



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.

Committee message

We hope that everyone is faring well despite the Covid-10 restrictions, and thank Bob Rich for offering to join our newsletter team. All members were notified by email of the passing of our secretary, Maureen Bond in July, and her HEWI friends and family produced an obituary which was printed in the Mountain Views https://mountainviews.mailcommunity.com.au/news/2020-08-24/environmental-defender-lost/?fbclid=IwAR1r4IS3WK7ISXpw8uTIPTa9zXzRC0mj0FOgd9MRyg_AoevZFJkUvsYe7Es. Maureen did not have a funeral, but we hope to have a celebration of her life and achievements at Badger Weir in a few months. We also lost another HEWI elder, David Cox, in early August after a long illness. He was devoted to our planting sites in Queens Park, and some HEWI committee members attended his live streamed funeral and burial.

Although Maureen's death was not expected, she had stated to the committee earlier in the year that she would retire at our 2020 AGM. Thus we had taken steps to prepare for a succession to a new secretary, including transferring to a new email, receiving a grant from the Healesville Market Committee for computer equipment for the use of the new secretary, and applying for a grant for the preparation of a Strategic Plan.

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, the HEWI committee has postponed our AGM until 7.30 pm Thursday 12 November, which we will hold via Zoom. This provides us with time to reflect on the future of HEWI and who will carry the group forward at a time when the environment is increasingly, and desperately, needing more protection, repair and strong advocacy. The committee has appointed Karen Garth as our secretary until the AGM and Jan Smetak will assist as Minutes Secretary.

HEWI has survived for 31 years and remained a powerful and highly respected local voice for the environment. In a changing world in which we can use technology to meet and deliver our message, we pose the following questions:

- what can a group like HEWI realistically achieve?
- on what issues do HEWI members wish to take action?
- which members will help the committee achieve objectives?
- what one thing can you do in the next year to help HEWI continue?
- who will join the committee at our AGM?

We currently have a solid albeit small core of committee members with experience and passion who continue to believe in HEWI and the role it can provide in protecting the environment. We recognise that change can be good and want to ensure that moving forward brings with it the right people, energy and focus to effectively tackle the environmental issues that matter to us. We hope that a strategic plan will help set that course by prioritising achievable goals and actions that won't burn out the committee and active members.

We need the enthusiasm and energy from many to reach out to, and engage, the community with strong advocacy and projects that speak for the environment. The question that burns strongly is "where is the new fire in the belly?" that is needed so much to rejuvenate and keep HEWI as a relevant environmental group for the next 30 years.

We welcome your thoughts and ideas. HEWI's membership is a wealth of knowledge with a broad skill set and we know there are new possibilities just waiting to burst forth given the right encouragement and conditions. We urge you to consider, reflect, talk with us and join with us. Our future and the environment are depending on us all now.

The HEWI Committee

Forests

VicForests has decided to appeal the decision from their court case which was in favour of Friends of Leadbeater's Possum Inc, and you can keep abreast of developments via the FOLBP Facebook page (place link here?). Other groups with whom we keep in contact about timber harvesting issues include Warburton Environment, Kinglake Friends of the Forests and Save the Tallarook Forest. All have Facebook pages you may choose to follow.

Council

The 2020/21 council budget, Neighbourhood Amenity Local Law and Liveable Climate Plan were all passed in September. We have resumed our monthly meetings with Cr Fiona McAllister, and items being discussed include a suitable memorial for Maureen and David in Queens Park; the request by MacDonald's for changes to the conditions at 17 Maroondah Highway, Healesville - opportunity to comment on any changes will be advertised later in the year; a quarterly update from the Environment Dept to environment groups; clearing of unused road reserves and encroachment by neighbours; council plan 2021-25.

We have also made a submission re 13 Green St Healesville stating that its current zoning be retained and it be gifted to council at no cost. Members are urged to make a personal submission by 9 October supporting this position https://engage.vic.gov.au/glsac/t25?fbclid=IwAR0k3kY6pHyjiBZk4XNYq9-6tEe-v1jptGEgR2d3VCXm_KKHBdogPm751S0 . Council has tried to negotiate to purchase this land for community use, but its valuation was deemed too high and despite having the power to alter the valuation, the Planning Minister did not take this action.

Juliet Ave Bushland Reserve

Are you looking for a nice little reserve for your hour's exercise - try 4-6 Juliet Ave, Badger Creek. Enter near the driveway of No 2. This local gem has animal tracks leading up and across the slope and is home to many orchid species. The peak time for flowering is from Sept to December. The narrow animal tracks have been made by deer, Eastern Grey Kangaroos and Common Wombats, and the wearing of long pants is recommended. Take your camera and visit on a calm, sunny day for the best opportunity to take photos of flowers (some like the sun orchids only open up with sunshine). Karen, our secretary, has a plant species list for the reserve that can be emailed upon request.



Thelymitra ixioides (Spotted Sun Orchid).

Calochilus paludosus (Red Beard Orchid)

