

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

### Strategic Plan finalised

Our five year Strategic Plan has been completed and measures of success will be reviewed by the committee annually. All members and our project partners will be emailed a pdf version. Once again, we thank all members for their input.

### Draft HEWI Rules & AGM

The committee has approved a draft Rules to update our 2006 constitution. It will be emailed to members for comment before a proposed adoption at our AGM on Thursday 11 November. It incorporates the 2012 changes made to Model Rules for Victorian Associations and a purpose statement based upon our Strategic Plan's Vision, Mission and Actions.

### Library Display Competition

The winners of our library display competition were Carly and her young daughter, who visited our display, answered the questions, and were inspired to borrow books about native animals.

They received a free family membership to HEWI and a pink Epacris for their garden. Library staff were impressed by the colourful nature of the display, and a photo taken by the librarian featured in her July report.

### Animal Sightings

The monthly HEWI committee agenda records any significant animal sightings from members, so if you have something to share with us, as Louise Bush did, please send us the information.



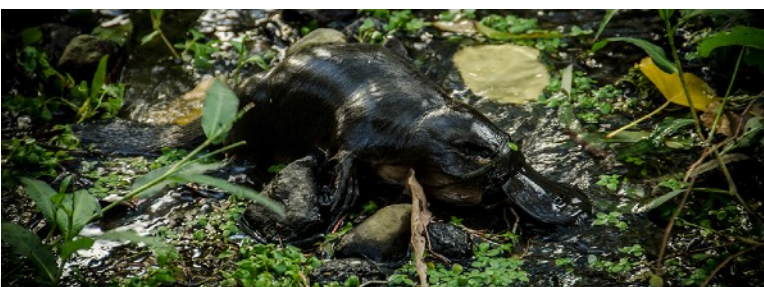
Competition winners. Photo by Karen Garth

*"Hi Karen et al,*

*Just wished to share some amazing environmental news - when I was walking on the 3rd September close by Watts River - I saw a platypus!*

*It had just surfaced in the waters that had risen a great deal because of all the rain we've been having. It looked plump, muscular and very content before it plopped underwater again! This was an exceptional experience that I will treasure! I have had a glimpse in the past of what I was pretty sure was a platypus - again, at Watts River, but certainly not as clear a sighting as the other day! Aren't we lucky!"*

We urge all members to create an account on [iNaturalist](https://www.iNaturalist.org) and record sightings at anytime, anywhere in Australia. This is also a valuable resource used by researchers.



*Platypus in Wirrup Yaluk. (2013)  
Photo by Adrian Jeffs*

### Memberships are due

Thank you to the many members who have paid their membership renewals since the last newsletter, and as a favour to our Treasurer, we ask that everyone pays by the end of September so you are all financial by the AGM on 11 November.



### Planting sites

Whilst we haven't been able to do the past two years of planting in Queens Park, our plants from 2019 are doing well. Unfortunately, the two large Manna Gums at this site fell during the June storm.

Council contractors have also commenced planting at Coronation Park, where we would have worked this year with Healesville Primary School, Cummins Filtration and Melbourne Water.

Planting sites. Photo by Karen Garth



**HCoRE** events coming up: [Electric vehicles](#) and the [First Healesville Microgrid](#)

### [Victoria Nature Festival](#)

Get ready to virtually explore and learn all about Victoria's rich natural environment and wildlife with the Victoria Nature Festival, from 11 - 26 September. Connect to nature from the comfort of your own home with live-streamed events and immersive videos. It will all be here for you to discover.

### Home Energy Advice

The [Australian Energy Foundation](#) is a good source of information about energy efficiency solutions for your home. Our council area is not covered by their free consultation, but you can send them an email for advice.

### Spring Gardening Tips & Workshops

Check out [Sustainable Gardening Australia](#) for lots of good advice and information. You can also purchase tickets to online classes.

### Repel pests with plants, not poison

This [book](#) about organic solutions to household and garden pests is by Penny Woodward. It is now in its second edition, and available for loan through Eastern Regional Libraries.



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



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