

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

News in Brief

Child Safe Standards Training

Yarra Ranges Council is becoming a Child Safe Organisation, and encourage all community and volunteer groups to do the same. This is an important information session for every group that currently hosts, or is considering hosting, working bees, planting days or festivals with schools and community groups. Following the recent Royal Commissions, find out the simple steps you need to take to ensure children's safety is at the top of your agenda, and create a collaborative process that we can all work with.

> **Wednesday 22nd August, 5pm - 7pm, Yarra Glen Memorial Hall**

Warming Winter Writers & Rhythm

Enjoy a cup of Hot Chocolate and a mug of Mulled Wine in a cosy candle lit atmosphere while listening to local musicians and writers. The night will begin with a vocal ensemble followed by a poem from David Johnston with an accompanying visual display and then two "new to Healesville" singer/songwriters. During supper prepared by talented chef Dale Prentice, Shirley Allott will be playing the harp, followed by guitar and vocals. Cost \$15.00 contact Catherine: 59621729

> **Friday August 24, 7.30pm Healesville Uniting Church**

Air Pollution Summit

Hosted by the Vic government and supported by Environmental Justice Aus. An opportunity to express community's expectations for very high air quality standards with laws and policies that improve air quality and community health outcomes. Please register interest at this [website](#)

> **27 August Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre**

Retrofitting our Suburbs with David Holmgren

Sustainability/permaculture event by Yarra Ranges Council and the author of *RetroSuburbia: the downshifters guide to a resilient future*

> **Friday 14 September, Box Hill Institute Lilydale Lakeside**

Landcare For Singles

Have fun planting, playing games and meeting new people! For more info or to register, contact the Landcare Facilitator.

> **Sunday 16th September, Coronation Park Healesville**

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July this year will be remembered for its abundance of fungi and slime moulds, well past their 'normal' optimal season of April- May. Some members enjoyed a very informative walk in Wirrawilla, led by Natalie Froud for the Toolangi Community House Fauna group. A new reference book 'The Allure of Fungi' by Alison Pouliot, publication is due September 2018. There are also many interesting photos on our facebook page.

AUGUST ACTIVITIES

Friends of Leadbeater's Possum Yellingbo Planting

(Congratulations to FLBP for their successful crowd funding for their Court case v Vic Forests.!)

Please join us at Yellingbo Nature Conservation Reserve to plant another 1,000 seedlings. Meet at the depot shed, Shield Road, Yellingbo with gloves, gumboots, water, sunhat and wet weather gear. **We need you!** Please RSVP by 3pm Thursday 9th August. so we know how many plants to prepare. RSVP Sue: 0427 055 071

> **10am Saturday 11th August Yellingbo**

Risk Warning

There have been alarming reports recently of wasp stings from gardening gloves and even folded work clothes. The wasps are hibernating in household items and outdoor gear, then warm up quickly when the clothing item is used! Karen Garth has experienced two painful stings recently and would advise all gardening clothing be maintained in sealed containers.

WARBURTON MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAILS

HEWI has arranged a meeting with the Recreation team, Yarra Ranges Council and Ecology Australia to discuss the process being followed, and ecological impact of these proposed trails, including vegetation loss, and waterways impact. We invite all members to send their comments to hewisec@bigpond.com. Or if you would like to join us for the meeting please contact our Chairman, Graeme George, 5962-5070 by August 12, 2018.

BADGER CREEK COMMUNITY HARVEST PROJECT

Fun, eco-friendly workshops for the whole family! Please save the date as below.

There will be a selection for workshops running over the course of the day costing \$5.00 each - poster attached to this email. HEWI's facilitator is organising some workshops and we are supporting this biodiversity project with an information stall.

Places are limited so please contact Healesville Living and Learning Centre on 5962 5982 for payment options. Registration is not considered complete until payment is received.

To register your interest online go to <http://eepurl.com/dBSMbT> or email communityprograms@healesvillelearningcentre.org

REPORTS

NATIONAL TREE DAY

Congratulations to Karen Garth for facilitating our second successful community planting at the "Grace Burn Reserve". This was the first project event with our new Council grant with 33 community members planting 400 seedlings to augment last year's riparian plants along the Grace Burn. Those 2017 plants are already a mini forest of young shrubs and trees. As so often happens, these latest were watered by light rain the same afternoon!

YARRA RIVER PROTECTION ACT

Last year there was an unique event in Victoria's Parliament House when Wurundjeri elders addressed the Yarra River Protection Bill in language, Wilip-gin Birrarung murrong Bill. Melbourne Water is leading the development of the Yarra Strategic Plan side by side with their own Healthy Waterways Strategy and there have been many community consultations.

