

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

## News in Brief

### Forest Discovery Centre Toolangi

DELWP is investigating possible uses for this community building so have called a public meeting.

> **7.00pm Feb. 1 CJ Dennis Hall**

### A Bit of Colour in a Grey Landscape – Butterflies in the Urban Matrix

How many butterfly species use urban environs and what do we know about these species? What resources are they using to maintain their populations and how beneficial are wildlife gardens for butterflies? Jesse Kurylo will present her PhD research.

> **7.30pm Wednesday February 3 Grand Hotel, Warrandyte (upstairs)**

### FIELD TRIP: The Great 2016 Butterfly Frolic

Jesse Kurylo will demonstrate some of her field research techniques in butterfly habitat identification, and monitoring methods. (date may be changed if the weather is not favourable for butterfly flight).

> **10.00 am – 12 noon Thursday February 4**

### The Economics of Solar Power and the Pros and Cons of different Battery Technologies

Presented by Ian Conibeer for the Dandenong Ranges Renewable Energy Association. There will be a question session on saving money with solar power and one on different battery technologies.

> **7.30pm Wednesday February 3 Mooroolbark Community Centre**

### 'Renewables, not fossil fuels'.

Friends Of the Earth sponsored demonstration on the steps of Parliament House

> **Tuesday February 9**

### Invertebrates in Leaf Litter

Maxwell Campbell focuses on the myriad of small invertebrates that live in leaf litter and the importance of this habitat in the ecosystem. These Cryptozoa constitute a major part of biodiversity and occur in numbers beyond census.

> **7.30pm Wednesday March 2 Grand Hotel, Warrandyte (upstairs)**

*Welcome to another year of advocacy and events which promise to be as challenging and stimulating as ever. Renewed vitality and strengthened resilience will set our pace in 2016!*

## ENVIRONMENTAL COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT FORUM

Yarra Ranges Council wish to invite you to the Environmental Volunteers Celebration Event 2016.

> **Sunday February 28, 4.00pm to 7.00pm**

Burrinja Cultural Centre Café  
Cnr Glenfern Rd & Matson Drv, Upwey  
Comedian Rod Quantock to perform Canapes and drinks supplied

To register please [click here](http://www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/Lists/Events/Environmental-Volunteer-Celebration-2016)  
(<http://www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/Lists/Events/Environmental-Volunteer-Celebration-2016>)

Please book early for this event which will combine valuable networking opportunities with terrific entertainment organised for us by Sarah Fowler, our Parks and Bushland liaison officer. If you would prefer to join a HEWI group booking please let me know by Sunday February 14.

## DRAFT HEALESVILLE STRUCTURE PLAN

*- Your Input is Critical to the Future of this Region*

This draft Healesville Structure Plan was released for public comment in December 2015. A Structure Plan is a critical document which determines future land-use policy for specific regions. It includes housing, transport, environmental protection, economic development and community services and so it is important for us all to register our interest and priorities in determining the future of Healesville. The development of the Structure Plan has involved two years of public meetings, local community surveys and a community reference group or steering committee. (HEWI was represented on this committee by Jeanette McRae). Studies on land use planning, economics, environment, transport/ parking and community infrastructure were prepared and contain valuable background information about Healesville. The draft makes some very positive strategic recommendations such as containing retail development in the town centre, improving cycling and pedestrian networks and increased environmental protection of riparian areas. There are also rezoning proposals for both inside and outside the Urban Growth Boundary which are of vital importance to the whole community. However, this Structure Plan will provide a template for the next 20 years and so it warrants a detailed by community members.

Council has endorsed six weeks of public consultation, commencing 1 Feb. 2016 and the document can be downloaded from Council's website, under Planning. A council planner will be available at the Community Link on Wednesday February 17, 10 am - 4 pm to assist residents and discuss the structure plan. There will also be a drop in meeting that evening. Although HEWI will make a formal submission, individual submissions are encouraged to ensure wide representation of your support and/or concerns.

