

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

News in Brief

Some pictorial memories of 2014



Waterwatch bugs with HPS



Revegetation Day 20 June '14



Walk, Watch & Wonder - Jane demonstrating the insectivorous Trigger Plant, October '14



Walk, Watch & Wonder - Malcolm demonstrating vegetation, October '14

Welcome to early summer and the prolific white flowering of many local species – there are Prickly Tea-trees and Cassinias (well, greenish-white) everywhere on my fav bush track with the superb Coranderrk towering above. Most of the grasses, Lomandra and Gahnia species are also in full flower with Fringe-lilies, Goodenias, Everlastings, Trigger Plants and Violets providing their bright colour contrast in between. Your patch may well have many more - how fortunate we are!

REVIEW OF NOVEMBER ACTIVITIES

It was certainly a crowded month of successful community engagements for which we have received many good wishes and appreciative comments. As a regional group based on the old Shire of Healesville boundaries, we were honoured to be joined by the Knitting Nannas of Toolangi and Friends of the Great Forest National Park behind the HEWI banner for the Healesville 150 Street Parade, celebrating our own 25 years of community activities. On the same day our stall in Queens Park was visited by crowds of people expressing their support for the protection of our native flora and fauna.

One week later and we were back in Queens Park with the magnificent performance art of 'Waterway Reflections', directed by Jeminah Reidy and attended by 150 people.

This was the culmination of 5 full days of workshops where volunteer artists developed their personal impressions of the Grace Burn and Wirrup Yaluk wetlands into puppets, woven bark designs, wooden carvings, living sculptures, water meditations, transparencies, flora and fauna motifs..... and so many more entrancing installations.

Comment received:

".....interpretation of the story of water and waterways and then expressed it with passion and creative flair".

We were most grateful to the Living and Learning Centre for the use of two large sheds and it was certainly a privilege to experience the creativeness and generosity of artists assisting each other, the mediative hour of music each morning and the exploration of the Story Teller for interesting and interconnecting information to weave into his narrative.

"People I spoke to during the Waterway Reflections performance were struck by the beauty and peaceful flow of the afternoon, in many ways a truly reflective journey about the park that allowed people to enter a space of enchantment & joy as pilgrims celebrating the importance of water and waterways in our lives. And of course nature itself was touched by this and applauded with thunderous claps and encores of lightning and rain to conclude the performance day".

Congratulations to all contributors to this unique experience!

See the photos on our website and fb page

THE INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURE (IUCN) WORLD PARKS CONGRESS

In the meantime, HEWI Chairman Steve Meacher was at this conference with 6,000 others from 160 countries! Australia has been a signatory to the Convention on Biological Diversity since 1992 but its legislation fails to protect biodiversity in IUCN category VI protected areas that make up the National Reserve System (<http://www.environment.gov.au/topics/land/nrs/about-nrs/protecting-biodiversity>).

Steve was invited to present an eposter on the Great Forest National Park, representing the Steering committee for the GFNP with a report on tourist opportunities for a range of tenures throughout the NP.

Steve's eposter was a great hit and picked up by Lucien, the company engaged to run the eposter displays, as a prime example! (All available on the Congress website - <http://wpc2014.digitalposter.com.au/>).

WATERWAY REFLECTIONS



Bunjil's nest surrounded by the crowd!



Dragonfly sculpture



Pixies and Waterplay



Sound Waves



Suspended water jars



Acorn Boy Tree

MAROONDAH RESERVOIR PARK: The Creation of a Monumental Landscape

This research paper was written by Lee Andrews, a heritage consultant specialising in designed landscapes. HEWI has received this notification from the Public Record Office Victoria – no doubt due to our recent 'Walk, Watch and Wonder' event. Although many of us may not be so interested in the exotic plants, the historic photos included are fascinating.

<http://prov.vic.gov.au/publications/provenance/provenance2014/maroonдах-reservoir-park>

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AUSTRALIA

Envirojustice have launched an appeal to "use the law to reduce emissions and force the shift from dirty fossil fuels to clean energy". They already have a landmark "Unburnable Carbon" case against the Commonwealth Bank to force those who finance fossil fuels to now accept that vested interests and reluctant governments must accept the harmful impact of gambling Australia's economic future on coal.

PLEASE DONATE TO EJA RIGHT NOW. (<https://envirojustice.org.au/nocoal>)

HEWI's DEBT OF GRATITUDE

We try to acknowledge all our partners, sponsors and supporters during the year but in case we have missed anyone – a grand thank you to all volunteers out there. Every event and submission is the sum of many contributions and the experience gained from our 25 years of consultation and cooperation.

One individual recognition is for Susi Sheaffe who was the first teacher to offer the assistance of her students at Healesville Primary School for our revegetation project. Susi's enthusiasm was infectious and we have since been joined by a whole year level of students from HPS - which has incorporated the HEWI community planting day into the school curriculum! We wish you a very happy - and no doubt eventful! - transition into retirement Susi.

With special thanks to our hosts at the Healesville Living and Learning Centre, our annual sponsors Melbourne Water and their local reps, Yarra Ranges Council staff for their courteous and practical support and Cummins Filtration staff for their ongoing commitment. We are deeply indebted to Adrian Jeffs for organising our website and to his partner Coral who organises these newsletters every month.

The HEWI committee sends heaps of thanks to all members and friends for your support and goodwill. Enjoy a serene – but stimulating! - holiday season as we prepare for the creation of our GREAT FOREST NATIONAL PARK in 2015.



Tree hollow in Queens Park artistically transformed for the *Waterway Reflections*



Ibis



Gallery Walk



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<http://roundleafpomaderris.org.au>