

### Up Coming Events

#### November

##### Sun 27 November

2-4 pm

**Badger Ck CFA. Bushfire Scenario Session** with Chalet Rd Fireguard group.

RSVP to Rachael 0411 784 449.

#### December

##### Fri 9 December

**Xmas picnic/BBQ** at Maroondah RP 6.30 pm onwards. Spot lighting for Greater Gliders after dark. RSVP to [admin@hewi.org.au](mailto:admin@hewi.org.au) by Thurs 8<sup>th</sup>. BYO all dinner provisions, a fold up chair and a torch.

### 2022 AGM

We held a successful AGM despite the atrocious weather with 21 members and friends present. Fallen trees kept locals from Chum Ck, Toolangi and Yarra Glen at home, but we were able to hold a hybrid meeting with 2 members "Zooming in" from Macclesfield and Toolangi. Our guest speaker, Wendy Probert, from the Australian Native Orchid Society, gave a wonderful presentation based around the seasons, with information about some rare species we can look out for in the future. All of our current committee members renominated for their positions, and Penny Richards was elected as an Ordinary Committee member.



*Bronwyn thanking Wendy*

*Endangered Summer Spider Orchid*



We've had to skip the production of a few newsletters as the committee has been busy in the last two months with council submissions required for the Domestic Animal Management Plan,

Nature Plan, and Waste and Resource Recovery Plans. We've also submitted an application for another 4 year YRC Community Partnerships Grant (2023-27) to continue our advocacy for the environment and community engagement activities. We are seeking \$15,000 each year and will build on our success in the Ryrie Ward to expand into the O'Shannassy Ward. We have supported HCoRE's application for this grant, too.

### Grace Burn Project

Despite the wet weather, we had the assistance of 3 classes from the Woori Farm School to plant a further 300 native species at the Healesville RSL. This was delayed for two years due to Covid-19 restrictions, and students from Healesville High were one of the groups who volunteered. The RSL can now acquit this grant and apply for more funds. Many locals will have noticed the recent flooding of the Grace Burn about half way along the RSL property - fortunately our plants were put in areas that have not been impacted.



Mt Evelyn students



Some of the Healesville High plants

### Waterbugs



Kinder waterbugs trays

Karen completed the delivery of a Waterbug Incursion to all 4 year old children in Ryrie Ward kinders and childcare centres this month – 2 at Yarra Glen, 2 in Healesville and 1 in Badger Creek. Many of the children were familiar with the sample sites, and all were amazed by the little creatures of such importance. We will also have a Waterbugs Display at the Yarra Glen & District LLC Open Day on Sat 26<sup>th</sup> November. On Fri 29<sup>th</sup> November, if the water level drops, our WaterWatch volunteers from HEWI and Mt Toolebewong & District Landcare will conduct our Spring Invertebrates survey. Contact [admin@hewi.org.au](mailto:admin@hewi.org.au) if you'd like to join us at the Grace Burn or HLLC, where we analyse the samples.

### Healesville Market

Most of our committee and one member assisted with a stall at the Healesville Community Market on the first Sunday in October. It was a beautiful sunny day and we were in a great location beside Church St where there was lot of foot traffic. We signed up a new member, gave away indigenous plants and handed out our new brochure and council environmental information. The market committee has supported us in the past with funds to purchase a new laptop, and we look forward to participating again next spring.



Sandra & Catherine Healesville Market



Lou & Brownyn Healesville Market



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### Kevin Mason OAM Celebration

Sandra worked with Alice from Healesville Sanctuary to organise a function to celebrate Kevin Mason's Order of Australia award. His four children, Sanctuary colleagues and many friends in various societies gathered to congratulate Kevin in person and see the medal. Kevin is a local treasure and much respected community member and volunteer, and it was a wonderful afternoon for many to reconnect after lockdowns and fondly recall past achievements.

Kevin with Sanctuary colleagues

### Yarra River Run

We welcomed Karin, CEO of the Yarra Riverkeepers Association, to Healesville on Day 3 of her run from the source of the Yarra to Melbourne. Renee Wood, the editor of the Mountain Views, came along to interview Karin and Lou, and we got great publicity for our Grace Burn Project. We donated \$100 to this fundraising event.

## NEWS

# Running for river health

By Renee Wood

Healesville Environment Watch Inc (HEWI) has supported the Run the Riverkeeper's running campaign as the Yarra Riverkeeper Association CEO took on the challenge to run the distance of the Yarra River.

CEO Karin Traeger started the 280 kilometre run on World River's Day Sunday 25 September in the Upper Yarra, before meeting with HEWI on day three of the multi-day run in Healesville at the Graceburn Creek at Queen's Park.

