

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

Up Coming Events

Sat 27 Apr, 9.30 – noon

Birds on Farms information and survey training session, Gruyere

Sun 28 Apr, noon-4 pm

Badger Ck Community Plan Launch and Community Picnic with HEWI display, BC Old School

Thurs 9 May, 7.30 pm

HEWI Committee meeting, online via Zoom

It's been a busy few months of events, and the committee is also currently working on reviewing our policies and procedures. We've started with our Child Safety and Financial documents, and once the committee has produced final drafts, we will distribute to members for any further comments. Planning applications of interest to HEWI are on the increase, possibly as a result of little activity during the covid years. If any member has expertise in these areas the committee we would welcome your input as soon as possible.

March events

We held a successful Clean Up and Platypus Survey Training event with 24 HEWI, UYLG and community members on Friday 1 March. We picked up litter near the Little Yarra River at Yarra

Junction, and surveyed about 300m of river. No platypus were seen, but we recorded Common Brushtail and Eastern Ringtail Possums, micro bats, Southern Brown Tree Frogs, Spur-winged Plovers, Sulphur-crested Cockatoos, Laughing Kookaburras and Wood Ducks.



Yarra Junction 1 March



Badger Creek 3 March

For Clean Up Day on Sunday 3 March, we combined with the Badger Creek Community (BCC) and Mt Toolebewong & District LG (Mt T&D LG) to weed our revegetated sites in Badger Creek and pick up litter. 7 volunteers attended, including members of HEWI, Mt Toolebewong & District Landcare, Healesville Rotary Club, the Badger Creek Community and Cindy McLeish, MP. Several bags of litter and recycling were collected from the reserve and out of the creek, and 2 large piles of Calystegia were pulled from shrubs.

Healesville 10 March



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On Sunday 10 March from 10 am until 3 pm, we had a display at the Connecting Community Festival in Healesville. Due to the heat all displays were inside, which resulted in all who attended the events in the auditorium walking past. We displayed waterbugs, engaged with over 35 people and handed out environmental information.

April events

We attended the Healesville Community Garden Food Fair takes on a soggy Sunday 7 April, but in true Healesville spirit, the locals still came out, plus day trippers from Melbourne. We had great conversations with people on a variety of issues, and were told about a dead male [Brush-tailed Phascogale \(Tuan\)](#) found on Wallace Parade. Council staff will now place wildlife monitoring cameras at the old tip site to try and record any observations there.



Healesville Tuan

On Tuesday 9 April from 6-9 pm, Karen conducted a spotlight walk along the Yarra River at Millgrove for Upper Yarra Landcare Group (UYLG) and the Millgrove Residents Action Group (MRAG). As we were talking at the start, 2 Yellow-bellied Gliders glided into Manna Gums above us – what a great way to start! We also recorded Eastern Ringtail Possums, Southern Brown Tree Frogs, microbats, Wood Ducks and a Little Pied Cormorant. A 2023 record of a large owl was mentioned on the night, and it was subsequently found to be a [Powerful Owl](#). The sightings have been uploaded to iNaturalist.org.au.



Millgrove Powerful Owl

YRC Planning Applications

Badgers Brook Winery Amusement Park

Two committee members, Penny and Karen, attended a Compulsory Conference on 19 March in Melbourne. No compromise was reached with the applicant, and we will appear at VCAT on 31 May.

163 Albert Rd, Badger Creek, Planning Application

One committee member, Bronwyn, attended a meeting between objectors, planning staff, Cr McAllister and the applicants.

300-308 Maroondah Highway, Healesville, Planning Application - No further news.

23 Maddens Lane, Gruyere - A compliance officer has visited the property.

419 Don Rd, Badger Creek

The Big 4 Holiday Park has submitted a planning application for buildings and works associated with an existing camping and caravan park; Removal of native vegetation; display of a business identification sign; and use land to sell and consume liquor. HEWI expects to make a submission once it is advertised

Councillor Meetings

Our monthly meetings with Cr Fiona McAllister are on the first Wednesday afternoon of the month. If members have any matters of relevance to HEWI that they wish discussed with her, please let the committee know via admin@hewi.org.au.

There are some free events taking place, and HEWI members are welcome to attend:

- [Birds On Farms](#), Gruyere. Sat 27 April, 9.30 – noon. Join Landcarers and property owners at this free event. Late registrations may be accepted. (If not on Facebook contact the [YRLN](#).)
- Drop off clean but unusable textiles at a [council site](#):
- Yarra Ranges Museum Art of the [Scott Sisters exhibition](#)



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