

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

Up Coming Events

Sat 18 Nov, 11-3 pm

[Faunal Emblems Family Fun Day](#)

Wesburn (see page 3)

Sat 25 Nov, 6.30 – 9 pm

[Frog Survey Evening](#) Woori Yallock

Fri 15 Dec, 6-9 pm

HEWI members picnic/BBQ &
Hollow Tree Survey, Healesville

We hope everyone is enjoying our Spring weather with its typical variability. We've been pretty busy since the Winter newsletter, and here are some reports on our activities...

Special Meeting 7 September

Dr Dan Harley gave another informative presentation about the trials and tribulations of Zoos Victoria's efforts to save Leadbeater's Possums, and until we can remove wild cats from the environment and improve habitat, it will be an ongoing struggle. We successfully passed a resolution to adopt the Model Rules for Associations, and now have a clear and comprehensive rules to follow. We thank all members who attended and/or sent their proxy votes. It has been a while

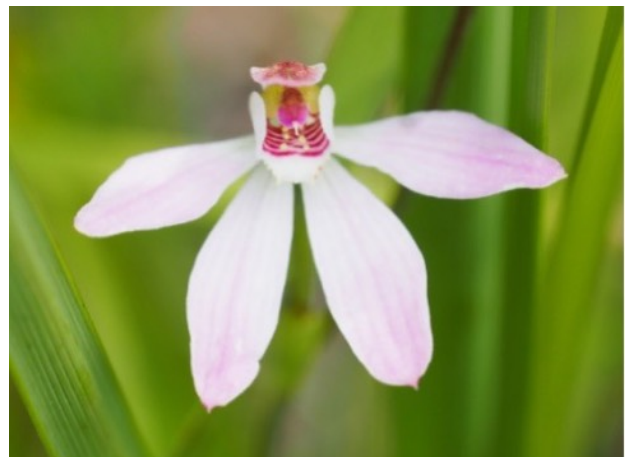
since so many members gathered together, and it was great to have a chat over supper. We thank the Healesville Living & Learning Centre for the free use of their facilities for our meeting.

Orchid Surveys Coranderrk Bushland

We joined two surveys organised by Mt Toolebewong & District Landcare and the Australian Native Orchid Society (Vic) - in July we found more of the rare Spurred Helmet Orchid, and in October we saw at least twelve species including several Caladenias. After lunch we visited the Nunganala Education Centre and took a walk with Sean and Maria. Here we found many examples of the Mountain Bird Orchid.



Corybas aconitiflorus (Spurred Helmet Orchid)



Caladenia carnea (Pink Fingers)

2023 AGM

We held our AGM online, and farewelled Lou Sbalchiero, who has been on the committee for more years than we can remember. Bronwyn mentioned the activities Lou has been involved with and thanked him for his many years of volunteering. The committee elected is:

President -Bronwyn Baade, Treasurer - Sandra Schoffer, Secretary – Karen Garth, General Committee – Jan Smetak, Catherine Nolan, Penny Richards. The winners of our attendance prizes were Michael Feller and Bruce Argyle.

New YRC Community Partnerships Grant

We were successful in gaining a new three year grant which we have named Valley to the Mountains (V2M). We will be expanding our environmental engagement activities into the O'Shannassy Ward and partnering with like-minded organisations. Bad weather postponed our spotlight walk at Upper Yarra Reservoir Park and our Platypus Survey at Yarra Junction, however Karen has delivered successful waterbugs sessions for students at Warburton Preschool and Warburton Primary School, and members of the community at Millgrove with Upper Yarra Landcare and the Millgrove Residents Action Group (MRAG).



Warburton Primary School session



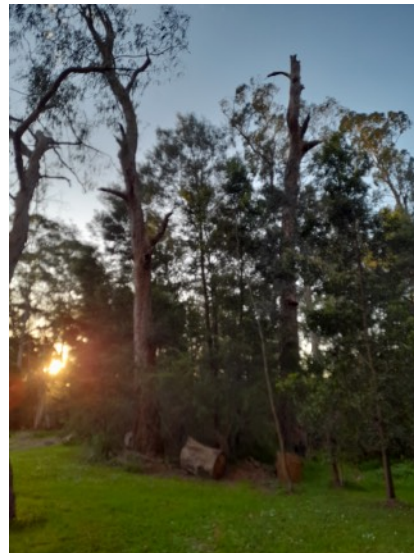
Millgrove Community session

Badger Creek Hollow Tree Survey

We held a hollow tree survey along Badger Creek between the Bluegum Reserve and Badger Creek Road in October with the Badger Creek Community and Mt Toolebewong & District Landcare. We commenced with light refreshments and a presentation at the Badger Creek Old School, and then drove to Bluegum Drive and positioned one or two people by dead or living Manna Gum trees with hollows. We saw one Sugar Glider, four Ringtail and six Brushtail Possums, and several microbats.



Dead hollow tree with Sugar Glider



Dead hollow trees with Ringtail & Brushtail Possums



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



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Facebook: HEWI www.facebook.com/hewinews
 Graceburn Project: www.facebook.com/Grace-Burn-Project-327516467740122/

Badgers Brook Planning Permit Refused

HEWI was an objector to the retrospective planning permit application for the children's playground equipment at Badgers Brook winery, and proposed extension to the south. Our main reasons were that it was not a permitted use under the planning scheme nor a sympathetic development for a rural landscape. We also submitted detailed photos of structural issues pertaining to the equipment, their positions by the roadway and car park, and the constant illumination of one structure with bright lights seen from the highway. Council has refused the planning permit, and should the applicant choose to appeal to VCAT, we will be informed.

Is your fire plan current?

It is advisable to review your fire plan to reflect your current circumstances and any visitors over the holiday season. There's great information at [Bushfire Resilience Inc.](#)

Family Fun Day

Join The Friends of the Helmeted Honeyeater, local community and government organisations to celebrate our faunal emblems, the Helmeted Honeyeater and Leadbeater's Possum!

This is a free community event with lots of activities including:

- welcome to country
- interactive wildlife display
- face painting
- music
- arts and crafts and much more!!

So come along and join in the fun, all welcome.

This event has been funded by the Upper Yarra Community Led Recovery Grants Program

When: Saturday 18th November 2023 from 11am to 3pm

Where: The Village Green, Yarra Valley Ecos. 711 Old Warburton Road, Wesburn 3799.

Reduce microplastic pollution:

- Experiment with natural fibres in clothing – they won't leach micro-plastics in the wash and will be kinder to your skin.
- Consider installing a filter on your washing machine or using a laundry bag or laundry ball to prevent microplastic pollution.
- Look out for plastic-free tea. Some tea bags are made with synthetic mesh and can release billions of microplastic pieces in just one cup. Do a quick search for plastic-free tea bags and support those brands, or brew using loose leaf.
- Look for cotton or hemp food bags designed to keep your groceries fresher for longer, rather than storing in plastic — longer-lasting fresh food means less food waste, too.
- Use laundry baskets made of wicker, rattan or other natural materials.



End of Year Picnic Coronation Park, Healesville

Due to the success of our hollow tree survey at Badger Creek, we will hold a similar survey in Coronation Park on Friday 15 December after our Xmas picnic/BBQ. We'll meet at the rotunda from 6 pm, and the tree survey will start around 8 pm. BYO all food and drink, insect repellent, fold up chair, a torch and binoculars (optional). HEWI will provide some sweet treats. Please RSVP to admin@hewi.org.au by Thursday 14 Dec. Maybe we'll see a Xmas koala?

The committee would like to thank all members for their support throughout the year, and wish you all a happy festive season.