

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

News in Brief

Chum Creek Landcare

AGM with Dr. Bronwyn Isaac from Monash Uni on her research into Powerful Owls in the urban fringe – and Chum Creek! RSVP: chumcklandcare@gmail.com, or 5962 2019 ah.

> **7.00 pm Wednesday August 5, Chum Creek Primary School**

Environmental Engagement Forum

Yarra Ranges Council's Code of Practice – Kym Saunders (Urban Fringe Weeds Project Officer)

Brief update on Council's Vegetation Regs Review with time for audience to explain what they think and if anyone has gone to the State Government forums. Agenda setting after lunch.

> **Saturday 22nd of August 10:00am to 1pm Council Conference Room, Lilydale**

Australian Native Fish

Tim Curmi, a freshwater ecologist and president of Native Fish Australia (Victoria), will introduce you to Australian native fish with a focus on the endangered Macquarie perch, a fish of the Yarra River. Tim has extensive experience with Macquarie perch recovery projects and river ecology improvement projects.

> **Wednesday 2 September 7.30pm, Grand Hotel, Warrandyte FIELD TRIP:**

Tim Curmi will lead a walk along the Yarra River to a Macquarie perch monitoring site and discuss river habitat ideal for the population to increase and its survival. Fishnets, with fisheries and ethics permits, will be used to assist in this monitoring activity. Bookings: 9840 9326

> **Friday 4 September 7.00 am – 9.00 am**

To Store or not to Store?

DRREA interactive forum about battery storage for both 'off-grid' solar systems and 'battery back-up' systems

> **7.30 pm Monday September 7, Emerald Library**

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August is always a golden month with Wattles flowering profusely throughout our forests and along the waterways. We are also watching "our" Round-leaf Pomaderris as the tight green buds gradually swell towards flowering late next month as so many more of this critically endangered species are propagated and planted each year.

THE LAST TIM TAM

Our major sponsored performance this year is booking up fast! The striking posters have attracted a huge amount of interest and we are looking forward to a full "house" absorbing Rod Quantock's unique presentation of the challenges and solutions for living on our finite planet.

Rod is well aware that climate change is not the only issue that threatens our very existence. His performance will include peak water, peak oil, peak food, peak money..... peak everything! All these vital issues are incorporated within his unique comedic approach of communication that reaches out to his audience with clarity and honesty.

We will have our Women's' Trust Petition on Climate Change in the foyer if you have not already signed this, as well as a donation tin for our Great Forest National Park campaign with GFNP stickers and information folders. Look for the posters of optional questions on climate change, inviting us all to apply a sticker for our preferred choice. And of course Bronwyn will look forward to collecting subscriptions and signing up new members!

Tickets: \$20.00 and \$15.00 through the Memo bookings online or at the counter.

Book: http://ach.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/Whats_On/The_Last_Tim_Tam_By_Rod_Quantock#.VZJJKbSRVJ

> **Saturday August 22 7.30pm Memo Hall Healesville**

GRACE BURN PROJECT

Grant:

Thank you for the congratulations that we have received for our successful partnership grant that will allow us to extend this project by engaging an experienced facilitator. Yarra Ranges Council have also offered a training course for "professional development in community engagement" to three volunteer facilitators from Warburton, Belgrave and Healesville, a most timely contribution to the launch of our project.

We also have a planning meeting ahead with Gary Slater, CEO of the Returned Servicemen's League, Healesville Sub-Branch and Melbourne Water to discuss the revegetation of the Grace Burn along the boundary of their property.

Planting:

Our planting of another 2,000 indigenous seedlings as infill along the Wirrup Yaluk was yet another milestone in our campaign to ensure healthy waterways within our region. The teams of young Healesville Primary students and their buddies from Cummins Filtration are amazingly proficient and full of energy and goodwill. We are as always, most grateful to Arthur and Steve for digging 1,000 holes each (!) and to another Steve for his dedicated task of catering for us all. These annual days are so much fun, allowing efficient use of those vital resources, people and equipment.

WaterWatch:

This month's water testing of the Grace Burn and Wirrup Yaluk will be on **Friday August 14**. Two members of this team will be away so if anyone else could assist us for an hour or so please call Lou on 5962 5714.

