

Sydney Observer

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WOMEN'S HEALTH WEEK

NET ZERO
NORTH SHORE

WHAT'S ONLINE
FOR LOCALS

RESILIENCE
AMID A
PANDEMIC

CHATTING WITH
URZILA CARLSON



Get Crafty with Comedian

Susie Youssef

LOCAL NEWS • EDUCATION • HOME & GARDEN • SENIORS • BEAUTY & WELLBEING • FOOD & WINE • WHAT'S ON

Focus on Net Zero Emissions for North Shore



Sara Zariello

In the fight to decrease greenhouse gas emissions is a Northern Sydney based not-for-profit organisation spearheading change in the community. *Sydney Observer* spoke with Ursula Hogben, (Co-Founder and Zero Emissions Homes & Transport programs leader from Zero Emissions Sydney North) about what 'net zero' means in our climate and how we can make a change for future generations.

Zero Emissions Sydney North is a NSW incorporated association of local volunteers taking action for a cleaner, greener and safer future in the Northern Beaches and North Shore. They operate in conjunction with the national Beyond Zero Emissions network to initiate and continue the growth of current net zero focused programs. "Our vision is to create a sustainable community for current and future generations. We focus on practical projects helping people, businesses and schools," notes Ursula.

With the current climate crisis, there's an undeniable need for community members to educate and encourage their counterparts to take responsibility for their carbon footprints. In 2015, the United Nations Paris Agreement was ratified with the long-term goal of reducing global warming to no more than 1.5 degrees Celsius. Every five years, each country that adopted the historic Agreement is expected to submit or update their Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), a climate action plan to keep stakeholders more ambitious about achieving net zero. Currently, the Climate Action Tracker reports Australia as 'insufficiently' contributing their part to the Paris Agreement, with our current actions only keeping greenhouse emissions in the range of 2 to 3 degrees Celsius – and not in keeping with the Paris Agreement. That is precisely why



Net Zero Emissions Sydney North is fundamentally necessary in creating more opportunities for community members to make greater efforts in reaching this goal.

They launched in October 2019 and their impact has reached over 1000 subscribers to their newsletter/social media, and nearly 100 households switching to renewable energy in the form of solar panels, e-cars or e-bikes. "The energy and passion to become more environmentally sustainable is a delight to behold and the program highlights the value of networking together for a positive outcome," says Mosman Council Mayor, Carolyn Corrigan.

So, what can us everyday Aussies do to make a difference?

"What has the most impact and what do I need to do are questions we're asked frequently," tells Ursula. "We created a Sustainable Living Guide to help solve this, with local info, case studies and links."

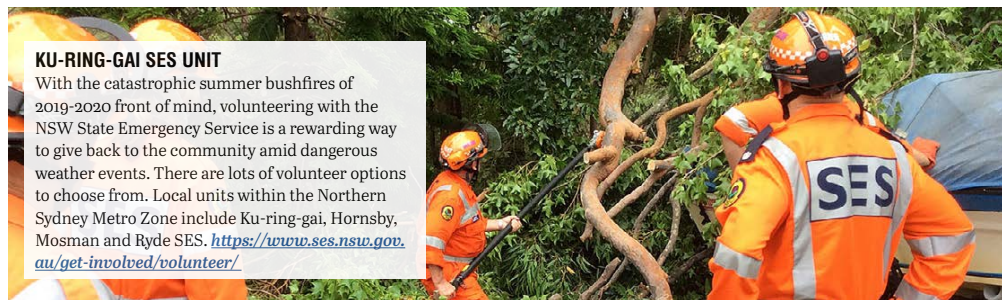
URSULA PROVIDES SOME GREAT TIPS

- Choose net zero superannuation and banking.
- Switch to a renewable energy company.
- Install rooftop solar.
- Download a Sustainable Living Guide: <https://zerosydneynorth.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/ZESN.Mosman-Sustainable-Living-Guide.Digital.Final.pdf>
- Sign up to a free program, such as Solar My House, Solar My Business, Zero Emissions Homes, Zero Emissions Schools, Zero Emissions Transport.

www.zerosydneynorth.org

KU-RING-GAI SES UNIT

With the catastrophic summer bushfires of 2019-2020 front of mind, volunteering with the NSW State Emergency Service is a rewarding way to give back to the community amid dangerous weather events. There are lots of volunteer options to choose from. Local units within the Northern Sydney Metro Zone include Ku-ring-gai, Hornsby, Mosman and Ryde SES. <https://www.ses.nsw.gov.au/get-involved/volunteer/>



Volunteer with Ku-ring-gai Charities

Isabella Ross

September 5th is International Day of Charity, and what better way to mark it than showcase some of the many great charities across the North Shore where you can volunteer. As stated by the United Nations, the organiser of International Day of Charity, "volunteerism and philanthropy provide real social bonding and contributes to the creation of inclusive and more resilient societies."

MEALS ON WHEELS KU-RING-GAI & HORNSBY

Volunteers are required across various levels, and it's a really great way to show your support towards our older Aussies and those with a disability across the North Shore, helping provide independence. Current volunteer positions include admin assistants, delivery drivers, home delivery volunteers and kitchen hands. <https://kmow.org.au/volunteer-with-us/>



EASY CARE GARDENING

Easy Care Gardening helps maintain the gardens of older people and those who need assistance within the Hornsby, Hunters Hill, Ku-ring-gai and Ryde areas since 1988. The gardening volunteer work is very straightforward and doesn't require much experience, with basic tasks including pruning, sweeping, raking, mulching and weeding. <https://www.easycaregardening.org.au/volunteers/>

ERYLDENE HISTORIC HOUSE

Conveniently located in Gordon, Eryldene

Historic House has a volunteer training program, given the house has relied on a dedicated group of volunteers since 1977. There are a range of opportunities to showcase your skills including curation and research work, website development, education outreach, gardening, working in the café, cooking and food prep, guiding tours, media liaison, administration, graphic design and more. <https://www.eryldene.org.au/pages/display/volunteers>

KU-RING-GAI HORNSBY VOLUNTEER SERVICE

Are you unsure where you would like to volunteer, but want to lend a hand locally? Ku-ring-gai Hornsby Volunteer Service offers a referral service matching your skills, time and interests with a volunteer position with a local organisation. You can register your interest via this link to learn of any additional volunteer opportunities that arise: <https://www.krg.nsw.gov.au/Community/Volunteer/Register-for-volunteer-work>

Local Dog Attacks Rise Amid Lockdown

It's sad to say that amid our current lockdown, Ku-ring-gai Council has seen a substantial increase in local dog attacks since the beginning of the lockdown.

Council staff recently compiled data showing a significant increase in dog attacks during the period of the last few months compared with the same monthly periods in 2019 and 2020. There have been 33 incidents in the 10-week period between 1st June – 6th August involving dogs showing aggressive behaviour or physically attacking other dogs and people in the Ku-ring-gai area. "It seems because people are working from home, many dogs are not used to having

their owners around so much. When out walking some are displaying overly protective behaviour," notes Mayor Jennifer Anderson. "Ku-ring-gai is lucky to have several off-leash areas for owners to take their pets for a run, but dogs must be under their control at all times outside."

The plea from Ku-ring-gai Council comes amid public commentary from residents via Nextdoor, with concerns being raised on the neighbourhood-oriented app. In our local government area, there are 20 off-leash areas – it is important for local dog owners to remember it is a legal requirement for dogs to be kept on a leash except in designated areas.