



Sustainability News | March 2018



Council's New Solar Panel Program for Pensioners

Does this sound like you?

- You own your home
- Have a Government Pension Card (aged or disability)
- Are usually at home from 9am to 5pm
- Have average to high electricity use*
- Do not currently have solar panels at your home

If you answered yes to all of the above, Council's new Solar Savers program could be right for you! Solar Savers is helping pensioner home

Sunday 4 March - Get Involved
Clean Up Australia Day has been running for over 20 years, and is one of the biggest community clean up efforts with over 8000 sites registered each year.

When: Sun 4 March, 9.45am-12pm

Where: Bellbird Dell Reserve, Vermont South
Meet near the notice board at the George Road entry for registration.

Bring: Garden gloves.

RSVP: Email bellbirddell@yahoo.com.au to assist with catering for morning tea.

For full details or to find other Whitehorse sites, [click here](#).



Improve Your Bike Skills

Riding a bike is a great way to lighten your footprint, especially for short trips or encouraging more physical activity in your family. With this, Council are offering three skills courses this month.

When: Two Novice Courses on Sat 17 March and one Intermediate course on Sat 24 March.

Where: Whitehorse Civic Centre, 379-397

Whitehorse Road, Nunawading

Bookings Essential: Visit

www.whitehorse.vic.gov.au/Bike-Courses.html for full details and to book a place.

owners install solar panels while breaking down barriers such as upfront cost and complexity.

There are no upfront costs as participants can gradually pay for their solar panels through a low-interest bank loan specifically designed for the program (subject to normal bank lending criteria). Solar Savers check interested households' electricity use to make sure every participating household will be at least \$100 better off every year, even after loan repayments. The program draws on the expertise of Council and program partners to choose quality, reliable solar systems and a trusted installer.

Register your interest at

www.solarsavers.org.au, phone 9385 8512 or email info@solarsavers.org.au.

* contact Solar Savers if you're unsure of your electricity use.



Solar Savers Information Night



Celebrate Harmony Day through Nature

Harmony Day celebrates Australia's cultural diversity. It's about inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for everyone. What does harmony mean to you? Explore some examples of harmony in nature.

Working together you can create a Friendship bracelet to take home or to share. Activities best suited to 3-5 year olds. Make some new friends afterwards while enjoying a play on the playground.

When: Mon 19 March, 10-10.45am

Where: Wurundjeri Walk, Blackburn South. Meet at the south-end carpark of Orchard Grove.

Bring: Hat, sunscreen, water bottle and wear suitable enclosed footwear.

Bookings Essential:

Visit www.parkswidewhitehorse.eventbrite.com

For more information contact Lisa Moloney via email

on parkswideeducation@whitehorse.vic.gov.au or call 9262 6211.

Come along to this free information night hosted by the Eastern Climate Action Melbourne (ECAM) to find out more about Council's new Solar Savers program for pensioner homeowners.

When: Wed 7 March, 7.15pm for 7.30pm start

Where: Field Naturalists Club Victoria Club rooms,

1 Gardenia Street, Blackburn (near Blackburn Train Station south-side, side entry off carpark)

Bookings Essential: Register at

www.ecam-solar-savers.eventbrite.com



Growing Fruit Trees in Small Spaces using Espalier Techniques

When: Thurs 22 March, 6.30-8pm

Where: Nunawading Library, 379 Whitehorse Road, Nunawading



Smart Living Returns

Root to Tip Cooking
with Melissa King

When: Wed 28 March, 7-9pm

Where: Lower Hall, Box Hill Town Hall, 1022
Whitehorse Road, Box Hill

Bookings Essential: <https://root-to-tip-cooking.eventbrite.com.au>

Melissa King is one of Australia's most popular and respected garden experts and television presenters. She is also the author of Garden Feast focusing on the delights of cooking and growing your own heirloom vegetables, with the help of recipes from the famous Heronswood kitchen. Melissa's cooking demonstration will focus on recipes that will help you use up the parts of vegetables that you otherwise may have discarded, edible flowers and more – tantalising your taste buds, saving you money and reducing waste all at once!