AUGUST 09
HEWI meeting
HL&LC 7.00pm

AUGUST 10
Waterwatch
Phys/chem monitoring

AUGUST 11
 Planting for Leadbeater's Possum
 10am Yellingbo

AUGUST 15
 Meeting with Cr McAllister
 2.30pm

AUGUST 15
 Meeting re Bike trails
 5.00pm -7.00pm
 HL&LC

AUGUST 22
 Child Safe Standards Training
 5.00pm -7.00pm
 Yarra Glen Memorial Hall

AUGUST 24
 Writers & Rhythm, 7.30pm
 Healesville Uniting Church

AUGUST 27
 Air Pollution Summit
 Melbourne Convention and Exhibition
 Centre

SEPTEMBER 05
 Fish and crayfish of Manningham's
 creeks
 Warrandyte 7.30pm to 9.00pm

SEPTEMBER 07
Threatened Species day

SEPTEMBER 08
 Fish and crayfish Field Trip: 10.00am
 -12noon Call 9840 9124 to book

SEPTEMBER 14
Waterwatch, Grace Burn
Phys/Chem monitoring

SEPTEMBER 14
 Retrofitting our Suburbs with David
 Holmgren
 Box Hill Institute Lilydale Lakeside

SEPTEMBER 16
 Landcare For Singles
 Coronation Park Healesville

**A warm HEWI welcome to new
 member Bruce .**

However, authorities are increasingly using 'Have your say' and similar digital sites to encourage community engagement, hence the inclusion of "Engage Victoria" links in previous newsletters. Your committee continues to advocate via submissions as we have been contributing to major land and waterway issues for nearly 30 years and believe that our experience justifies more detailed responses. Comments from members are always most welcome re local impacts or observations to broaden our knowledge base and assist these submissions.

FORESTS UPDATE

Vic Forests attempted to defuse criticism of their controversial "scientific assessment" of logging recorded habitat of endangered species Greater Glider by broadly circulating some supportive statements. Conservationists have responded as below:

- Modern timber harvest methods conserve retained habitat values.

Response: *But generally, VicForests does not use modern methods. It is mostly using the same clearfell method it has used since the 1960s.*

- Native timber is a beautiful and renewable resource.

Response: *But most of VicForests' product, up to 91.7%, goes to wood chips, pulp and sawdust, not sawn timber. Less than 2% is used for beautiful "appearance grade" timber products.*

- VicForests regrows all harvested areas with the same type of forest that was already there.

Response: *No it doesn't. It reseeds only with eucalypts that were present before logging creating simplified monocultures that are very different to the complex, biodiverse forests that were clear felled.*

- Many of the coupes VicForests harvests, have been harvested before.

Response: *Which guarantees that "regenerating" forests will enter a cycle of industrial management so that they are maintained in a state of perpetual adolescence and never achieve ecological maturity, in which they would develop hollows and provide habitat for native wildlife.*

VicForests has once again failed to gain certification by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC). See article below:

<https://www.theage.com.au/politics/victoria/timber-industry-bid-to-prove-its-green-credentials-falls-flat-20180801-p4zuxv.html>

Note: HEWI will be offering spotlighting within local forests that contain Greater Gliders to youth groups this Spring. How fortunate are we! But the gliders and possums would also be fortunate if we could achieve a Great Forest National Park to protect these endangered, vulnerable mammals.

! HEALESVILLE BUSHFIRE SAFER TOGETHER **Please enter this date NOW!**

The HBST Group is organising an evening with the CSIRO's Bushfire Expert Justin Leonard. This will be a "must attend" for all of us in this region

> **Wednesday 17th October 2018, The Memo, @ 7.00pm**

*** News In Brief cont. ***

Fish and Crayfish of Manningham's Creeks

Chris Bloink will provide an outline of the species that were formerly known or suspected to occur in these waterways, together with a summary of their ecology. Call 9840 9124 or email csadmin@manningham.vic.gov.au to book. You must attend the corresponding seminar to be eligible to attend the field trip, details for which will be provided at the seminar session.

> **Wednesday 5 September 2018 7.30pm to 9.00pm**

Field Trip:

Fish and Crayfish of Manningham's Creeks

Chris will lead backpack electrofishing demonstration in a local Manningham creek. The demonstration will include a display and discussion of any fish and crayfish species captured as well as habitat and threats.

> **Saturday 8 September 2018 10.00am to 12.00am**

Chairman Graeme George recently proposed several major changes to the Open Air Burning Local Law 2018 which were adopted as amendments at the Council meeting on July 23 2018. These were regarded as reflecting the views of the rural community including orchardists for which burning of discarded trees prevents potential harbouring or transmission of disease. Apparently HEWI also received favourable comments for our persistence and community support. We are happy to accept such recognition.



ABN: 67 253 515 594 Reg. No. A0018935T

www.hewi.org.au

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