

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

News in Brief

Yarra Ranges Landcare Network

A quarterly gathering to inform, share & inspire! All welcome. BYO dinner to share, Badger Creek Old School, opposite BC Primary. **7.15pm** Guest Speaker Dr Dan Harley – *The Lowland Leadbeater's Possum – a brief history, population status and current conservation efforts.* RSVP Anne by Monday 31st July – landcare@url.org.au or 0488 766 113

> **Thursday 3rd August 2017**
6:30pm - 9:30pm

Singing for Your Soul's Sake

"Warming Winter" Original songs and readings, mulled wine and supper \$15.00 Book with Catherine Nolan catherinenolan@bigpond.com

> **Friday August 11, 7.30**
Healesville Uniting Church

Fauna and Toolangi

"Are Big Cats established and breeding in Australia?" Local naturalist Bernie Mace will tackle this mystery. Cost \$2.00. Please RSVP by August 15: 0403 071 157 or faunatoolangi3777@gmail.com

> **Friday 18th August at**
Toolangi Community House at
7.30pm.

Water Is Gold

New course offered by Healesville Living and Learning Centre led by Karen Garth, ecotourism operator. Water is our most precious resource, yet few people know how it is collected and treated. Learn how, on this fascinating tour of the Winneke Water Treatment Plant at Sugarloaf Reservoir. Morning tea provided, BYO drink. Cost \$25.00 Bookings essential: HL&LC 5962 5982

> **Wednesday September 6**
10.00am – 12noon

Protecting Platypus in Healesville

A HEWI Grace Burn Project event:

5 pm Platypus Watch on the Watts River followed by light dinner

7.15 pm Presentations by Melbourne Water, Yarra Ranges Council, Healesville Sanctuary, Plastic Bags Free Healesville, Landcare groups

8.30 pm Supper

RSVPs will open in August via Melbourne Water. Please let Karen know if you are interested and she can put you on the notification list: gbfacilitator@gmail.com

> **Friday September 15th,**
Senior Citizens Hall, River St,
Healesville

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

Our practical activities will ease off this month, but the meetings and our advocacy role continue! In advance, we are excited and delighted to announce that Samantha Dunn, MLA, Member for Eastern Metropolitan Region will be Guest Speaker at our 28th AGM on November 9!! So be sure to save this evening in your busy diaries, as we are already aware of unavoidable clashes in our rich community group environment.

NATIONAL TREE DAY

'Grace Burn Reserve' - between 45 & 47 Farnham Rd, Healesville

Our Grace Burn Project facilitator, Karen Garth, has organised tree planting for this nationally recognized Tree Day and Steve Mc Gill and his MW team also have been working along the length of Grace Burn, removing Willows and weedy patches in response to issues raised by our Grace Burn Project. Morning Tea will be available and gifts have been donated to thank all planters.

BYO gloves, but no pets please. All welcome to this community activity to protect Healesville's waterway of significance

> **Sunday July 30 July, 10.00am - 12noon**

RELAXING WEEKENDS at the FOREST DISCOVERY CENTRE!

Whilst awaiting the appointment of a new management committee for the Toolangi Forest Discovery Centre, the interim committee has engaged an experienced barista supported by a home-grown Michelin Star chef to serve delicious fair-trade, organic coffee, light lunches and morning and afternoon teas to visitors to the Sculpture Trail, Yea River Walk and nearby forest. Open from Friday to Sunday initially, but a highly recommended venue to share with friends and family.

FORESTS UPDATE

It is disappointing that we are still waiting for the release by federal Environment Minister Josh Frydenberg of the revised Recovery Plan. The most recent news we have, via Senate Estimates, is that it is sitting on the desk of Geoff Richardson who hopes it will be released before April 2018, almost two years later than promised by Greg Hunt! We encourage you to contact the Environment Minister Josh Frydenberg personally and [ask him to release the final Recovery Plan](#) for the Leadbeater's Possum.

Protection of critical forest habitat from a logging industry desperate to meet contractual obligations from a rapidly diminishing resource continues to rely on intervention by members of the public. When work commenced at a coupe called **Floater**, close to the iconic Tanglefoot Carpark and Kalatha Giant Tree in Toolangi, there was a public outcry. Once again WOTCH (Wildlife of the Central Highlands), mounted a survey and discovered Leadbeater's Possum 45 metres outside the coupe. We then became aware of plans to begin logging at **South Col**, the coupe on the slopes above the Kalatha Giant Tree and one of the three coupes involved in the 2012 case in the Supreme Court, MyEnvironment –v- VicForests. Again, a survey by WOTCH confirmed the presence of Leadbeater's and the coupe has now been removed from the harvest schedule for "at least 3 months". Friends of the Earth is organizing a Walking Tour of Kings coupe at Hermitage Creek on the Black Spur at Narbethong on National tree Day, 30th July. This site is part of Toolangi State Forest and contains many old, hollow-bearing trees and a significant population of Greater Gliders, gazetted as a Threatened Species in June - http://www.melbournefoe.org.au/hermitage_creek_forest_walk_national_tree_day

