



HEALESVILLE \* CHUMCREEK \* YARRAGLEN \* BADGERCREEK \* STEELSCREEK \* TARRAWARRA \* TOOLANGI

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

### **OAM recipients** *News in Brief*

Congratulations to  
HEWI member

Margaret Blair on this wholly deserved award for her staunch support for basic human values within a highly valued natural environment. Margaret and Andrew have been long supporters of HEWI, including our campaigns to save our dwindling Mountain Ash forests. We thank them both.

HEWI Congratulations to Bill Incoll who was also awarded Yarra Ranges Council's Environmental Achiever of the Year for his massive contribution to his local environment and especially for his dedicated research and persistence to find a solution to the rampant spread of Wandering Trad.

### **Friends of Fauna and Toolangi**

Quite a few people locally and afar have expressed interest in Trust For Nature so we are hosting a special evening covering Trust for Nature and Fauna Emblems. Our speakers on the evening are Ben Cullen: Regional Manager for Port Phillip and Westernport region and Andrew Kuhlmann: Conservation officer for South Central region. RSVP by Wednesday February 26 essential : [faunatoolangi3777@gmail.com](mailto:faunatoolangi3777@gmail.com) or 0403 071 157. Gold coin donation

➤ 7.30pm Friday 28th Feb 2020.  
Toolangi District Community House

### **Disability Awareness Training**

This is a fun, engaging session organised by Council's environment liaison team to help groups to connect with and welcome volunteers with physical and/or intellectual disabilities. We strongly encourage you to attend this training as we will be joined afterwards by the Eco Action Group from Interchange Outer East who are all really keen to learn more about conservation - a wonderful opportunity for you to mentor potential volunteers. [Please register here for the Disability Awareness Training.](#)

➤ Saturday 8th February Contact

Jen:

[j.ellison@yarraranges.vic.gov.au](mailto:j.ellison@yarraranges.vic.gov.au)

*This year has already evolved into some very active conservation efforts and once again, HEWI must alert you all to our desperate need for new volunteers to join our committee to ensure maximum representation on all issues of concern. We are applying for a new computer to assist a new secretary, with office facilities and equipment at Healesville Living and Learning Centre. Free courses are also available, see the program attached. Please contact Maureen if you would be interested to join our friendly, helpful committee.*

### **ACTIVITIES AHEAD**

#### **CLEAN UP DAY MARCH 1**

This year Karen has organised an interesting event at a new location for HEWI.

We will be collecting litter at Everard Park along the Yarra River with a guided walk by Council's Bushland Officer Steve Brunt. Steve and his staff have rehabilitated the bushland within Everard Park and he will provide a very interesting ecological history of this beautiful reserve.

HEWI is also planning some revegetation of this site on National Tree Day in July.

Morning tea and registration from 10am and the walk will start promptly at 10.30am.

➤ 10.30 - 11.30am Everard Park clean up and guided walk

#### **ROTARY DOGS' DAY OUT**

HEWI facilitator Karen Garth will have an information stall at this event and would love to meet any members or friends who will be attending.

➤ Coronation Park, 11am – 3.00pm

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL VOLUNTEERS CELEBRATION**

Annual event organised by Council's environment and sustainability team to thank all volunteers within the Yarra Ranges. One for the diary, more details coming!

➤ Sunday 15th March 2pm – 5pm Brolga Room, Healesville Sanctuary

### **FORESTS and ENDANGERED SPECIES**

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AUSTRALIA v VIC FORESTS**

EJA lawyers were back in court last week representing the Wildlife of the Central Highlands (WOTCH) in the Supreme Court for a case against VicForests to stop the state-owned agency from logging areas of unburnt habitat for threatened species following the catastrophic summer bushfires. Logging has continued in Victoria despite bushfires destroying almost 6 million hectares of forest and killing an estimated 1 billion animals nationally. An interim injunction has been won, we're next in court on 18 February.

