

Hui-Anne Tan

Industry loves

I am passionate about creating greener cities where nature can co-exist with humans. In my role as an Urban Forest and Ecology Project Officer, I feel like I am making an important contribution towards creating a greener Melbourne – and that means a lot to me. I love that I can build a career around my passion for horticulture and nature, and can help foster connections amongst people, plants and animals.

Current Role

Urban Forest and Ecology Project Officer
City of Melbourne

Responsibilities

I support the Council's Urban Forest and Ecology team to plan, deliver and promote a range of projects under its *Urban Forest Strategy* and *Nature in the City Strategy*. I manage and support key urban forestry and ecology related projects. This includes managing our Exceptional Tree Register, where we recognise, celebrate and protect exceptional trees in the private realm; planning and implementing habitat understorey plantings; providing plant advice to new Council greening projects; and supporting citizen science planting days.

Skills required

To be successful in my role, a tertiary qualification and/or experience and proven achievement in project management, policy development, natural/environmental science or a related field is required. Some knowledge and experience of Urban Forestry and/or Urban Ecology is desired, as is the ability to organise and work with a range of experts on research projects. Highly developed interpersonal skills and proven written and oral communication skills are also essential as I am required to respond to customer enquiries, participate in community engagement activities and deliver presentations.

Qualifications

I completed a Bachelor of Science with a Major in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at the University of Melbourne, where I then later completed a Master of Urban Horticulture.

Career Highlight

I recently managed a large habitat understorey planting project in Royal Park from start to finish, using predominantly native prickly shrubs to attract small birds. I worked on the plant selection, design and procurement, and managed contractors for the landscaping work. I'm excited to watch this planting evolve over time.



Photo: David Hannah

Growing up in Melbourne's eastern suburbs, Hui-Anne always had a passion for the environment and enjoyed spending time outdoors connecting with nature. After leaving high school, Hui-Anne completed a Bachelor of Science and a Master of Urban Horticulture at the University of Melbourne.

At the University of Melbourne's Burnley campus, I had the opportunity to pursue my interest in green infrastructure and to learn about urban horticulture through theoretical, research and practical experiences. The Masters was really an eye-opening experience into the various urban horticulture career pathways.

Hui-Anne also found time whilst studying to volunteer with several organisations including the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria - Cranbourne Gardens.

Volunteering for the Raising Rarity project at Cranbourne was a special experience. We measured plant traits, collected seed and monitored plant performance at the project's research plots. This was an amazing opportunity to gain practical experience in fieldwork, data collection and monitoring. It was great to know that I was playing an important role in increasing awareness about Victoria's rare and threatened flora.

Whilst a student, Hui-Anne undertook two internships, one with the City of Melbourne and the other in Singapore with urban green specialists, GWS Living Art.

My internship with GWS allowed me to gain first-hand industry exposure to the green roof and wall industry in an international context. I gained valuable insight into the design, installation and maintenance of green roof and wall systems. The internship provided me with a wealth of knowledge through various practical experiences, enhancing my personal and professional development.

Since completing her master's degree, Hui-Anne has continued to work at the City of Melbourne as a Project Officer.

I love working with the Urban Forest and Ecology team at the City of Melbourne and look forward to staying on and continuing to learn, grow and help make a positive impact towards creating greener cities. I am lucky to be involved in a diverse array of projects across the team. This is a great opportunity for an early career graduate, to be able to learn from others in the industry who have such a wealth of knowledge and experience.