> **Wednesday February 17 5.00 – 8.00 pm Community Link Healesville**

**Submissions close 15 March 2016.**

## GRACE BURN PROJECT

There are brochures available at the Healesville community link in the HEWI holder outlining the details for this 3 year project which has achieved most successful results over the first 6 months. We are indebted to our facilitator Karen Garth; her friendly approach and perseverance has encouraged 15 residents to sign stream frontage management plans with Melbourne Water – 25% of the total number of properties adjoining the Grace Burn.

**January 21**  
**HEWI meeting**  
**HL&LC**  
**7.00pm**

**January 27**  
 DELWP Fire Ecology workshop #3  
 6.30pm

**February 01**  
 Toolangi Discovery Centre meeting  
 CJ Dennis Hall  
 7.00pm

**February 12-14**  
 Sustainable Living Festival  
 Federation Square

**February 18**  
**HEWI meeting**  
**HL&LC**  
**7.00pm**

**February 28**  
 Environmental Volunteers Event  
 Burrinja, Upwey  
 4.00 – 7.00pm

**March 6**  
 Clean up Australia Day  
 Grace Burn reserve  
 10am – 12noon

**March 17**  
**HEWI meeting**  
**HL&LC**  
**7.00pm**

**March 19**  
**Autumnfest**  
**Coronation Park**  
**(HEWI stall)**

**April 03**  
 Friends of Leadbeater's  
 Possum  
 Cambarville

We are also delighted to learn that Healesville RSL has committed to the same SFMP which will enhance the lower reaches considerably. Our associated activities will include a Clean-up day at Silverleaf Reserve (March 07), monthly monitoring, waterbugs ID and the annual planting in June. New volunteers most welcome!

*Adventurous Platypus! Members of the Chum Creek survey were told of a wandering Platypus which had been discovered in their garden, carefully replaced back in the creek but later discovered back in the same garden!*

### SUSTAINABILITY FESTIVAL - Federation Square

**Friday, Feb 12 6.30pm**

The annual Great Debate in the race to achieve 100% clean energy. From \$25.00 **The Greenhouse, Birrarung Marr.**

### February 12 – 14

The presentation by our combined community groups promoting the establishment of our Great Forest National Park has become a focus for this festival and will feature several displays with associated talks throughout the weekend. Speakers will include Professor David Llandemayer and Steve Meacher will be presenting "The Possum and The Park" under the Gum Tree on Birrarung Marr on the Friday afternoon.

### FORESTS UPDATE

**1. Murrindindi Council Motion** passed on October 28, 2015

*That Council:*

- i. Request MyForests Inc. to further their plans for the development of the Great Forest National Park
- ii. Request meetings with the relevant State Government Ministers re progress on the GFNP
- iii. Propose discussions with Yarra Ranges Council on the GFNP.

### 2. Friends of Leadbeater's Possum:

The emergency intervening planning group has looked at a new Recovery Plan for LBP. The new draft must be ready by the end of January to allow the required 3 months community consultation so that the Recovery Plan will be ready by the middle of 2016 as stipulated by the Minister. Submissions are encouraged – check the FLBP website early Feb.

### 3. Forest industry Task force

There has only been one meeting and no chair has been appointed. Coupe deferral meetings have continued and there has been some agreement on 6 coupes but others were refused and/or deferred. The agreement to meet in early January was reneged as VF resources were diverted to actions taking place in East Gippsland.

### 4. KNOT demonstration in Healesville

Another striking display of their colourful banners at the Healesville gateway last weekend, to highlight the increasing number of loaded logging trucks driving through our town.

*Many thanks for the early bird memberships – the 2016 renewal form was attached with the January 'letter' and please note that subscriptions for multiple years are most welcome! Your continuing support is vital to our active involvement within this region. All comments, suggestions and your assistance when possible are highly valued. Please contact Maureen if you would like more information on any of the above events.*



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[www.hewi.org.au](http://www.hewi.org.au)

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