**FEBRUARY**

- 07 Black Saturday  
Memorial Date:  
11<sup>th</sup> year
- 1-29 Sustainable Living  
Festival
- 13 HEWI meeting  
HL&LC Rm1  
7.00-9.00pm
- 14-15 National Climate Emergency  
Summit  
Melbourne Town Hall  
9.00am – 5.00pm
- 19 Meeting with Cr McAllister  
2.30-3.15pm  
H'ville Community Link
- 19 Healesville Community  
Bushfire Group  
6.30pm

**MARCH**

- 01 Clean Up Australia Day  
Everard Park  
10.30-11.30am
- 09 Public Holiday
- 12 HEWI meeting
- 15 Rotary Dogs day Out,  
Coronation Park  
HEWI stall 11am – 3.00pm
- 18 Meeting with Cr McAllister
- 20 Year 4 HPS waterbugs  
Grace Burn, Queens Park  
9.30am – 11.15am
- 21 Family Waterbugs Workshop  
HL&LC 10.00am – 12noon

\*\*\*

**Vale Jean Church**

*Jean and Rae Church were specialised Guides at Healesville Sanctuary and continued to assist new recruits with their knowledge and long experience. Rae offered to be our volunteer driver when our activities required the Rotary bus, which he organised for free. Jean will be sadly missed by our community and for her hours of voluntary work.*

If our governments don't act urgently, what we stand to lose is unimaginable. It's not too late to turn this around, we need to protect what's left. Send an email to Federal Environment Minister, Sussan Ley, now and urge her to implement stronger laws and recovery plans to bring our wildlife back from the brink. "

[With your support](https://chuffed.org/project/forests-fighting-fund) we can use the full power of the law to stand up for our threatened species and the places we love. <https://chuffed.org/project/forests-fighting-fund>

**NEW LOGGING COUPES NEAR WARBURTON**

The recently approved December 2019 TRP (Timber Release Plan) contains additional coupes in the Warburton/Big Pats Creek area, with one of these coupes scheduled for harvesting as early as February 2020. For more information on local meetings, contact The Yarra Valley Community for Climate Action [syvclimateaction@gmail.com](mailto:syvclimateaction@gmail.com)

**HELMETED HONEYEATER RELEASE**

Zoos Victoria has conducted careful gene pool mixing of the Helmeted Honeyeater with its closest relative the Yellow-tufted Honeyeater. The decision to increase gene pool diversity through creating out-crossed birds should enhance resilience in wild birds going forward. August-September 2019 marks a significant milestone for the critically endangered Helmeted Honeyeater, because 13 Helmeted Honeyeaters were released into the Yellingbo Nature Conservation Reserve.

The *Parks and Crown Land Legislation Amendment Bill 2019* was debated in the Legislative Assembly of Parliament in late November 2019. The Bill includes the creation of the first phase of the Yellingbo Conservation Area as a landscape conservation area, the first of its kind under the *National Parks Act 1975*. The Bill includes Haining Farm, Wright Forest Bushland Area, Coranderrk Bushland, Warramate Hills, Yellingbo, Sheep Station Creek, Hoddles Creek and Beenak Nature Conservation Areas. The remaining areas are expected to be included in subsequent Bills. The Bill will now be debated in the Legislative Council in early 2020. This is a vital step in the establishment of the Yellingbo Conservation Area and being the first of its kind, this is certainly an exciting time for the project.

**YELLINGBO CONSERVATION AREA 10 YEAR PLAN**

During 2019, a DELWP and Parks Victoria working group conducted detailed reviews of all feedback received during the 2018 community consultations on the YCA draft 10 Year Plan, in which HEWI delegates were involved.

The membership of the YCA Community Reference Group has *finally* been announced and includes two HEWI members, Karen Garth and Graeme George with Rachael Cochrane, FLbP. Congratulations to these dedicated volunteers! We hope that their combined knowledge and experience will be used constructively to fully implement all the proposals required for a successful outcome for establishing new Helmeted Honeyeater populations.

*It was interesting to return to the Supreme Court for another presentation of overwhelming evidence by the Barrister for WOTCH so ably briefed by our EJA lawyers and the poor response from Vic Forest yet again. HEWI has accepted the challenge of meeting any costs that might occur though we fully expect that all applications for injunctions against logging of the coupes involved will be successful due to the detailed survey work of WOTCH volunteers in our forests.*

