

GREENING HUME: MULTICULTURAL PLANTING FESTIVAL

Organisations Involved & Contact Details

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Aims & Target Group

Aims: The aim of the festival is to enhance community cohesion and help create a healthy, interesting and beautiful environment by bringing people together from various cultural backgrounds in activities that emphasise their common future together, care for the environment and their contribution to their community.

Target Group: Culturally and Linguistically Diverse residents of Hume.

Project Description & Components

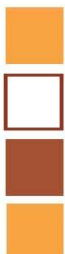
Greening Hume is a conservation program run by Hume City Council in Melbourne's north western suburbs. The program runs a community involvement program to support community conservation groups and involve school children, people from CALD communities and Anglo-residents in planting in parks and along waterways and learning to care about the local environment.

The Cultural Project within Greening Program began in 1995 as a result of the very high CALD population in this area, most of whom were not involved in environmental activities (in some suburbs up to 49 % are from NESB).

Multicultural Planting Day

In November 2006, 28 different cultural groups participated in the annual Multicultural Planting Day, at Jack Roper Reserve in Broadmeadows. This event—in its 11th year and under the theme of 'Grey Box Hollows and Red-Rumped Parrots'—won the Keep Australia Beautiful Victoria Spirit of Australia Award in 2006. In addition, Council was further awarded the Port Phillip and Westernport Regional Landcare Award for Local Government Caring for Land.

The 2006 Planting Day was a great success and was attended by over 850 people. It united Hume's diverse cultural community in a celebration of environment, culture and multiculturalism. The 'Red Rumped Parrots and Grey Box Hollows' Planting Day saw the planting of more than 1,100 native plants.





Hard work was rewarded by a gastronomic feast prepared by volunteers from over 28 community groups. Impressive dance and musical performances concluded the afternoon festivities.

The festival is an EcoRecycle Victoria approved Waste Wise event, with food served on biodegradable cornstarch plates and cutlery and a vast array of waste educational activities leading up to the day and during the festivities.

Community Greening Programs

The Greening Program encourages groups and members of the community to assist in revegetation projects on public land in Hume. Between autumn and spring, many community planting events are held at various locations across the municipality.

The aim of these revegetation projects is to protect and enhance biodiversity in Hume, with a strong focus on strengthening natural wildlife corridors such as creeks and woodlands. Each year, thousands of volunteers, including conservation groups, school groups, multicultural groups and local residents assist in the planting of thousands of trees, shrubs and understorey plants.

Process

A Community Development Officer is employed part time to proactively seek the involvement of NESB groups. Each year the program involves up to 600 people in over 50 activities planting up to 3000 plants.

Many of the activities are conducted with English, as a second language (ESL) classes, so students get to improve their English, while mixing with others and learning to care for the environment.

In recent years, Greening Hume has organised an annual Multicultural Planting Festival. The festival is a key feature of the council's Greening Strategy and is an annual event. It celebrates the connection between community, culture and nature. The festival provides a platform to engage culturally diverse groups in re-vegetation activities and increases understanding of the natural environment and ownership of public space in Hume.

The festival's native tree plantings culminate in a communal lunch — prepared by up to 24 community groups representing cultures from around the globe — and cultural activities. Currently up to 1,000 people from diverse backgrounds take part in the festival, with interest growing every year. It now has links with the celebration of Refugee Week and reconciliation with the local Wurundjeri people.

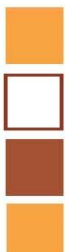
Outcomes

The celebratory nature of this event gets people together and give them a chance to express their culture are share it with others.

Challenges & Obstacles

Funding

City of Hume





Images

