!

The event will be run a little differently, to ensure we keep everyone safe, but it will still be a great day to beautify one of our larger local parks - Liascos Avenue Reserve in Newton.

This reserve already has some lovely large trees so we will be adding in lots of understorey plants to increase the variety of native plants and improve the habitat for our local wildlife.

Planting will start at the regular time of 9am and we hope to have all the plants in the ground by 11.30.

Our wonderful supporters the Athelstone Kiwanis will provide the sausage sizzle to reward everyone's hard work.



Please wear clothes appropriate for the weather including long sleeves, long pants, rain coat and a hat. Wear sturdy enclosed shoes and gardening gloves if you want them. We will supply some tools but we never have enough so bring along spades and trowels if you have them – labelled to make sure they don't get misplaced.

# Gorge Rd The Killer Tomato Pizzeria - Newton Pizzar - Ss Newton Central Shopping mail Newton Veterinary Centre Louis Cres Palumbo Aire Palumbo Aire

### New safety measures to keep in mind:

- We will require a little more information on registration to enable contact tracing
- We will not be supplying gloves for planting so please bring your own if you need them
- Physical distancing will be required please keep at least 2m between your family and others while planting and 1.5m between everybody while lining up for a sausage
- There will be no shared sauces so if you like sauce on your sausage please ask the friendly Kiwanis to add some
- Handwashing facilities and hand sanitizer will be in plentiful supply

If you would like to find out more please contact: Sue Graham at sgraham@campbelltown.sa.gov.au

To register to join us please visit:

https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/liascos-reserve-community-planting-tickets-113414702428

### New partnership with Water Sensitive SA

As one of the new initiatives coming from Council's Climate Solutions Strategy, Campbelltown Council has become partners with Water Sensitive SA.

Water Sensitive SA (WSSA) is a capacity building program that provides government, industry and the community with the support they need to deliver greener, more liveable communities sustained by water sensitive urban design.

So what is Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD)? On the WSSA website they provide this definition:

"An approach to the planning and design of urban environments focused on integrating the urban water cycle (including drinking water, wastewater and stormwater) with the built and natural urban landscape. WSUD installations and tools can be applied to residential, commercial and industrial developments and buildings. They range from the storage, treatment and use of runoff, to water-efficient landscaping. WSUD can help communities achieve greater water sustainability and become more pleasant places to live and work."

Basically WSUD aims to get more water back into the ground. With ongoing urban development, 60% of our land surface is now impervious so very little rain can soak into the ground. Instead it runs over these hard surfaces into drains, then our waterways, where it can create issues with flooding. Getting water into the ground helps with the growth of trees and other vegetation which provides a cooling effect to our suburbs in summer.

Campbelltown already has several great examples of WSUD – from small scale; such as permeable pavers



Stormwater collection garden, Reserve Rd, Campbelltown

at the works depot carpark, tree inlets and rain gardens; to the large aquifer recharge systems at Lochiel Park and the Max Amber Sportsfield.



Aquifer recharge system, Lochiel Park



Green wall, Hectorville



Swale, raingarden and detention basin, Lochiel Park

We are very interested to know if you have any WSUD features at your place. It could be a rainwater tank or a rain garden, a driveway built to allow water into the ground below or a green wall using captured rainwater designed to protect your house from the sun. Please let me know so we can spread the word about installing small scale projects at:

sgraham@campbelltown.sa.gov.au

If you would like to find out more about WSUD visit the WSSA website at:

https://www.watersensitivesa.com/

### COVID-19: Waste

Whilst Council encourages residents to minimise the amount of waste they produce, it also acknowledges that due to Covid-19, households might be temporarily producing more waste at the moment due to working and spending more time at home, as well as all that online shopping. We would like to provide some assistance to help residents know where to responsibly dispose of some common items being used at the moment.

A recent audit of Campbelltown Council kerbside waste showed that 62% of material in the kerbside collection was diverted from landfill. Whilst this is encouraging, 54% of the material in the blue landfill bin could have been recycled or composted. Recycling or composting costs significantly less than sending them to landfill. There are also significant environmental benefits and savings by reusing the materials in some way.

The audit also found that only 16% of all food organics disposed of were being composted through the green organics bin. This is why we are now providing everyone with a food scrap basket and encouraging using it as much as possible.

### It is important to keep contaminants out!

Unfortunately, Campbelltown Council also recorded the highest contamination rates of the yellow recycling bin – 21.3%. The average for metro Adelaide is 13%. This is surprising as Council has been very proactive in this area and continually provides guidance to assist residents with common waste queries.

Information on how to appropriately dispose of common items being produced as a result of Covid-19 are provided below:

# Q. What do I do with disposable (and flushable) wipes?

As many of us are using disposable wipes for cleaning and sanitising surfaces or perhaps in place of toilet paper, please don't flush them down the toilet...even those that claim to be flushable!

They will not break down and cause blockages in the sewage system. Please place them in your blue lidded waste to landfill bin.

### Q. How do I dispose of face masks and gloves?

Face masks and gloves need to be disposed of into your blue landfill bin.

### Q. Can you recycle cleaning bottles?

Yes! Generally if it is rinsed it can be placed into your yellow recycling bin!

Hand sanitiser bottles go into the recycling but lids need to be separate in a clear PET bottle.

Cleaning product containers/bottles eg. spray and wipe can also go into the recycling (lids separate in a clear PET)

# Q: I'm using Spray 'n' Wipe on paper towel to clean surfaces. Can the used paper towel go in the green organics bin?

Yes paper towel and tissues can go into the green bin.

# Q. I'm cleaning out my house/shed - where can I dispose of materials?

All residents are entitled to one free hard rubbish collection per year. Contact East Waste on 8347 5111. There may be wait times.

Council operates a TV, Computer and Chemical waste drop off at the Council depot at 6 Newton Rd, Campbelltown. Open 8am -3pm, Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays). Please note electrical items other than TVs, Computers and accessories are NOT accepted.

### Q. Supporting local restaurants and cafes? Great! Remember to take your own containers or recycle plastic ones

Takeaway plastic food containers (recycling, lids separate in a clear PET)

Plastic cold drink cups and lids (recycling, lids separate in a clear PET)

Please note: Polystyrene is not recyclable and must be placed into the BLUE landfill bin.

### Q. Can you recycle coffee cups?

No. Unless they are compostable (look for the Compostable seedling logo or PLA sign).

The best solution is to AVOID waste in the first place. By staying at home we can minimise the need to use face masks, gloves and hand sanitiser.