



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.

News in Brief

Environment

Seminar - Fungi4Land

Australian land managers are beginning to discover the important roles fungi play in healthy ecosystems. Hear from Sapphire some of the management steps you can take to help keep beneficial fungi working in bushland you manage. FREE

➤ 7.30pm to

9.00pm Wednesday 4 March

Manningham Civic Centre, Function Room 2, 699 Doncaster Road Doncaster.

International Women's Day

Council are encouraging the community – all genders - to gather in support of equality. Bring your friends, family and neighbours as we discuss equality and what it means in our community. Tea and coffee provided, everyone is welcome to bring a plate of finger food to share. With free sessions of two inspirational films that highlight gender inequality: *Hidden Figures* (11.30am) and *On the Basis of Sex* (2.00pm). No bookings required.

➤ Memo, Sunday March 8

Spotlighting In Murrup Braun

A facilitated HEWI activity ahead Meet in the parking area at the entrance to the Yarra Glen Recreation Reserve. We will walk from here along the Yarra River and through Murrup Braun (Yarra Flats Billabongs). A school holidays event to discover the animals that use this park after dark. BYO torch, no pets please. HEWI members free, non-member adults \$10, children 5 yrs+ \$5. Bookings essential as numbers are limited: Karen 5962 5115 or gbfacilitator@gmail.com

❖ Tuesday 7 April, Family Spotlight Walk, Yarra Glen. 5.30 - 8.00 pm

Several members attended the National Climate Emergency Summit recently to hear elite professionals from the urgently changing field of climate research. The podcasts and videos are now available online and the warnings are dire. HEWI supported the full-page advertisement in *The Age* last Thursday, Feb 20 that called on us all to contact the Premier individually to reduce emissions targets which are now proven to be set too high for human survival on our Earth.

ACTIVITIES AHEAD

ROTARY DOGS' DAY OUT

MARCH 15

HEWI facilitator Karen Garth will have an information stall at this event and would appreciate members and friends calling by!

➤ 11am – 2.00pm Coronation Park

INVERTEBRATE DIVERSITY within the GRACE BURN MARCH 21

This is a regular HEWI activity for the Year 4 students of Healesville Primary School. As Year 3 students, they were responsible for last year's revegetation activity, which added 2,000 seedlings to the Grace Burn habitat corridor. So for many years, we have offered the same students (now Year 4) the opportunity to discover the many species of waterbugs that their plantings help to protect. We are fortunate to have trained Water Watch members to run this project but extra volunteers are urgently needed to assist with the general organisation required. Working with Children ID essential – available from any post office.

➤ New date tba

FAMILY WATERBUGS WORKSHOP

Our facilitator, Karen Garth is offering this new opportunity for parents and their children to experience the diversity of water invertebrates that thrive in our unpolluted Grace Burn. Karen is a professional eco specialist and works with many schools on water management and healthy waterways.

This activity is part of the Term 1 Living and Learning program. All materials supplied, parents free, child \$10.00. Bookings essential: 5962 5115 Karen

➤ Saturday, March 22, 10am – 12noon

ENVIRONMENTAL VOLUNTEERS' CELEBRATION MARCH 15

This is an annual event organised by Council's environment and sustainability team to thank all environmental volunteers across the Yarra Ranges.

There will be a *Welcome to Country* by Murrundindi at 2.30pm, followed by presentations, including an address by Murrundindi on Wurundjeri history, their connection to land and the new Coranderrk development, until 3.30pm. Networking and afternoon tea until 5pm. We'll also be offering everyone a ticket for the Sanctuary for the day as part of the gift, so if people aren't able to take full advantage of this due to other commitments, then please ask them to let me know when they RSVP.

Everyone is welcome to come and go at any time.