SPRING INTO WATERWATCH

Melbourne Water has invited us all to an 'inspirational day' to celebrate and recognise the contributions that community makes to the Waterwatch Program, with guest speakers from the Dolphin Research Institute and BowerBird. "Meet other people involved in the Waterwatch Program, share experiences and aspirations". RSVP ESSENTIAL by Friday 21 August. (email Maureen for the registration link)

> **Sunday 30 August 10.30am-1.00pm Melbourne Museum**

Up Coming Events

August 05

Powerful Owls
Chum Creek PS
7.00pm

August 06

Native Veg. Regs. C.C.
DELWP Heidelberg

August 13

**HEWI meeting
HL&LC 7.00pm**

August 14

**WaterWatch phys/chem. sampling
Grace Burn & Wirrup Yaluk
9.30am Wallace Pde**

August 22

**Rod Quantock
"The Last Tim Tam"
The Memo
7.30pm**

August 23

"Background Briefing" - Forests
ABC's Radio National
8.00am

August 29

Forest Tour
Toolangi to Tanglefoot

August 30

Spring into Waterwatch
Melbourne Museum
10.30am

September 2 & 4

Native fish seminar and
Field trip
Yarra River

September 07

Solar battery storage
Emerald

September 12

Off Grid Solar House/Spotlighting
Emerald -> Little River/Mount Rothwell

September 13-14

Impacts on Biodiversity
FNCV Blackburn

Community Environment News

'IMPACTS ON BIODIVERSITY DURING THE ANTHROPOCENE'

Annual Biodiversity Symposium 2015 The Field Naturalists Club of Victoria Inc. Since 2002, the FNCV has organised a symposium for the global Biodiversity month in September. Each Symposium focuses on a specific theme, drawn from a variety of local and international events and movements. In most cases the papers presented at the symposium have been subsequently collected and published as a special issue of the FNCV journal *The Victorian Naturalist*.

The 2015 two day program will cover aspects of the impacts of human activity (the Anthropocene) on biodiversity and the environment. Topics include: Climate Change, Fire strategies, Feral Animals, Myrtle Rust, Urbanisation impacts, Platypus Conservation, Impacts on Insects, Fungal Biodiversity and more! Each theme will be presented by a specialist in that field.

For more information contact Max Campbell: 0409 143 538
Registration & payment by August 25 to FNCV. (03 9877 9860)

> **Sat 12 Sept & Sun 13 Sept 9.30am - 4.30pm**
Venue: FNCV Hall, 1 Gardenia St, Blackburn

REVIEW OF NATIVE VEG PERMITTED CLEARING REGS

The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning have organised regional meetings for community consultation and others are planned for combined enviro groups. If you would like more information try: <http://www.delwp.vic.gov.au/environment-and-wildlife/biodiversity/native-vegetation-permitted-clearing-regulations-review#sthash.e5XqlsCo.dpuf>

HEWI will certainly be making a submission, so please let us know if you would like to make a contribution.

EEG'S 4TH SUCCESSFUL LEGAL CASE - YAY!

Environment East Gippsland's fourth Court case challenging the government's non-adherence to its own environment laws has been settled (17.7.15). This time it was for the owls with over 2000ha set aside for owl habitat by an agreement between EEG, DELWP and VicForests. Logging in key areas of unprotected owl habitat scheduled for clearfelling will be halted for 4 years while research is underway and 9 stands of old growth forest will be removed from the logging schedule and into protection zones.

FORESTS UPDATE:

The federal Environment Minister, Greg Hunt, has announced his Threatened Species Strategy to "halt and reverse" the decline in 20 species by 2020. Leadbeater's Possum has been selected for "Emergency Intervention" but it is not clear what this will mean on the ground. Logging is continuing in montane ash forest, against the "clear and unequivocal" advice of the Threatened Species Scientific Committee. The Victorian government is establishing an industry taskforce but results could be 18 months away. Meanwhile it is implementing the recommendations of the Leadbeater's Possum Advisory Group, which were compromised and ineffective.

To 'unpack' the meaning of Emergency Intervention, the Threatened Species Commissioner, Gregory Andrews, called a follow-up meeting with scientists, ENGOS, community representatives and officers of relevant government departments. It was made clear that the top priority is urgent habitat protection. Minister Hunt wants to see an Action Plan in place by the end of August.

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Off Grid Solar House/Spotlighting

DRREA field trip to the 'Off grid solar house' at Little River, near Lara followed by a guided nocturnal walk later at nearby Mount Rothwell Biodiversity Park where the bushland is surrounded by a feral proof fence. Cats and foxes were removed and endangered small native marsupials were reintroduced - brown bandicoots, eastern barred bandicoots, quolls, bettongs, potoroos and rock wallabies now flourish. Transport by mini bus will cost \$20.00. The nocturnal walk will cost \$35.00. Bookings : 59682824.

> **1.00 - 9.00pm from Emerald, Saturday September 12**

Listen to this! ABC's Radio National will be broadcasting a "Background Briefing" program on our forests at 8:00am on Sunday 23 August (repeated on the 25th at 9:00pm).



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