

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

News in Brief

National Tree Day

Mt Toolebewong & District Landcare
Community planting of Badger Creek,
cnr. Badger Creek Road and Blue
Gum Drive

> **Sunday July 31**
10.00 am – 12noon.

Chum Creek Landcare AGM

Presentations and discussions about
successful trapping of the Common
Myna, use of wildlife photography
in our properties, and the health of
upper Chum Creek and its adjacent
vegetation.

> **7.00pm Wednesday**
August 3 Chum Creek Primary
School

Biodynamic Course

Harmonious relationships in the
garden, bees, ants, worms. Garden
design and intention, vegetable
planting and growing, mycelium,
mosses and lichen, tree pasting for
fruit trees and preparing a cow pat.
\$290 for weekend.

> **August 6-7: 9.30am-**
4.00pm Michael Centre
37a Wellington Park Drive,
Warranwood

Waterbug Census training day

Darebin Parklands meeting room, End
of Separation St, Alphington FREE
(bookings essential). To book please
call 131 722 or email Waterwatch at
Waterwatch@melbournewater.com.au

> **Saturday 20 August,**
10.00am - 3.00pm

Pomaderris vacciniifolia, Round-leaf Pomaderris

HEWI has received two recent
enquiries about our critically
endangered plant species. The first
was for a suitable photo to display
at the forthcoming 11th Australasian
Plant Conservation Conference, 14th
- 18th November 2016 at the Royal
Botanic Gardens Victoria, Melbourne
highlighting 12 'flagship' endangered
species.

Then we had a request from BAW BAW
shire – specimen/s had been found
in Rokeby Flora and Fauna Reserve
and Steve has been in contact with
Council's Indigenous nursery re seed
collection.

Welcome to this winter edition and the aftermath of a close federal election which has resulted in the one Cabinet Minister becoming responsible for both Energy and the Environment – interesting times and yet more challenges ahead. In the meantime, there has been a plethora of controversial issues being raised by community reference groups within Council and the State Government and HEWI is most grateful to all those members who have been actively involved in these onerous processes on our behalf.

20 YEAR VISION FOR YARRA RANGES

It appears that all our combined input into Vision 2020 has been set aside – why? – and our current council believes that we need to reinvent the wheel/ return to the drawing board to produce yet another blueprint for sustainability and environmental protection within our region. There can be no doubt that the contribution of all caring individuals will be vital in responding to:

What is your vision for the future of Yarra Ranges?

How can Council and the community work together to make it happen?

This process began with "My Community" (see HEWI news June 2016) for which Council received more than 1,600 responses. From these, a draft statement will be compiled and released "to get your feedback". The next stage in the project, "The Big Picture", will see the development of a new vision statement for the future of the municipality and the identification of Council's program of services and projects across 2017-2021. An online community conversation has begun at: <https://oursay.org/yarraranges/bigpicture> or you can call in your vision via phone at 9020 4503 or email your ideas through to: theteam@oursay.org

HEWI strongly recommends attendance at one of the community conferences that have been organised and we encourage car-pooling from Healesville. (Booking essential via the website).

> **Wednesday 31 August 5:45pm for a 6:00pm start until 8:00pm Dinner provided. Coldstream Community Centre**

REVEGETATION DAY IN THE PARK

Another most delightful day with our volunteer partners, Year 3 students from Healesville Primary School, their teachers and parents and the bus load of Cummins Filtration staff from Kilsyth. A magic scene was presented along the waterway as all these folk interacted with Council's Bushland team to plant the 2,000 seedlings provided by Yarra Ranges Council each year. As well as the regular HEWI and Mt Toolebewong Landcare volunteers, it was great to welcome back Emma who had dropped Saskia off to the kinder opposite. Our bbq lunch "reward" was cooked and served by two Melbourne Water staff and the students handed out our appreciation certificates and presentations. Once again, the weather also cooperated and the rain held off until the afternoon, ensuring a good soaking for the new plants.