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

MARCH

- 01 Clean Up Australia Day
Everard Park, Healesville
- 01 "Into the Jungle"
Memo, 1.30pm
- 10 Yarra Ranges Landcare
Network
Narrap team, Wurundjeri
Council
- 12 HEWI committee meeting
HL&LC 7.00-9.00pm
- 15 Rotary Dogs day Out!
Coronation Park 11am – 3pm
- 15 Council Volunteers
networking
Broglia Room, Healesville
Sanctuary
2.00pm – 5.00pm
- 16 Community Bushfires Inquiry
6.00pm - 8.00pm
- 18 Cr McAllister monthly meeting
Link 4.00pm - 5.00pm
- 20 Year 4 HPS waterbugs
Queens Park, 9am – 11am
- 21 Family Waterbugs workshop
Living and Learning Centre
10.00am – 12noon
- 26 H'ville Bush Fire Group
Darren Honey 6-8pm
- 23 – 29 Leadbeater's Possum Awareness
Week
School holidays, March 28- April 13;

APRIL

- 05 FLbP annual Picnic
from 11am at Cambarville
- 07 HEWI Community Spotlighting
Murrup Brn
- 09 HEWI meeting
- 15 Meeting with Cr McAllister
- 16 Guides Spotlight Walk,
Coronation Park, Healesville
- 25 ANZAC day

Au Revoir Lorraine Leach

Lorraine has been a long-time supporter and save-our-forests campaigner for over several decades. Lorraine is moving back to family in the King Valley but retaining her valued HEWI membership. Her new home – and some ancient Eucalypts! - fortunately survived the surrounding fires. Go well Lorraine and keep in touch!

**BUSHFIRE SEASON INQUIRY
COMMUNITY MEETING in HEALESVILLE MARCH 16**

Save this time and date!

Our region is one of 26 chosen by the Inspector-General for Emergency Management (IGEM), as set up by the Victorian Government. Site tba.

➤ 6.00 – 8.00pm <https://www.igem.vic.gov.au/Fire-Season-Inquiry>

WILDLIFE OF THE CENTRAL HIGHLANDS v VICFORESTS**Hearing Summary**

On Wednesday the 28th of January, WOTCH, represented by Environmental Justice Australia, took VicForests to the Supreme Court. The legal question is whether VicForests are unlawfully logging in the Central Highlands because of the recent loss of threatened species and key habitat in East Gippsland. The code of conduct which VicForests must comply with, states that they must take a precautionary approach to harvesting when risking environmental damage and impacting threatened species. Due to this summer's bushfires, many species such as the Greater Glider, Leadbeater's Possum and Powerful and Sooty Owls are now at greater risk of extinction. The importance of unburned habitat is therefore increased, though the exact ecological impacts of the fires have yet to be fully assessed.

The application that EJA filed on behalf of WOTCH, detailed 10 coupes that should not be logged as they provide habitat for listed species. An urgent second application was made a week later adding another five coupes. These applications effectively prevented VicForests logging in those coupes until the hearing on 18 February of the application for an Interlocutory injunction, which would remain in place until the case is resolved.

In court VicForests claimed that only 3 out of the 10 original coupes were currently active logging sites. The others were not planned to start harvesting for another 2 – 4 weeks. The Judge therefore ordered a temporary stay on logging in the 3 active coupes, with the others to be assessed in the scheduled hearing. After the hearing on 18th, Her Honour stated that she needed time to study the written submissions and consider her decision. She continued the interim injunction until further notice. At the time of writing, WOTCH are still waiting to be called back to court for the decision.

A decision is also awaited in the Federal Court case, Friends of Leadbeater's Possum v VicForests.

In a third case, the Victorian government has applied to the Supreme Court to reopen and broaden the case brought against it by Fauna and Flora Research Collective, which was heard in February 2019. After a mention last week, this application comes back to court in April.

Your HEWI committee continues to organise community activities that will hopefully engage others with a new aspect of our environment.... which may lead to an understanding of why we support urgent action by governments to reduce emissions NOW. We hope that members will access the on-line Summit recordings and respond to the emergency Declaration personally to provide the most powerful community message to our politicians.



Years