



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

Ecological costs and benefits of stormwater wetlands

Ecologist Dr. Rob Hale will present the results of a four-year investigation into how urban stormwater treatment wetlands perform as habitats for aquatic animals.

★ *Wednesday 4 September 2019, 7.30pm*

The Grand, Warrandyte

Local Snakes and Spiders

Free talk by Black Snake Productions on:

- Safety awareness and preventative measures
- First aid treatment of bites
- Emergency response procedures
- Identification and behaviour
- Identifying habitat

There will be live snakes and spiders at this event, suitable for adults and children.

Registration essential. [Register Now](#)

★ *Saturday 7th September 10am-12pm*

Senior Citizens Centre 7 Hardy St, Lilydale

Recreation and Open Space Strategy

(ROSS). Yarra Ranges Council is currently developing a new strategy to provide:

- A healthier, more active and engaged community
- An open space network that sets Yarra Ranges apart, entices residents to settle and raise families, and supports universal access to physical activity, nature and the environment.

They are interested in hearing from as many local residents and community members as possible through a survey: [Live.Move.Yarra.Ranges](#) HEWI has assisted in saving large and small reserves and is currently assisting a local community group to save land that had been threatened for sale as a residential site. There would be several such sites in our region, so use this opportunity to express your preferences for more green space or maybe community gardens.

Climate Change has always been the top priority for HEWI advocacy and community activities, but our commitment has become less obvious as we are faced with a wide range of local issues and increasing demands for engagement with agencies. We fully support the current proposal to Yarra Ranges Council to declare a "Climate Emergency" with all the supporting structures that this will require.

"LIVING with FIRE" COMMUNITY FORUM FREE EVENT **'Landscaping for Bushfire'**

This 2nd annual event has been organised by the Healesville Community Bushfire Group following our very successful forum last October. The focus this year will be on the practical level of choosing the least flammable plants for our gardens, with landscaping suggestions from a highly acclaimed landscape designer.

Council has donated free tubestock and the panel will discuss a wide selection of plants provided by the Healesville Garden Supplies. There will be several information stalls in the foyer, with finger food available from 6.30pm for a prompt 7.00pm start in the theatre.

We can promise you a very practical and useful evening with a Q&A opportunity with Owen Gooding, CFA, Andrew Laidlaw and Graeme George re concerns for our fire prone region.

RSVP: [eventbrite link](#)

★ *Wednesday September 11, 2019 7.00-9.00pm Memo, Healesville*

CELEBRATING 30 YEARS of COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES and ADVOCACY

HEWI members have already received their personal invitation to this event and thanks to those who have already responded. We have sent personal invitations to all Councillors and have been assured that Cr Mc Allister will certainly call in for one of the sessions. There will be a general invitation to all our friends attached with this newsletter as we are looking forward to sharing our celebration with many of the recipients from other groups and interests.

Our keynote speaker, James Goldie is a research scientist within the Monash Research Climate Change Hub. One section of this team have been running a series of climate facts in the Lilydale Leader as a trial project of community engagement, having contacted HEWI and other environment groups in their planning stages for local background.

There will be birthday cake at morning tea and finger food for lunch from our local organic caterer Susanna Luebers. We would appreciate early responses to the attached Invitation as seating is limited. Simply email reply with number of guests.

★ *Sunday October 20, 10-15am – 2.30pm, Nan Francis Room, Memo*

We gratefully acknowledge supporting grants from Yarra Ranges Council and Healesville Community Bank for this opportunity to relax and enjoy a few hours together.

SEPTEMBER:

Petyan: Wurundjeri Season of wildflowers

- 2-30 HEWI Display
Healesville Community Bank
- 04 Stormwater Wetlands Warrandyte Seminar
- 07 Threatened Species Day
Death of last Thylacine (or Tasmanian tiger, *Thylacinus cynocephalus*) in 1936
- 11 LIVING with FIRE forum
7.00-9.00pm
Memo, Healesville
- 12 HEWI meeting
7.00pm – 9.00pm
Room 1, HL&LC
- 18 Meeting with Cr Mc Allister

Healesville Community Link
- 20 WW phys/chem monitoring
Grace Burn, Queens Park
- 27 Public holiday
- 30 UN World Rivers day
- School holidays 21 September – 6 October

OCTOBER:

- 04 WW phys/chem
- 10 HEWI meeting
7.00- 9.00pm
Room 1, HL&LC
- 18 Spring invertebrate Identification
10am – 12noon
Room 2, HL&LC
- 20 HEWI's 30th birthday forum
10.15am – 2.30pm
Nan Francis Room,
Memo

REPORTS:**Facilitated Events:**

Our facilitator, Karen Garth, funded by a Council grant, organises community events for all ages – six in the last month!

National Tree Day

This highly successful morning activity with participants from across the region lead to another 800 riparian seedlings protecting the Grace Burn frontage within the Farnham Road reserve. Her report included that “new landcare memberships were an unexpected bonus from this project.”

The remaining 200 tubestock were later planted by Year 9 Healesville High School students as part of their “Support Conservation Projects” program.

Other students from this program also weeded and removed stakes and bags from the advanced Grace Burn plantings within RSL grounds.

Spotlighting at Donnelly's Weir

Another enjoyable evening walk, sighting Greater Glider and Ringtail Possums with frog and bird calls identified by Karen. Who also demonstrated the distinctive markings made by Yellow-bellied Possums on a large Manna Gum.

Karen and Jan also lead spotlighting walks for the Guides and Scouts that increase their awareness and help towards environmental badges.

YARRA RANGES ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Warburton Mountain Bike Trail remains a major on-going issue and YREAC recently provided evidence which reveals an even greater impact on the pristine areas of Donna Buang if trails were developed there. It was also noted that there is already a “1K Drop” at Lake Mountain, a relatively near-by area with established facilities. Dr Melanie Birtchnell, a YREAC ecologist, presented this personal, evocative video:

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?feature=share&v=-MhdvklIE50>

Another approved YREAC Motion was the Declaration of Climate Emergency to be placed before Council, possibly in the September 10 agenda.

YARRA COTTAGE

The owners of this Trust for Nature covenanted property were most grateful to us for the many visitors they received on their Open day! Their ‘cottage’ is a split-level mudbrick home with huge windows and a stunning view across riparian bushland, billabongs and 600m of Yarra River frontage. Please encourage your wealthy friends to consider acquiring this unique property, the current owners will make them most welcome! <https://www.trustfornature.org.au/properties/yarra-cottage>

MEETINGS with Cr McAllister, Ryrie Ward

HEWI is most fortunate to have been allocated a monthly meeting with Fiona and our agenda is always full. However, if you have a local concern where you live and wish our committee to cover it, then please let me know. Sometimes rumours circulate without factual substance and our meetings can highlight these apparent issues of which Fiona may well be unaware. However, they have always been followed up and we have been kept informed of any actions required.

September is such a joyous month with so many bird species returning and all of them courting and nesting, with insects, frogs and flowers in abundance after so much rain. Enjoy!



Years

Yarra
Ranges
Council

 **Melbourne
Water**

www.hewi.org.au

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