HEWI committee member Lou Sbalchiero said it's great to support Ms Traeger's journey and the group donated \$100 to the campaign which is raising awareness about the river system and climate inaction.

"The Graceburn runs into the Watts River. Watts river runs into the Yarra River, so it's all part of that same flow of water that's eventually making its way down to Port Phillip Bay and so we wanted to support Karin," he said.

Ms Traeger said she was feeling relatively good after running 160km over three days and was enjoying the beautiful Yarra Valley scenery along the way.

"Oh, it's beautiful - especially coming down Don Road... Yesterday we went through O'Shannassy Upper Trail and that was nice too and then we came through Redwood Forest," Ms Traeger said.

Ms Traeger pledged to run the distance, raising funds to promote a healthy, protected and loved Yarra, Birrarung River, while also hoping to make governments and policy makers take action on climate change and invest in supporting the river system.

HEWI wanted to meet with Ms Traeger along the run to share the initiatives the group delivers locally for the Grace Burn.

This includes 20 years of revegetation works that works with volunteers and businesses such as the Healesville RSL and retirement vil-



Karin Traeger is running 280km from the river to the bay and meet with HEWI committee member Lou Sbalchiero in Healesville along the journey.

Picture: RENEE WOOD

lage and local students to support.

HEWI delivers a Waterwatch program, that allows primary school students to learn about the Grace Burn and its health.

The group also collects data which is fed through to Melbourne Water's water watch network.

Mr Sbalchiero said all data collection gives an indication of the water's health, with the Graceburn considered a healthy system - something they want to maintain.

"We see it as a creek that's in relatively good health... but we know that it doesn't take much to get that balance out of whack, so to speak. With increasing urbanization - more driveways, more roof areas going up so more stormwater runoff, litter, plastics - we know there can be a tipping point where a creek can go from healthy to becoming basically sick," he said.

"So our work is focused on making sure that we have really good understanding of how the Graceburn is so that if there is any changes

we'll be able to protect them."

The public projects aim to inspire others to think about how they can support the environment in their own backyard, much like Ms Traeger's run is an inspiration to others.

"It's an opportunity for people to hopefully become aware of the value of waterways," Mr Sbalchiero said.

The run ended after six days, with Ms Traeger successfully running 280km and raising \$6000 for the campaign.

### Community Microgrid Workshops

Lou will represent HEWI on 30 Nov at a community workshop as part of our council's participation in the Active Energy Precincts Project. You can see a webinar about this [here](#). Healesville is planning an energy emergency hub based at the Healesville Link, which would be run by solar power and provide charging for devices and support during an emergency event.

### Xmas Picnic and Spotlight Walk

Our members' Xmas picnic/BBQ and spotlight walk will be at Maroondah Reservoir Park on Friday 9 December from 6.30 pm until 10 pm. It's been a few years since we visited this venue, and now that Greater Gliders have been declared Endangered, it is timely to go and look for the ones we saw here in the past. BYO all dinner provisions, a fold up chair and torch. Covered shoes must be worn for the walk, and insect repellent is recommended. RSVP to [admin@hewi.org.au](mailto:admin@hewi.org.au). Karen is the contact on the night 0418 999 936. We will cancel if inclement weather is forecast, so please provide a contact number when you RSVP.

### Win a double pass to an advance screening of "Greenhouse, by Joost" on 30 November at Cameo Cinema, Belgrave.

Eco-pioneer Joost Bakker built a blueprint for the home of the future, then two of Australia's top chefs, Matt Stone and Jo Barrett, lived in it. A new documentary follows the story of the 87-square-metre home and urban farm that was built in Federation Square, Melbourne.

The house is designed as a system to provide its occupants with food, water, shelter and energy. The documentary focuses on the human element behind the experimental project, with behind-the-scenes looks at how Bakker, Stone and Barrett tackled it: from the failures and disappointments, to the accomplishments and elation, and everything in between.

Filmed in beautiful central Melbourne, Greenhouse is an uplifting look at the teamwork and ingenuity behind a paradigm-shifting project that bursts with life.

[Watch a preview of the documentary by clicking here](#)

For your chance to win the double pass, [click here to email us](#) your best tip for creating affordable home-based systems that are zero waste and reduce your environmental footprint.



Our lovely small grass trees are starting to flower now and attract many insect pollinators.



Common Bird Orchids are nearly finished flowering, but you might be lucky to still see some at the Juliet Ave Bushland Reserve. Pick a sunny day and you should see the Sun Orchids, too.



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