

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.

Up Coming Events

- MARCH**
- 20** Sat. Family Waterbugs workshop, HLLC, 10am - noon
 - 21** Sun. YRC Environmental Volunteers thank you event Healesville Sanctuary, 2-4 pm
 - 26** Fri. Autumn Waterbugs Grace Burn, HLLC Art Room, 10am - noon
- APRIL**
- 8** Thurs. Committee Meeting, HLLC Room 1, 7.30pm
- MAY**
- 13** Thurs. Ctee Meeting
 - 16** Sun. HEWI Strategic Plan workshop incl. morning tea & lunch, Memo, Hville
 - 29** Sat. Native seed propagation Workshop, Badger Ck

Our calendar of events for 2021 has been determined to the best of our ability, and a copy emailed to all members. It has been great to start getting out, although we only briefly heard one Southern Brown Treefrog at Yarra Glen on Friday 26 Feb, as the others decided to stay snuggled up because it was too cold and dry. Males will call to attract females when it is warm and wet, which means the potential for the survival of eggs is high. Our expert, David D'Angelis, played calls and showed photos of the frogs in our area, and many people had their frog habitat questions answered. We will offer another frog walk in October.

Rob Fallon is wanting to hear from any landowners who have farm dams which could be fenced off for habitat. There are grants available for fencing and the establishment of water points and you can contact him at northernyarralandcare@gmail.com.

Our next event is a **Family Waterbugs Workshop** on Sat 20 March, 10 – noon, at the Healesville Living & Learning Centre Art Room. Waterbugs will be collected from Queens Park and identified. What we find is often platypus food and will tell us how healthy our waterway is. BYO snack and drink for morning tea, and a cup. Children \$10, accompanying adults are free. Bookings are essential to Karen on 5962 5115 or 0418 999 936 by Thurs 18 March as numbers are limited.

We would like all members to reserve Sunday 16 March for a most important workshop to produce a **Strategic Plan**. Whilst HEWI has existed for 32 years and we have a comprehensive list of aims in our constitution, we have no working document to guide our activities and set achievable goals and timelines. Most plans are set for 2-5 years, and reviewed annually. By confirming our priorities in May, and linking these to documented actions and timelines, we will have a clearer direction for positive and achievable outcomes.

During our monthly meeting with Cr Fiona McAllister, several issues were discussed of interest to our members:

- Council has applied to VCAT for a stop work order on the service station lot at 17-25 Maroondah Hwy, Healesville, for unauthorised works; the application to seek changes to the food outlet lot, of interest to McDonalds, still awaits further information from the applicant

- An application has been submitted for funding from the Federal Govt for solar panel installation on all council sports pavilions

- Circular economy: council is in a consortium with private enterprise & 15 other councils to build their own recycling facility. The design tender brief is being prepared; no idea of location yet

- Idling cars alongside Healesville Primary School & St Brigids at drop off and pick up times is of concern, and there's a proposal to improve traffic management through parking restrictions and the provision of a left turning lane at the corner of High & View Streets. The negative effects of idling vehicles near schools and childcare centres is of great concern to children's health, and www.idleoff.com.au is raising awareness.



Southern Brown Treefrog *Litoria ewingii* Photo: D. D'Angeli



Local yabbie found in the Grace Burn

Have your say on coal power

Victoria's EPA hasn't done its job. In its review of coal fired power stations, it has allowed continued pollution, with some wins thanks to intense campaigning. So, we need to keep up the pressure on our politicians. Following these links will lead you to lots of useful information:

Health impacts of air pollution in Victoria and Enviro Justice Australia is running a submission-writing workshop to help formulate responses <https://email.envirojustice.org.au/t/t-l-mtrtjdk-ejyvdatt-t/>

Birds of the Yarra Valley

You can attend a talk about our flying friends on **Wednesday 17 March, 7:30 to 9 pm**, in the Badger Creek Hall, then go for a walk and see them in real life the following **Saturday, 20 March, 8:30 to 10:30 am** in the Maroondah Reservoir Park. The event is run by Chum Creek Landcare Group and Birdlife Yarra Valley. Experienced bird watcher, Manfred Henning, vice-president of Birdlife Yarra Valley, will be your guide. RSVP for both talk and walk: chumcklandcare@gmail.com or phone 5962 5227 (evenings only).

Introduction to iNaturalist Webinar

Tuesday 23 March 7.00pm - 9.00pm

Seven Eastern Metro Melbourne Councils have joined forces to compete against cities from around the world in the annual City Nature Challenge. During the four day observation period from 30 April to 3 May 2021, residents are invited to find, photograph and document the native wildlife that lives and grows in our neighbourhoods using the iNaturalist Smart Phone App.

Cost: Free

Where: Live via Online Webinar

Bookings essential: <https://www.manningham.vic.gov.au/webinar-introduction-to-inaturalist>

How to Save Energy at Home Webinar

Wednesday 24 March 6.30pm to 8.00pm

Learn how to take simple and cost-effective energy-saving actions at home to save money and reduce your impact on the environment. Find out the best energy deals, where in the home to priorities and the basics of cost-effectiveness in winter.

Cost: Free

Where: Live via Online Webinar with a Zoom enabled device.

Bookings essential: <https://enews.manningham.vic.gov.au/t/r-l-tllhira-othilliudt-k/>

Melbourne Water loves us (and other environmental organisations)

In October 2020, Melbourne Water's successful Community Grants Program moved to a broader, more flexible and streamlined grants approach under Liveable Communities Liveable Waterways. The take up has been high, and our Treasurer, Sandra, will be applying for support funds for our group next month. Karen, as our council funded project facilitator, is also aiding landowners to apply for stream frontage management grants via this scheme, which will enable the removal of weeds and replacement with indigenous species. Properties with stock can also receive subsidies for fencing and water points to keep animals out of waterways. The grant information can be viewed at <https://www.melbournewater.com.au/water-data-and-education/get-involved/apply-funding/LCLW-program/resource-hub> Karen can assist members with their applications if required. 5962 5115 or gbfacilitator@gmail.com.

More ways to unplastic your life

You are guaranteed to have microplastics within you, as does every other living thing on this planet. We need to reclaim life. One way is to minimise our support of the plastics industry. Here are a few more ways:

- Declare your home 'landfill-free', only buying items that are in reusable packaging. 'Recyclable' is a very poor second, because the worldwide recycling industry cannot cope, and many recyclable products in fact end up as landfill
- Healesville has a regular organic farmers' market every Saturday 8:30 am to 1 pm, in Coronation Park, off River St. Support local suppliers while buying plastic-free
- Ask at local shops if you can bring your own containers and use your keep cup for takeaway drinks
- Use laundry baskets made of wicker, rattan or other natural materials to avoid plastic, which can degrade over time and break under the weight of a wet load of laundry.



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