



HEALESVILLE * CHUM CREEK * YARRA GLEN * BADGER CREEK * STEELS CREEK * TARRAWARRA * TOOLANGI

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

News In Brief

NEWS in Brief

Understanding Rakali - Australia's "Otter" [\(link\)](#)

Geoff Williams from the Australian Platypus Conservancy will outline the biology and key conservation requirements of this fascinating native mammal and provide tips on how to spot it in local waterways.

*** Wed. 3 July 2019, 7.30pm**

NOTE: Seminar attendance essential to attend field trip. River View Room, The Grand Hotel, 110 Yarra Street, Warrandyte Bookings: 9840 9122 or email csadmin@manningham.vic.gov.au

Field Trip: Learn to spot and survey Platypus and Rakali [\(link\)](#)

Join Geoff on a field trip to learn how to look for rakali and platypus in the wild and help track how these species are faring in the Yarra River and other Manningham waterways.

*** Sun. 14 July 2019, 3pm - 5pm**

Platypus Talk

Geoff Williams, Director of the Australian Platypus Conservancy has been studying platypus and water-rats since 1994. An important new study is now being launched to monitor platypus in the Upper Yarra River and other waterways within the Yarra Ranges region. There will be an optional platypus spotting tour included the following morning.

*** Thurs. 4th July, 7pm - 8.30pm**
Mechanics Hall, Warburton

Register: <https://www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/Lists/Events/Platypus-Talk>

NiB continued on page 2..

HEWI was delighted to receive a much-appreciated surprise donation of \$250.00 from the Writers and Rhythm evening, May 31, which will certainly assist our budget for activities as well as increasing our sustainability record as required by Council for our community grants! Thanks Catherine, David and all your W&R artists!

Following our very active June, Facilitator Karen Garth has organised our next two events. We are incredibly fortunate to have such an experienced spotlights for these popular night surveys.

JULY - SEPTEMBER ACTIVITIES

NATIONAL TREE DAY PLANTING

"Australia's biggest community tree-planting and nature care event"

Come along to our third community planting event on this council reserve. BYO gloves, a change of footwear recommended. Morning Tea provided. Please RSVP to Karen for catering: 5962 5115 gbfacilitator@gmail.com

*** Sunday July 28, between 45-47 Farnham Rd, Healesville, 10am -12noon**

SPOTLIGHT WALK AT DONNELLY'S WEIR

Explore this lovely park, which is home to Greater Gliders, Powerful Owls and Yellow-bellied Gliders with a professional spotlights. HEWI members \$15, non-members \$20 (Adults and Children). BYO torch. Bookings essential to Karen: 5962 5115 or gbfacilitator@gmail.com as numbers are limited.

*** Saturday 3 August, 7.00 - 9.00 pm**

SOLAR HOT WATER and HEAT PUMPS

Healesville Community Renewable Energy

Learn about the many and varied technology options to save you money on heating your hot water! What system will best suit your needs and budget. Retro fitting existing systems, flat panels, evacuated tubes, heat pumps, storage tanks, and back up systems. You will learn about how your hot water tank can act like a battery to store your solar electricity and how you can cover the capital costs through savings on your energy bill.

*** July 27, Darron Honey Centre 10.30am - 12.30pm**

LIVING with FIRE FORUM

ADVANCE NOTICE

The Healesville Community Bushfire Group is planning the next public forum on bushfire planning, following on from last year's successful event with Justin Lennard. This year Owen Gooding and Andrew Laidlaw will be presenting on bushfire-safe garden design with a Q&A session to follow.

There will be a light meal served prior to the presentations and opportunities for relevant community groups and the local nurseries to have stalls and displays in the foyer. We're hoping to get the CFA Landscaping booklet reprinted for this event.

*** Wednesday 11th September, Memo, Healesville**

Note: this community bushfire group would welcome new members. Contact Kathy Overton (DELWP): kathy.overton@delwp.vic.gov.au for details.

