

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

News in Brief

Butterfly and Moth Larvae

There are more moth species in Victoria alone than all the vertebrate animal species in Australia! Despite this crucial role in the local ecosystem many researchers ignore them, partly because they are difficult to find and research. Steve Williams will talk about the biology of these fascinating creatures, their wonderful adaptations and show some new, previously unrecorded, lifecycles. Bookings essential: 9840 9124.

> **Wednesday 3 September 7.30pm, Grand Hotel, Warrandyte**

FIELD TRIP: Life Histories of Local Moths

Steve will lead this walk along the Mullum Mullum Trail demonstrating how incredibly well adapted species are to their hosts and bushland setting.

> **Thursday 4 September, 10.00am – 12.00noon**

Wildflowers in Yarran Dheran

Join a guided walk with Ian Moodie through Yarran Dheran Nature Reserve and see Acacias and some of the other springtime wildflowers blooming in the Mullum Mullum Valley.

> **Friday 5 September 10.00am Yarran Dheran Info Centre, Ashburton Drive, Mitcham**

Australian Plant Expo

Native flower show, plant sales including indigenous plants, book sales, art sales, photography display, displays from other environmental groups and talks and demonstrations.

> **Sat. 13 and Sun. 14 Sep. 10am-4pm Eltham Community Centre 801 Main Road Eltham**

Upper Yarra River Bike Ride

Join Yarra Riverkeepers for a ride along the Upper Yarra River via the rail trail (Yarra Junction to Warburton, 10km). The ride will begin at Upper Yarra Museum (Melway288 D7), with keynote speakers along the way - River health (Dan Robertson, Melbourne Water), local community initiatives, river stories (Maya Ward, Author), and opportunities to assist the Yarra from the Yarra Riverkeeper (Ian Penrose). Register: Todd Holman todd_holman@hotmail.com or 0425 217 921

> **Sunday September 21 11:00am- 2:30pm**

We are delighted to welcome Saskia's new baby sister, a joyful arrival for Emma and Tony.

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

*Welcome to this special month with the magnificent display of our brightly flowering wattles. The elegant Silver Wattle, *Acacia dealbata*, is especially tall and colourful in our region - throughout the forests and along the Yarra River. It was named 'Barak's Wattle' after he died at Coranderrk on August 15th 1903, when MUYAN was in full golden bloom.*

The IMPACT of CLIMATE CHANGE on MELBOURNE'S EAST

This is a Yarra Ranges Council 'Live it Up' event, presented by the Eastern Alliance for Greenhouse Action (EAGA). The key note presentation will be by distinguished climate scientist Professor David Karoly who will explore how the climate is changing across Melbourne's east and the key regional response initiatives for this region.

Professor Karoly is an expert in climate change science and was involved, through several different roles, in the preparation of the Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released in 2007.

His research is concerned with climate variability and climate change, including greenhouse climate change, stratospheric ozone depletion and interannual climate variations due to El Niño Southern Oscillation. Recently, he has been studying the impacts of climate change on weather extremes and their impacts on human and natural systems.

"We are extremely fortunate to have David visit Yarra Ranges and provide this great opportunity to learn more about climate change at a local level".

Free event: register by 22nd August on 9294 6215

> **Wednesday, 27 August 2014 6:45pm to 8:00pm Mooroolbark Community Centre, 125 Brice Ave**

HEWI'S 25TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

"What's happening to our Yarra River?"

Welcome to our 25th anniversary invitation to join us for another interesting opportunity to meet, greet and hear our speakers - (including HEWI Chairman Steve Meacher who always presents a graphic record of the past year and the challenges ahead!).

Guest speaker will be Ian Penrose, Riverkeeper and spokesperson for the Yarra Riverkeeper Association (YRKA), formed in 2004 to protect and restore the Yarra and its tributaries, from source to mouth, for current and future generations. River flows, water quality and encroaching development are among their key issues. YRKA has a big focus on education, with regular events including walks and riverside bike and bus tours "We tell the river's 'story'," says Ian, "monitor its health and activities affecting it." YRKA has also played an instrumental role in the state government's decision to provide the river with environmental flows. Their advocacy role is recognised and supported by all Councils through which the Yarra River flows.

HEWI has been an associate member since the inception of YRKA when we worked together over development issues on the Yarra valley floodplains.

We will be especially interested to hear their views on the deforestation of our catchments and associated issues from fuel reduction burning.

Once again, we will be joined by members of Mt Toolebewong and District Landcare who have a major revegetation project along Coranderrk Creek. Both AGMs will run (briefly!) after refreshments.

> **Thursday September 25 7.15pm for 7.30pm Senior Citizens Hall, cnr Green and River Streets, Healesville**

HEWI COMMITTEE 2014-5

All positions will be declared vacant and new members are warmly invited to join the committee with your new energies and insights. Nomination forms will be circulated and Steve and Maureen are always available for more information. We meet monthly with strict time constraints in a friendly atmosphere - free pizzas too!

