

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

*Season's Greetings and deep appreciation to all our members, friends, and partners for your support and environmental commitment throughout this year.*

Our warmest welcome to recent new members, Christopher, who is also new to Healesville, and members of the House family. Ron House was an inaugural member of HEW (we became HEWI after incorporation) and worked tirelessly for the protection of the Watts River, Donnelly's Creek and the Grace Burn. His family have continued his environmental commitment, including many save-our-forests rallies.

Ron's daughter Rosie has been teaching at Healesville Primary School for many years and worked closely with us for the Year 4 waterbugs and our annual plantings with Year 3 students. Her mother, Pat, assisted all day at our June planting this year and then refused to be driven home, preferring to walk! (a mere 86 years young!). The HEWI committee is delighted to have Rosie, Tim, Pat and Linda as our newest members.



**March 2017 Year 4 HPS students waterbugs**



**June 2017 Annual planting along Wirrup Yaluk**

We are also grateful to all members who renewed their memberships at the November AGM, a report of which will be attached with this newsletter. It includes a list of our many members and friends who contribute so much to our activities and advocacy "behind the scenes". Apologies for any omissions – please let Maureen know!

The new HEWI committee for 2018, includes new and returning members, increasing our number from 5 to 8. This reflects our increasing commitments and partnerships and hopefully slightly less pressure on individuals, most of whom have given HEWI the stability for which we are highly regarded. Following some years of chairperson rotation (officially regarded as essential skill sharing!), Graeme George is our new Chairman – a role that he also held from 2001-2.



**AGM , Samantha Dunn, MP and friends**



**HEWI Library display June 2017**

Special greetings to Aline Scott-Maxwell, a long- time member now joining the committee and Karen Garth, another inaugural HEW member, who joins the committee as facilitator of our Yarra Ranges Council partnership project; *Sustainable Healesville Environment Watch activities supporting healthy and vibrant habitation in Healesville*, (this title was quickly abbreviated to **Grace Burn Project**). Karen has facilitated this project by engaging residents whose properties abut the Grace Burn to join Melbourne Water's Stream Frontage Management Plans. Her success has been quite amazing, with both the RSL and Maroondah Retirement Village joining with many Farnham Road residents in revegetation along hundreds of metres along the bank of the Grace Burn.



**July 2017 National Tree Day volunteers on Grace Burn**



**September 2017 Platypus survey event**

There will also be receipts arriving for the renewals that were confirmed at the GLADE (Gruyere, Lilydale and District Environment) annual reunion at Lilydale Lake, always a most enjoyable opportunity to network when the Martins return from their new environmental advocacy base at Mallacouta.

*Thanks everyone!*

*Finally, most appreciative thanks to Evelyn, Bronwyn, Lou, Steve and Maureen for continuing their long dedication to all HEWI's responsibilities and practical events. All of us have family, and most have work commitments, so there are inevitable pressures on us all – but as a group, we have survived another year, YAY!*

*Enjoy the coming holidays and return refreshed for all your interests in 2018.*



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