Bookings essential:

www.whitehorse.vic.gov.au/sustainability-Events.html

This free workshop introduces the art of espalier, a technique for growing fruit trees flat against walls or supports in the narrowest of spaces. Gain a practical overview of what is involved in espaliering both deciduous fruit trees such as apples and pears; along with evergreen trees such as citrus and olives. Learn about the different espalier shapes and forms, when to use them and how to maximise the productivity of those smaller spaces in your garden.



Ride to School Day 2018

Ride - Walk - Scoot - Skate

This year National Ride 2 School Day will be held on Friday 23 March.

National Ride to School Day is an



Now Open: Whitehorse Community Grants 2018/19

*Are you a not-for-profit community group with
an interest in Environmental Sustainability?*

We would like to encourage eligible organisations/groups to submit an application for a 2018/19 Community Grant in the funding service area of Environmental Sustainability. This area includes but is not limited to projects focusing on reducing waste to landfill, energy efficiency/renewable energy, reducing water usage and improving local waterway quality or gardening and the natural environment.

All applications for a grant within the Environmental Sustainability funding service area must satisfy the existing Community Grants criteria and are subject to the Community Grants process.

For further information on how to apply, visit www.whitehorse.vic.gov.au.

annual event that aims to promote riding, walking, skating or scooting to school. It is designed to make active transport normal for kids and help students build the skills, know-how and confidence to ride or walk to school and beyond.

To receive a free school resource pack to help promote the day, visit www.ride2school.com.au.



April School Holiday Program *ParksWide Environmental Education*

Take part in the many activities available during the upcoming school holidays in one of our many treasured bushland.

Please note: Children must be accompanied by an adult.

If the day is declared a Total Fire Ban or Extreme Weather the event will be cancelled.

Bookings Essential: Visit www.parkswidewhitehorse.eventbrite.com



Household Chemical Collection

Doncaster East Event

When: Sat 24 March, 8am-4pm

Address: Provided upon registration

Register: www.sustainability.vic.gov.au/detoxyourhome

Detox your Home is a safe, free and easy-to-use service to dispose of common household chemicals without harming your health or the environment. Do the right thing for your loved ones and your environment and Detox your Home. Simply register online, turn up on the day with your unwanted items and we'll do the rest.



Who Sleeps the Day Away?

(5-12 yrs old)

When: Mon 9 April, 10am-12pm

Where: Yarran Dheran Bushland Reserve
Visitor Centre (Ashburton Drive, Mitcham)

Learn about some of our Australian animals that sleep the day away and are active at night. Explore some of the ways that these animals carry out their nightly activities and where they go to sleep during the day.

Wetlands and Waterways

(5-12 yrs old)

When: Wed 11 April, 10am-12pm

Where: Blackburn Lake Sanctuary Visitor
Centre (Central Road, Blackburn)

Explore the wetlands of Blackburn Lake Sanctuary and learn about where the water comes from and how we can protect this very special habitat.

Images of the Bush (10-18 yrs old)

When: Thurs 12 April, 10am-1pm

Where: Yarran Dheran Bushland Reserve
Visitor Centre (Ashburton Drive, Mitcham)

How do you view the bush? Come along and use your artistic skills to make some images of the bush. Choice of media includes photography, land art, drawing

Harvest Swap Dates

Forest Hill Horticulture Centre

When: Sat 17 March, 10-11.30am

Where: 82 Jolimont Road, Forest Hill

Box Hill South Neighbourhood House

When: Sat 17 March, 11am-12.30pm

Where: 47 Kitchener Street, Box Hill South

Community group sharing backyard produce and gardening knowledge.

What to bring: Vegies, fruit, herbs that you have grown in your garden but you don't need.

Seedlings, plants, seeds, eggs, honey, straw, liquid compost (in sealed bottles), recipes etc.

Remember to water plants and label seedlings to ensure new gardeners are aware of what they are planting. If you're bringing unusual plants/produce, please tell us how they should be grown/cooked.

For more information, email urbanharvestswap@gmail.com

and painting. If photography is your thing then bring along your camera (or other device) to take photos or to take home photos of your land art.

A mini art show at the end of the session will allow you to see how others view the bush.

For more information contact contact Lisa Moloney on 9262 6211 or email parkswideeducation@whitehorse.vic.gov.au



Save the Date

Whitehorse City Council's annual Sustainable Living Week will be held from Wednesday 30 May till Thursday 7 June 2018.

Stay tuned for more details over the coming months.
