

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

### **AGM News**

We had 19 people attend our first AGM via Zoom on Nov 12th, and it was great to see some new faces. Our new committee is: Chair - Bronwyn Baade, Treasurer- Sandra Schoffer, Secretary - Karen Garth, Ordinary Committee Members - Lou Sbalchiero and Jan Smetak. We have three vacancies remaining for Ordinary Committee positions, so if you would still like to join let us know as we have the power to appoint between AGMs.

At the AGM we awarded Steve Meacher a Certificate of Appreciation for his many years of service on the committee, and a lovely bunch of wildflowers from Maureen Bond's garden will be given to him. For those of us who have been members for many years it was strange to not have Maureen and David Cox with us, but they remain in our hearts and we will build on their legacy and that of other past members.

Our photo competition winners were Karen Roberts and Beth Bagley, and we will feature the photos in our newsletters each month and post to our Facebook page.

The committee will next meet on Thursday 10th December, so if you have any issues for urgent discussion, please let us know. Our first meeting in 2021 will be on Thursday 11 February. We anticipate being able to meet in person then, but will still have the option for members to join us via Zoom if they wish.

We have no group activities planned for the remainder of the year, and are in communication with Maureen's family as they may have a memorial for her now that border restrictions with NSW have eased. All HEWI members will be welcome to attend and you will receive an email invitation if this goes ahead.

### **Members Photo Competition: 'What I love about the environment in Yarra Ranges'.**

*Karen Roberts Eastern Grey Kangaroos in the mist, Chum Creek*



### **'Four tips for a plastic-free life, from Clean up Australia [LINK](#)**

- \* Let your fruit and veg go naked in the trolley — or invest in reusable produce bags.
- \* Grow herbs on your windowsills — straight to your plate and NO plastic packaging.
- \* Make your own laundry detergent — there are plenty of online recipes and you can customise scents to your liking.
- \* Go natural: Bi-carb or baking soda, lemon juice, and white vinegar are all great natural cleaners – and use the most natural disinfectant — UV rays from the sun!

## Interesting free webinars

### Intramaps Training, with many features that can assist environmental volunteers

Wednesday 18 November 2- 3 pm

IntraMaps is a powerful interactive mapping system that has been designed to provide a wide range of mapping based information in an easy to use web based application. IntraMaps provides a number of powerful features enabling users to interactively explore a map while providing detailed information about objects on the map with a simple mouse click. [LINK](#). Meeting ID: 946 8739 3885. Passcode: 9vz6CD

### Get bushfire resilient this spring - Until Thursday 26 November

*Get Bushfire Resilient* is an interactive webinar series discussing what previous disasters have taught us.

Learn from industry experts in these 90-minute sessions featuring representatives from CSIRO, the insurance industry, CFA, Nillumbik Shire Council, Cardinia Shire Council, Victorian Building Authority, and the University of Melbourne. [LINK](#)

### Sustainable Gardening Australia — The Thrifty Gardener - Thursday 19 November 7:00 pm

Can book a (free) ticket for recording only. There is no waste in nature. The earth's resources are limited and so much energy has already been invested making all the things that are at the end of their first life, but it doesn't need to end there. Be inspired to reuse materials in your garden to help the environment and make your garden unique, beautiful, functional and productive on a budget. [LINK](#)

### Reducing litter in Melbourne's waterways - Friday 20 November 2020, 1:30 pm to 2:30 pm

Over the last three years, Melbourne Water has run a Litter Action Project supported by funding from DELWP's Port Phillip Bay Fund. The project involved working with the general community, schools and environmental groups to conduct clean-ups and audits at litter hotspots in their local area. Data from the litter audits was used to identify the most common litter items in the hotspot, which then informed the local action taken to reduce this key item. Join Dr Teresa Jane Mackintosh, Waterwatch Coordinator and groups from Banyule and Nillumbik, as well as other parts of Melbourne to hear about the outcomes of the project. It will also discuss how to create a source reduction plan and strategies for reducing litter in your local area.

### Water Smart Gardening - Thursday 26 November 7:00 pm

Can book a (free) ticket for recording only. Gardens are important to us, our health, our community and local wildlife and with some simple water smart techniques we can keep them beautiful and productive even when water is scarce. In this webinar, we will introduce ways to conserve water, while maintaining healthy and productive gardens. [LINK](#)

### Native garden plants - Sunday 29 November 10 am to 11:30 am

Horticulturist, writer and conservationist AB Bishop believes that our gardens should be a place for our own enjoyment but also provide a means of contributing to the health and sustainability of our local environment. The two are not mutually exclusive. Discover how to see your garden through 'new eyes' now that suburban nature is declining and diversity is shrinking. Learn which local plants suit what creatures and why and how to factor in shelter, nesting, food and water requirements of different types of wildlife. Emphasis is given to plants that multi-task – i.e. those that are useful landscaping plants as well as wildlife friendly. [LINK](#)

### Ellen Sandell on the Green New Deal - Tuesday 1 December 7 pm

The Healesville and Upper Yarra branch of the Victorian Greens are delighted to be hosting an online discussion with state Greens MP Ellen Sandell on the subject of a Green New Deal.

In the wake of Covid, a recession and with the climate emergency ever more present in our lives, The Greens are proposing a bold new policy platform to create a fairer economy, recover from the current recession by creating sustainable and economically viable jobs, and help prevent the worst effects of the climate crisis. Ellen will present on what this plan looks like and how it could be implemented, and give plenty of opportunity for questions and discussion. RSVP for the Zoom link to [EMAIL](#)

### Climate Action in the Garden - Thursday 3 December 7:00 pm

The garden is more than just an outdoor room. It can be a place of Climate Action where you can connect with the environment and implement changes to reduce your contribution to climate change and help build climate resilience. In this Webinar we will use the Climate7 framework to explore how gardening can be a part of your Climate Action plan. [LINK](#)



"The views expressed in this newsletter are those of the contributors and not necessarily those of this group."



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