HEALESVILLE STRUCTURE PLAN - Community Survey

This invitation is for the local community and visitors to comment on various aspects of the draft HSP that will guide the future land use, development and urban design of the township. It follows the community workshop in April 2014

August 15**Waterwatch
Grace Burn, QP****August 15**Leadbeater's Possum
Toolangi C Com. House
7.30pm \$5.00**August 16**Fire forum
SREA**August 21****HEWI meeting
HL&LC****August 27**Prof David Karoly
Mooroolbark**September 12****Waterwatch testing
Grace Burn
9.30-11.00am****September 18****HEWI meeting
HL&LC****September 21**Upper Yarra bike ride
11.00am - 2.30pm**September 25****HEWI 25th AGM
Senior Citizens Hall
7.15pm for 7.30pm****October 10****Waterwatch Invertebrates
HL&LC
11.00-12.00am****October 12**Walk Watch & Wonder
Maroondah Dam to Donnelly's Weir
10.30am - 3.30pm**November 15****Waterways Performance Event
Queens Park roaming
4.00 - 6.00pm**

by asking the broader community to have their say. So please note the all-inclusive 'and visitors' and help to keep Healesville as an environmentally sustainable township by responding to this survey.

It can be accessed at www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/hsp or a paper copy of the survey is available from the Healesville Community Link. Closing date is Monday September 1st.

WALK WATCH AND WONDER!**Maroondah Dam to Donnelly's Weir**

Bookings have already been received for our October walk which is sponsored by Council through their 'Live it Up' program. Our leaders will be Jane and Malcolm Calder with Jim Viggers providing the historical background to the dam and aqueducts over morning tea. Jane and Malcolm will illustrate changes to the vegetation and habitats along these waterways over the past 150 years, and the protection of our natural environment within national parks.

Lunch will be served at Donnelly's Weir, and a bus, kindly provided by the Rotary Club of Healesville, will return to Maroondah Dam. (Toilets are available at Maroondah Dam and Donnelly's Weir).

Bookings for this FREE event are essential: 9294 6215 or through 'Events': www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/

For any other details, please contact Maureen: 5962 1224

> **Sunday, October 12 10.30am - 2.30pm.**

FORESTS UPDATE

Our Chairman Steve Meacher has once again reminded the Premier of Victoria and the Department of Environment and Primary Industry (DEPI) that Vic Forests has paid no dividend in at least seven of the last ten years. Steve continues to compile meticulous records from all available reports issued by the government-owned native forest logging corporation which was created "to operate a responsible business that generates the best community value from the commercial management of Victoria's State forests." Based on their own estimates, the community is now owed \$74,000,000 in outstanding dividends from forestry operations which access a public resource - our forests.

"Rusty" is the current coupe being clearfelled in the Toolangi forests - even though detailed surveys by conservationists have documented more than **one hundred hollow-bearing habitat trees**. This density of hollow-bearing trees should have designated this coupe as prime Leadbeater's Possum habitat, protected from logging under the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act. But this coupe is not protected as the definition of "Hollow-bearing trees" in the Forest Management Plan is restricted to Mountain Ash, Alpine Ash or Shining Gum. Many of the trees that bear hollows in Rusty are Mountain Grey Gum and Messmate. These may also be used by Leadbeater's Possum, or used as nesting sites by other species of arboreal mammals, which would reduce the competition for hollows in the other species.

In addition, we now have the latest research within regrowth forests from Professor Lindemayer and his team at ANU. Regrowth results in more trees packed more closely together. This increases the amounts of flash fuels that allow fires to build in severity. Old-growth forests usually have wet rainforest understorey canopies, which do not burn as well as the drier understorey canopies of regrowth forests. However, in the past 50 years, more than 47,000 ha of wet forest have been logged with 17,600 ha to be logged in the next five years. **Shame!**

The GOOD NEWS is that our joint campaign to establish a **Great Forest National Park** continues to gain momentum and support. All thanks to all those involved with activities that focus attention on the overwhelming scientific research supporting their commitment.

Lions' Community Service Award

Congratulations to Arthur Harford for this well deserved award. His nomination was submitted by Mt Toolebewong & District Landcare, Badger Creek CFA, HEWI, Badger Creek Old School, and Healesville Action Group. Arthur was completely surprised and gratified for this personal recognition by the diverse community groups in which he has been so active.

Our grateful thanks to Coral for continuing to set this newsletter into a legible format and also to Adrian who is working on a new website after the HEWI site was hacked recently. Best wishes go with Evelyn and Michael Feller who are returning to their Canadian home and commitments there for another few weeks. The exhilarating news of the endangered Spotted-tailed Quoll (Tiger Quoll) having been sighted in the Great Otway National Park for first time in 24 years has just been announced - YAY!



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www.hewi.org.au

<http://roundleafpomaderris.org.au>