July 28
HEWI meeting
Healesville Living and Learning Centre
7.00pm

July 31
 National Tree day planting
 Mt Toolebewong & District Landcare
 Badger Creek

August 3
 Chum Creek Landcare
 AGM 7.00pm
 Chum Creek Primary School

August 6
WaterWatch QA/QC:
Mitcham or Manningham

August 20
Waterbug Census training day
10.00am - 3.00pm
Darebin Parklands

August 18
HEWI meeting
HL&LC
7.00pm

Special regards this month for Ian Whitford who was in intensive care for several weeks and is now recovering slowly.

YARRA RANGES LOCALISED PLANNING STATEMENT EXHIBITION DRAFT

This draft strategic document is now available and community input will again be essential if we wish to retain our unique planning controls which have been guided by the Upper Yarra Valley and Dandenong Ranges Regional Strategy Plan since 1992.

Due to a Victorian Government directive, a new localised planning statement is required and there has been a long process involving strategic planners and a Community Reference Group whose members have had extensive experience of planning issues within our region to produce the final draft. Unfortunately, Council has demonstrated a lack of respect for the CRG's integrity by passing a Motion to amend specific wording in the draft before it could be exhibited for community consultation.

You may have seen the media article by Kath Gannaway in Mountain Views Mail, July 19 edition, which refers to this amendment proposed by Cr Child so that 'support transition to sustainable forestry' now reads as if forestry practice is already sustainable! (p.13).

Our CRG representative and colleagues are deeply concerned that their long hours and commitment have been belittled by such interference before the public consultation period has even been declared. [Yarra Ranges Localised Planning Statement](#) or ask for the Exhibition copy at your Community Link. Submissions close 19th August 2016. Send to Manager Strategic Planning at mail@yarraranges.vic.gov.au or by mail to Yarra Ranges Council PO BOX 105 Lilydale 3140

POWERSHOP - the greenest Australian electricity retailer

- as ranked by Greenpeace (Green Electricity Guide 2014 & 2015) - and it is a 100 percent carbon neutral company. There are also GreenPower options if you want to take an extra step for the environment. Powershop has no investments in dirty coal plants, or any fossil fuel generators. Through their parent company Meridian Energy, Powershop own and operate two wind farms and support the Renewable Energy Target (RET), driving Australia towards a clean energy future. *Highly recommended!* (1800 462 668)

FORESTS UPDATE

A lot of work continues to be done in the background, with little to show for it, as yet.

The Premier's Forest Industry Taskforce was due to submit a Statement of Intent by the end of June but, despite many hours of intense work, it has not been completed and a scheduled hand-over meeting with the Premier has been postponed. Similarly, there has been no clear progress with the Leadbeater's Possum Recovery Plan, although the Threatened Species Commissioner, Gregory Andrews has advised that the drafting team will brief the Threatened Species Scientific Committee shortly.

Surveyors from WOTCH (Wildlife of the Central Highlands) are continuing to mark up great success in locating and recording colonies of Leadbeater's Possums, with three new sightings in the past few weeks confirming the importance of Toolangi as habitat for the species. The work of this dedicated group has contributed to the suspension of logging in at least one coupe. Long may it last!

A community committee has been nominated to manage the Toolangi Forest Discovery Centre. Once appointed by the Minister it will commence work towards re-opening the TFDC after 4 years without use.

WATERWAYS PROTECTION

Environment Vic have recently launched "Aquaprint: A community vision for water reform in Victoria" and Yarra Riverkeepers have launched "The Future of the Yarra: Proposals for the Yarra River Protection Act". HEWI is an associate of both groups and we will be submitting comments to the latter in relation to the Upper Yarra region. Any comments most welcome.

Our first Grace Burn Project annual report is being compiled and will demonstrate that we are ahead of our own projections for this first year, mainly thanks to our facilitator Karen Garth and her liaison skills with community and multiple authorities.