A third session of the Parliamentary Inquiry into VicForests' Operations has been scheduled for the evening of Wednesday, 9th August. <https://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/eic/inquiries/article/3736> The previous two sessions on 30th May and 17th July have revealed some interesting information on contractual dealings with Heyfield Mill and others, as well as the revelation that much of the logging is conducted in a way that does not comply with legislative requirements, yet little or no enforcement action is taken except when community groups become

July 29
Waterwatch monitoring
Grace Burn 9.30am – 10.30am

July 30
National Tree Day
Reserve between 45-47 Farnham Road
10am – 12noon

August 02
Meeting with Cr McAllister
1.30pm -2.15pm

August 02
Social and Natural History of the Hawkesbury River - Lessons for the Yarra, River View Room, Grand Hotel, 7.30- 9.00pm. 110 Yarra St., Warrandyte

August 03
Meeting with DELWP – planned burns Healesville Living & Learning Centre
2.00pm -4.00/5.00pm

August 11
Singing for your soul's sake

September 06
Environmental Volunteers' Forum

September 06 & 07
Frogs of Manningham - Biology, Ecology and Citizen Science Seminar 6 Sep. 7.30 - 9pm, Warrandyte
Field trip 7 Sep. 6.30 - 8pm
Bookings essential: 03 9840 9326 or csadmin@manningham.vic.gov.au

September 14
HEWI meeting
HL&LC 7.00-9.00pm

September 15
HEWI Platypus Event
Senior Citizen's Hall
4.30pm – 7.00pm

Comment on our July newsletter:
180,000 plants put in last Friday - no wonder my back went!

Ed: *apologies for this and other typos in that edition.*

involved. One of the most disturbing facts to emerge at the Inquiry is that the population of Lowland Leadbeater's Possums at Yellingbo continues to decline – see News in Brief.

BIG EV BRAINSTORMING FORUM

This is the first environmental volunteers' forum for many months and if any HEWI member would like to attend this highly interactive networking opportunity with many other groups, please contact Maureen.

HEWI has always encouraged Council to hold these forums as non-landcare groups do not have the networking opportunities that are provided within the landcare network. But we do have a wide range of interactions with Council and understanding of various sections and their respective roles is essential.

ACTIVITY REPORTS

PLASTIC BAG FREE HEALESVILLE

This new group was launched in style on the footpath outside our co-operative IGA store on July 1 and HEWI was there to support their successful initiative. The colourful Boomerang bags will be at the IGA if you need one in a hurry and can return it later. The group has also purchased a bulk supply of large Calico bags that we can buy – only \$3.00 – for permanent use. They feature a striking Platypus design and supporting logos, one of which is HEWI's as their auspicing partner. They are available from Ria, 0402 692 053, or David 5962-1720, or from the HEWI office.

[spare a thought for our intrepid Waterwatch team who were out at 7am on that freezing cold Saturday - avoiding later car parking - to stencil our Platypus design on drains around the shopping centre].

HEALESVILLE COMMUNITY RENEWABLE ENERGY

This group has excited our township like no other, launching to a Memo-full audience at the end of June. The management committee that will evolve from registrations at this meeting will have a huge task in converting all this interest into sustainable community projects. They will need all our goodwill and continuing support towards a solar powered Healesville.

• Hancock's Daffodils Goes Solar

From the Dandenong Ranges Renewable Energy newsletter: Hancock's Daffodil farm in Menzies Creek has installed a 5-kilowatt solar system - the latest addition to our guide for local solar powered businesses. There are now 22 local businesses- see link under 'Projects' on the DRREA website.

On this side of the Yarra River we look forward to local businesses in Healesville and Yarra Glen signing up to our recently established renewable energy groups.

BEFORE THE FLOOD - Review

Leo Di Caprio hopes that we will have a sense of urgency to take action to reduce the impacts of climate change. His film certainly creates that but as I watched the film I also felt a sense of anger at the way opportunities have been lost and the challenges have become greater. The issue has been a concern since the 70's but at key points when there has been a groundswell of public interest and support, particularly with Al Gore's "Inconvenient Truth", the issue has slipped from attention because of the global financial crisis or wars. Di Caprio must be frustrated also, but he is still calling for action. The footage of the narwals calling in the Arctic or the incredible biodiversity of Sumatra's forests (elephants, rhinos, tigers, orangutans and many other incredible species) makes the viewer more determined not to lose these species and their habitats. One cannot let the planet deteriorate to the Bosch painting nightmare of Di Caprio's childhood. www.carbotax.com

What are some actions that are recommended in the movie?

1. Don't elect dumb politicians, climate change deniers or champions for the fossil fuel industry.
2. Accept carbon taxes. Australia's economy didn't collapse when one was attempted.
3. Make the change to renewable energy. (And Healesville is on the way!)
4. Change to a more vegetarian diet – or at least reduce beef consumption.
5. Reduce food waste – interestingly, a local organization Second Bite is taking produce that is not sold from supermarkets and distributing it to local charities.
6. Reduce energy consumption by turning off energy that is not being used particularly from devices that can continue to use energy when they aren't in use.

HEWI activities are supported by many partners and we were delighted to be joined by the two new groups above in the foyer of the Memo before the film showing. The audience also appreciated the 'community spirit' that they experienced from this interaction. Our September event promises yet another positive community experience.

Evelyn



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www.hewi.org.au

<http://roundleafpomaderris.org.au>