

HEALESVILLE * CHUMCREEK * YARRA GLEN * 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

April

Thurs 14 Apr, 7.30 – 9 pm
Committee meeting HLLC

May

Sun 1 May Yarra Glen Spotlight Walk

Thurs 12 May 7.30 – 9 pm
Committee meeting HLLC

Sat 14 May Native Seed Propagation Workshop, HLLC

Sat 21 May Children's Waterbug Workshop YGDLLC

We returned to committee meetings being held in Room 1 at the HLLC in March, and our next meeting is Thurs 14th April at 7.30 – 9 pm. Any member is welcome to join us and participate in discussions. It is anticipated that we will meet via Zoom from May through August, and this will be determined on a month-by-month basis depending upon our agenda items. We thank the HLLC for the free use of their facilities.

It would be appreciated if some members could join a few committee members on a working party to review our 2006 constitution – it is showing its age and many clauses have been superseded by the 2012 Model Rules for Associations. Having to refer to our 2006 rules and the 2012 Model Rules is inefficient and causes confusion, and we need to merge them to create a new document which satisfies regulatory and good governance conditions. For example, we need to review our

Membership Categories, determine if we need some new ones to encourage a wider membership, and define what conditions apply to a Life Membership. Karen can send both documents to interested members to read, and we will meet in May in person to discuss at the HLLC.

HEWI Activities

We have had a HEWI display and offered guided walks at two new Healesville events – HLLC's "This Includes You Celebration" on Sat March 19, and the Healesville Community Garden's "Home Grown Food Fair" on Sun 3 April.



HLLC display



Food Fair display



Information brochures were handed out and we interacted with 50 new people from the local community and beyond. We gained a new member, and promoted our April and May events:

Family Spotlight Walk, Sun 1 May, 5.00 -7.30 pm. Suitable for ages 6+. Yarra Glen Recreation Reserve (meet at the sports pavilion car park). Discover the nocturnal animals which call this reserve home and learn the best places to look for platypus. Cost \$10 per person. BYO torch. Bookings are essential to Karen admin@hewi.org.au or 0418 999 936 by Thurs 28 April.

Native Seed Propagation Workshop (Adults only) Sat 14 May, 10-noon, HLLC Art Room. \$15 members, \$20 non-members. Our member and local horticulturalist, Coral, will explain how to prepare a selection of native seeds for propagation and the setting up of seed trays. You will take home trays of seeds to keep moist as they grow for a month or two, then bring them back late Winter/early Spring to put into tubes. You will choose some plants to take home for your own garden, and some will be kept for a local community planting. BYO gloves and a snack for morning tea, hot drinks provided. Bookings and payment are essential to Karen admin@hewi.org.au or 0418 999 936 by Thursday 12 May.

Children's Waterbugs Workshop Sat 21 May, 10.00 am – 12.00 pm. Suitable for ages 6-16. Yarra Glen & District Living & Learning Centre, 12-14 Anzac Ave, Yarra Glen. Come along and learn how to find and identify waterbugs from the Yarra River. Some are platypus food, and what we see will tell us the quality of the water. BYO snack and a drink. Cost \$10 per child (one adult per family is free and must stay for the session). Gold coin donation to the centre for tea/coffee. Bookings and payment are essential to Karen admin@hewi.org.au or 0418 999 936 by Thursday 18 May.



Other Events

A tropical garden in Healesville? Permaculture Yarra Valley is organising a visit to such a place. Sat 30 April from 2 pm. Free to PYV members, non members \$5. <https://www.trybooking.com/BYRHJ>

Healesville Living and Learning Centre is offering some interesting courses next term, including some on Bush Tucker and permaculture. <https://hllc.org.au/special-interest/>.

They are also providing some school holiday activities so keep an eye on their Facebook page for information.

Environmental webinars

Yarra Ranges Council has a large collection of interesting webinar recordings at <https://www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/Environment/Sustainable-communities/Environmental-webinars>

Topics include frogs of the Yarra Ranges, wildlife rescue and birds of our area. A particularly interesting one is by "Nature's Apprentice" Claire Dunn: <https://youtu.be/5Yqgb4OrWX0>

Organic market

Healesville has a regular organic farmers' market every Saturday 8:30 am to 1 pm in Coronation Park, off River St. Support your friends and improve your health (pay the farmer now, or the doctor later).

Unplastic your life

- Try Soap Nuts. These dried berry shells are high in saponins (nature's soap) and can be placed inside a small bag or tied sock to give your laundry natural, scent-free clean with no irritating residue.
- Buy whatever you can in bulk, preferably by taking your own container. There is now a bulk food store in Healesville!
- Purchase a micro-plastic laundry bag or ball and use it when washing to prevent shedding of microfibres from your clothes ending up in our waterways and oceans. They can be toxic, and are now within every animal on earth — including us.
- Use toothbrushes made from natural products such as bamboo and look after them so they last longer, avoiding the need for more. With care, one toothbrush can last up to 9 months!

Glass jars can easily be washed and re-labelled beautifully, and make bulk-buying more manageable.



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

