



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.

Hi everyone

Another brief Covid 19 monthly report from your HEWI committee which met via zoom on April 9, 2020. There was also a very constructive online meeting of the Healesville Community Bushfire Group, which hopes to offer another valuable bushfire forum in October.

MAIN ADVOCACY ISSUES FOR HEWI IN APRIL 2020:

- i. **Yarra Strategic Plan** – our submission was referred to the Panel Hearing.
- ii. **Interim Report of the Independent Review of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999.**

Our submission included detailed accounts of the inadequacy of this Act based on HEWI's numerous applications to have:

1. Round-leaf Pomaderris, *Pomaderris vacciniifolia*, listed as Critically Endangered - finally achieved after 4 ½ years of persistent presentation of data.
2. Leadbeater's Possum, *Gymnobelideus leadbeateri*, also listed as Critically Endangered in 2015, confirmed in 2019, but without a revised Recovery Plan as promised – and urgently required – from that first Listing.

- iii. **Bunnings** – re 2018 decision to stock Forest Stewardship Council certified (FSC) timber only by 2020.

This was a joint letter from 23 groups advising that Vic Forests has lost its membership of the Forest Stewardship Council and also appears to have once again failed to gain FSC certification.

THE GOOD NEWS!!

Another campaign fully supported by HEWI has been the court case undertaken by WOTCH (Wildlife of the Central Highlands), which has been hugely successful with a total of **26 coupes** now protected by injunction until the case is heard in October.

<https://www.theage.com.au/national/victoria/court-halts-logging-in-unburnt-victorian-native-forest-20200429-p54od0.html>

More information on this important case, including judgments and the list of coupes, is available on the WOTCH website - <https://www.wotch.org.au/wotch-v-vicforests-2020-1>

(Remember there are **40 other coupes** still protected from logging due to the Friends of Leadbeater's Possum v Vic Forests case in the Federal Court, decision still pending).

Special thanks to Environmental Justice Australia who is providing excellent legal support for all these court cases as well as detailed submissions on the YSP and so many other environmental campaigns.

LOCAL WALKING TRAILS

1. Whilst all facilitated projects are postponed, a delightful place to take your weekly health and well-being stroll is though the **Juliet Ave Bushland Reserve**, 4-6 Juliet Ave, Badger Creek. This reserve is on a slope and the walking routes are the kangaroo trails.

By May, the heart shaped flowers of the Mosquito Orchid have emerged and the tiny flower spikes are opening. The white, pink and red flowers of the Common Heath will delight with sprays of colour, and the delicate pale blue of *Wahlenbergia communis*, Tufted Bluebell, was seen in April - a new species for the plant list!

Karen usually takes a monthly survey through this reserve, and photos can be viewed on HEWI's Facebook page. If you would like more information, call her on 5962 5115.

2. The figure 8 trail along the Watts River via Coronation Park is also a pleasant walk along this revegetated habitat corridor, with the river running swiftly this wet season.

HEALESVILLE ORGANIC MARKET

Encouraging news too from this market in Coronation Park every Saturday morning – they have been overwhelmed with eager customers and more plantings are being prepared for the next season to keep the stalls well stocked with produce.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Our revegetation team has sent warm congratulations to Melissa Carmody, Bushland Co-Ordinator with Yarra Ranges Council, who has been offered a position with Melbourne Water. We will miss her friendly disposition and dedicated role in bushland management on Council Reserves, but she is leaving a strong team to continue all their projects.

Thanks to all who have renewed their 2020 membership, your committee is so grateful to have your support and friendship.

