

We wish to acknowledge The Wurundjeri People, the traditional custodians of our region, and all Aboriginal Elders, past and present.

News in Brief

Building Green. Sustainable architecture of the Yarra Ranges.

The examples on display in the exhibition provide an opportunity to reflect on our current unsustainable building practices. What could we do differently?

> **Saturday 2 April - An architect will be speaking at the museum.**

Yarra Ranges Regional Museum, Lilydale until May 15

Leadbeater's Possum Rediscovery Day

Celebrate the anniversary of the date, 3rd April 1961 when our Victorian State Emblem, the Leadbeater's Possum was re-discovered by Eric Wilkinson near Cambarville, Victoria. It is the only mammal that is endemic to Victoria, with small populations only in the Central Highlands, Yellingbo Nature Conservation Reserve and sub-alpine areas between Lake Mountain and Mt Baw Baw.

> **Sunday April 03 Picnic/walk at Cambarville, 12 noon - 4pm**

Nocturnal birds in urban landscapes

Presented by Marian Weaving - how urbanisation has affected reproductive behaviour, population structure and spatial ecology of the Tawny Frogmouth.

> **Wednesday 6 April, 7.30 pm Grand Hotel, Warrandyte**

Ecotopia Junction Festival

This annual event is organized by ECOSS - a community enterprise with an educational and recreational facility to demonstrate sustainable living solutions and promote local food-security. Friends of Leadbeater's Possum and Mt Toolebewong & District Landcare (waterbugs display) will both have stalls.

At the Yarra Junction reserve

> **Sunday April 10 Yarra Junction**

They Saw a Thylacine

Gutsy and rebellious, this beautiful re-imagining of a piece of Australia's lost history shines a light on extinction and our own survival. A Yarra Ranges Culture tracks dramatic performance.

> **Friday April 15 7.30pm The Memo, Healesville**

A community group acting to protect and conserve important elements of our local environment

A slightly earlier edition this month to bypass the holidays and to bring you notice of our community activities in April and May. We hope you will consider bringing your friends to both events.

CLIMATE CHANGE FILMS AND DISCUSSION AFTERNOON

This month we present a stimulating double bill, two new films on current issues - to share and discuss.

"The Case for Optimism on Climate Change" is a new TED Talk from Al Gore, presented with the same humour and humanity that he conveyed in 'An Inconvenient Truth'. This short presentation uses up-to-the-minute examples from around the globe and conveys Gore's reasons for optimism that the world can still successfully tackle the threat of climate change.

(TED - Technology, Entertainment and Design nonprofit devoted to sharing great ideas in short clips)

Following questions, discussion and refreshments, we will watch an episode of the new David Attenborough series, *"Great Barrier Reef"*, to be shown on TV later this year.

Attenborough returns to his 'most magical place on Earth', the Great Barrier Reef and this final episode includes beautiful footage of corals that are now threatened by climate change and detrimental land-based human activities.

(The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority recently lifted its bleaching warning from mild to severe but the biggest coal mine in the Southern hemisphere that will export the coal right through the Reef has since been approved in Canberra).

If you can place a poster in your area or workplace, please contact Maureen.

ANOTHER FREE COMMUNITY EVENT

> **Sunday April 17 2.00 - 4.00pm, Senior Citizens Hall Green & River Streets, Healesville**

LEGACY FOR CONSERVATION OF PLATYPUS IN HEALESVILLE

Earlier this year, we received a request from members of Wandin CWA who had been given a small legacy in memory of another member, Rosemary Dawn Alexander, born in Healesville on 24th February 1936. Rosemary Curran lived in Mooroolbark and later became the Conservation Officer for Wandin CWA. Her brothers, Robert and Peter, believe that she would wish a donation to be made to help Platypus conservation in Healesville and HEWI was the chosen recipient.

A small group from Wandin CMA has inspected our suggested site of the Silverleaf Bushland Reserve and we are now negotiating with Melissa Carmody, our Bushland team leader, for the purchase of advanced Manna Gums, *Eucalyptus viminalis*, to replace fallen giants along this section of the Grace Burn. Council does not permit memorial gardens on public land so the site will remain unmarked, but the tree replacements and associated understorey which HEWI will plant later this year, will certainly fulfill Rosemary's wishes to assist Platypus habitat. If anyone has memories of Rosemary in Healesville, you may wish to contact Shirley Mehler: shirley.mehler@bigpond.com.

March 25 – April 10

Easter/school holidays

April 03Friends of Leadbeater's Possum
Picnic and walk Cambarville
12noon – 4.00pm**April 06**Nocturnal Birds
Warrandyte
7.30pm**April 10**Ectopia Junction Festival
Yarra Junction**April 14****HEWI meeting**
HL&LC
7.00-9.30pm**April 15**They saw a Thylacine
Memo
7.30pm**April 16****HEWI invertebrate ID**
Old Badger School
Badger Creek
10am – 12noon**April 17****FILMS / DISCUSSION**
EVENT
Senior Citizens Hall
Green And River Streets
2.00 – 4.00pm**April 25****Anzac day****May 22****Walk watch and wonder**
Toolangi forests**GRACE BURN PROJECT REPORT**

There are now thirteen properties along the Grace Burn that have been assessed by Melbourne Water for a Streamside Management grant and associated works, with the large majority eligible for this assistance along their creek frontage. Our facilitator, Karen Garth continues to monitor all requests and is available to discuss any related issues that residents may have.

A few residents of Silverleaf Place responded to our invitation to meet in the Silverleaf Bushland Reserve on Clean Up day, March 06 – a very hot and humid morning! So we have been able to provide feedback to Council and some further work has been done to clear weeds and dead vegetation. We were also able to paint with our new Platypus stencils in Silverleaf Place.

Karen is also our representative on a new Council initiative "Don't trash the Platypus", which will be looking at ways to alert communities to the littering problems that urban lifestyles present to our healthy waterways. HEWI's submission to the Healesville Structure Plan was also based on policies and actions that will be required to maintain the high quality of our rivers and creeks. Our suggestions will be controversial but are based on our 30 years of experience, observations and monitoring and the high percentage of community regard for our local waterway network.

WATERBUG ACTIVITIES

Our Waterwatch team enjoyed another delightful morning with Healesville Primary School students as they searched for the tiny waterbugs in the collected samples and isolated each species in the ice cube containers. There was a slight mix up in communication this year so we had both Year 3 and Year 4 classes attending which doubled our numbers for the team to manage.

The Autumn invertebrate count will take place at the Badger Creek Old School and we encourage anyone interested to join us for an interesting overview of our local species.

> **Saturday April 16 10am- 12noon Badger Creek**

FOREST UPDATE

The good news: Discussions are underway which could lead to the Toolangi Forest Discovery Centre opening again after more than three years neglect. It will be managed by a community-based committee, supported by DELWP. It will become a great focus for a range of community events and ultimately an information point during visits to the Great Forest National Park.

Less good:

The Forest Industry Taskforce has commenced meetings although no chairperson has yet been appointed.

Coupe deferral negotiations continue....as does the logging of high conservation value forest.

WALK WATCH and WONDER!

Our next community event on May 22 will be led by Evelyn Feller, from Toolangi to Wirrawilla via the Sculpture Trail and the Yea River. This will provide an opportunity to learn more about the future of the Forest Discovery Centre and the Sculpture trail revival as well as experiencing the grandeur of our magnificent Mountain Ash and Myrtle Beech ecosystems. Full details in next newsletter – bookings will be required.

Wishing everyone refreshing holidays and looking forward to your support for these activities that celebrate our exceptional environment.



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