JULY

- 03 Understanding Rakali Warrandyte
- 04 Platypus Talk Warburton
- 7-14 **Naidoc Week**
Voice, Treaty, Truth
- 11 **HEWI meeting**
HL&LC 7.00 – 9.00pm
- 12 **WATER WATCH**
monitoring Grace Burn sites
9.30am -11.30am
- 14 Rakali and Platypus survey
Yarra River,
Manningham
- 17 **HEWI meeting with Cr McAllister**
- 19 **HEWI meeting with Tammi Rose**
CEO, YR council
- 21 Fungi discovery
Field Nats Club
Fernshaw/ Dom Dom
- 28 National Tree Day**
10am – 12 pm,
45-47 Farnham Road

AUGUST:

- 03 **Spotlighting at Donnelly's Weir**
7.00 – 9.00pm
- 08 **HEWI meeting**
HL&LC 7.00- 9.00pm
- 23 **WW phys/chem**
Grace Burn

NEWS in Brief cont..**Fungi Group -- Field Naturalist's Club**

Foray: *Dom Dom Saddle, Yarra Ranges National Park. Meet at Fernshaw car park, Maroondah Highway, 10km south of Narbethong.*

***Sunday July 21, 10:30am**

Contact: Carol Page 9857 6388
cpage356@gmail.com

HEWI'S 30 YEARS CELEBRATION EVENT – Sunday October 20 2019
Your committee was most excited to receive a 'community small grant' of \$1,000 from Yarra Ranges Council to support this landmark event. Please Keep This Day FREE!!

REPORTS:**Annual Community Planting June 21 Heal Country, heal ourselves.**

Uncle Dave Wandin Welcomed us all to Wurundjeri Country and thanked the students for following in aboriginal tradition by their caring role in planting a protective buffer for our waterways in which the Platypus, fish and macro-invertebrates breed.

The wet and soggy conditions were compensated by an early bbq lunch (thanks Steve!) followed by a special presentation for their 20 continuous years of planting to Healesville Primary School students from Katie Drummond, Melbourne Water's Healthy Rivers rep.

HEWI was most grateful to the Cummins Filtration and Council staff who returned to the boggy site and finished all the planting, with stakes and bags along the footpath edge.

Friends of LbP v Vic Forests - Federal Court Hearing, June 3- 20, 2019

In this case before Justice Debra Mortimer, FLbP's legal team was ably led in Court by Jim Delany QC with Julia Watson and Tanya Skvortsova, instructed by Danya Jacobs and Emily Giblin from Environmental Justice Australia (EJA). The first two days were taken up with opening statements on behalf of the parties, laying out the arguments to come. This was followed by evidence from several witnesses, whose affidavits and reports were already before the Judge. Steve Mueck (BIOSIS), Dr Andrew Smith and Professor John Woinarski appeared for FLbP. VicForests' witnesses were Mr William Paul, Dr Stuart Davey and Professor Patrick Baker. One morning was occupied with arguments relating to parts of FLbP's case (Tendency Evidence) to which VicForests had objected. Ms Skvortsova represented us for this part of the case and the morning ended with a ruling from Justice Mortimer, "that the three 2019 affidavits are admissible and VicForests' objection is overruled." That was a significant win, early in the case! An important part of the case was the "View", in which the Judge was taken on a tour of the forest to see many of the coupes in the case. During the tour the judge saw a range of forest types, including habitat agreed by the experts to be "as good as it gets", coupes scheduled to be logged as well as several coupes already logged. The hearing ended with brief oral closing statements, clarification of some issues after which the Judge made orders for written Closing Submissions to be filed by 2 August and Submissions in Reply by 30 August. So the case is not finished yet and there is still much work to do!

* FLbP notes the critical role that WOTCH played in providing survey data, including photos and video, that enabled us to mount this case.

A few days after the hearing ended, Environment Minister Sussan Ley announced that Victoria's faunal emblem keeps its critically endangered status. Bring on the Recovery Plan! S. Meacher

Yarra Ranges Environmental Advisory Committee

Motion at the YREAC meeting June 28:

That YREAC requests the Yarra Ranges Council to consider and to sign up to the Climate Emergency Declaration." Passed unanimously.

- "this will be the very exciting first step in a long process for YREAC to focus on the ACTIONS required at a policy level". *J.Barlow*

Healthy Waterways Strategy

The **Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Improvement Framework will be released at end of June for consultation** and will be found on the [Yoursay website](#). This is a first and will be a key mechanism to make sure we are on track, enabling us to adapt, be effective and report on how we are going with the co-delivery of the. The draft framework will be opened for comments until **28 July**.

Our thanks to Karen and Aline for finalising our Year 1/4 YRC grant report, which covers most HEWI events and all facilitated activities. Also to Coral for her monthly formatting of this newsletter – thanks!

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Years



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www.hewi.org.au

<https://www.facebook.com/hewinews/>

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