

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

Up Coming Events

Fri 1 Mar, 6.30 – 9pm

Platypus Survey and Clean Up with Upper Yarra Landcare

Sun 3 Mar, 9.30 – noon

Clean Up Day with Mt T&D LG & the BCC

Sun 10 Mar, 10-5 pm

HEWI display and activity at the Connecting Community Festival

Thurs 14 Mar, 7.30 – 9 pm

HEWI Committee meeting, HLLC Rm 1

Sat 23 Mar, 2-5 pm

YRC Environment Volunteers Thank You, ECOSS

Sun 7 Apr, 11-1 pm

HEWI display and activity at the Healesville Community Garden Food Fair

Tues 9 Apr, 6-8.30pm

Spotlight Walk at Millgrove with UYLG and MRAG

We hope everyone had a lovely festive season and is keeping cool and safe despite our wild, February weather.

Xmas event and Coronation Park Survey

We held a casual Xmas meet up of sixteen members in Coronation Park on 15 December, before our Hollow Tree Survey and Spotlight Walk along the Watts River. We recorded 5 Sugar Gliders and 2 young Brushtail Possums leaving one magnificent Manna Gum, and saw 6 Eastern Ringtail Possums, 1 Sugar Glider (feeding on wattle sap) and several microbats during the spotlight walk. We also heard 3 kookaburra groups and some Masked Lapwings (Spur-winged Plovers) calling. The new park benches and table were much appreciated.



Members enjoying a drink and snack 15 Dec. Photo John Weiss

Community Awards

Members Peta Whitford and Bruce Argyle were acknowledged for their services to the community in January. Peta was awarded an OAM, and Bruce received a Certificate of Recognition from Yarra Ranges Council. Congratulations to you both!

Autumn Partnership Grant Activities

Our next events for our Valley to the Mountains (V2M) grant will be joint activities with local groups. On Friday 1 March, we will conduct a Platypus Survey and Clean Up on the Little Yarra River with Upper Yarra Landcare (UYLG) from 6.30 – 9 pm. Our meeting point is the rotunda next to the playground at the Yarra Junction Recreation Reserve.

For Clean Up Day on Sunday 3 March, we'll combine 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. The morning commences with a free morning tea at 9.30 am – BYO gloves, drink and a cup – and work starts at 10 am until approx. noon.



Mature Manna Gum with 5 Sugar Gliders & 2 Brushtail Possums

A community group acting to protect and conserve important elements of our local environment

Autumn Partnership Grant Activities cont...

We will park in the reserve at the corner of Bluegum Drive and Badger Creek Rd. Please register via <https://www.cleanup.org.au/cleanupaustaliaday> .

On Sunday 10 March from 10 am until 5 pm, we will have a display and family activity at the Connecting Community Festival in Healesville. Look for us between the Memo and the library. All activities and food are free.

The Healesville Community Garden Food Fair takes place on Sunday 7 April, and we'll have a display and activity there from 11 am – 1 p m. You can enjoy some free music afterwards in Coronation Park.

During the school holidays on Tuesday 9 April from 6-9 pm, we'll have a spotlight walk along the Yarra River at Millgrove with UYLG and the Millgrove Residents Action Group (MRAG). It will be a circuit walk along the river on the Dee Rd side and then above it along River Road.

See information at the end of the newsletter for more details and registration dates.

YRC Planning Applications

Badgers Brook Winery Amusement Park

The applicant has appealed to VCAT because YRC refused their application. They have requested a Compulsory Hearing on 19 March. HEWI is continuing to participate in this process.

163 Albert Rd, Badger Creek, Planning Application

We have made a submission to council to object to a retrospective permit for a new toilet block and shed built within 100 m of a waterway, and commented on the emergency plan

300-308 Maroondah Highway, Healesville, Planning Application

HEWI has made a submission to council objecting to the application for a function centre, seven townhouses, tree removal and exemption from car parking conditions.

23 Maddens Lane, Gruyere

HEWI is awaiting further information from council about this application to remove vegetation, change the use of the property and build three cottages.

YRC Nature Plan

Council has adopted the [2024-34 Nature Plan](#), and it will require funding from the next budget to implement actions. Budget considerations are taking place from March.

Councillor Meetings

Thanks to our new committee member, Catherine Nolan, we have resumed monthly meetings with Cr Fiona McAllister 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 Karen know via admin@hewi.org.au and she will pass onto Catherine.

Vale Michael Feller and Alma Mitchell

It was with great sadness that we acknowledge the loss of two great supporters of HEWI and the community recently. Several HEWI members were able to attend their funerals and celebrate their accomplishments.

Michael was a HEWI member from when he and Evelyn first moved to Chum Creek in 2011, was Secretary of both the Chum Creek Landcare Group and Northern Yarra Landcare Network, and Councillor with the VNPA. Michael was an avid birder, Treasurer and Conservation Officer for Birdlife Yarra Valley, led many outings and contributed great photos to their quarterly newsletter.



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



He was Associate Professor Emeritus, Forestry, University of British Columbia, and published extensively on the ecological effects of wildfire, prescribed burning and logging of forests in the Victorian central highlands and BC. He was a strong advocate for the protection of our native forests throughout his life and a key member of the Healesville Community Emergency Group preparing a bushfire mitigation plan for Healesville. He lead projects to produce bird guides for Chum Creek and Lilydale Lake.

Alma was a Healesville icon and original member of Bushlink, and embraced our Grace Burn Project from the beginning, having taken up several Melbourne Water stream frontage grants to remove weeds and replace them with native plants. She was a long-term committee member of the Healesville Historical Society, and a founder and long-term Secretary of Birdlife Australia Yarra Valley (originally a local branch of BOCA). She loved to share her knowledge of both of these passions, and faithfully took weather records for the Bureau of Meteorology for decades, which were published in the local newspaper.

Rethinking Planned Burns

On Tuesday 12 March, Adjunct Associate Professor (ANU) Philip Zylstra will give a talk on current fire research and discuss the opportunities to minimise fire risk and severity in Kinglake and surrounding areas. The talk starts at 7 pm at the Kinglake Community Centre and has been organised by the Nillumbik Greens. Bookings are not required.

Platypus Survey Yarra Junction 6.30 - 9 pm Fri 1 March Yarra Junction Recreation Reserve

Join us for an evening platypus survey by the Little Yarra River. We'll start with a chat about how to look for platypus and record observations, then sit in small groups at good viewing sites for 45 minutes.

We'll collect any litter between our meeting point at the **playground rotunda** and river as part of Clean Up Day 2024.



Photo from McMahons Creek by Doug Gimesy

BYO a fold up chair, cup and a drink, torch and binoculars if you have some. Wear warm clothing and covered footwear, and bring insect repellent. Suitable for ages 6 years and above. Light snacks will be provided.

Please reply by Wednesday 28 February with your name and contact number to Karen admin@hewi.org.au or 0418 999 936—children must be accompanied and supervised by an adult.

We thank Yarra Ranges Council for supporting this community engagement activity with a HEWI Community Partnerships Grant.





**Spotlight Walk
Yarra River
Millgrove
6-9 pm Tuesday 9 April**



Join Healesville Environment Watch Inc., Upper Yarra Landcare and the Millgrove Residents Action Group for an evening walk to look for native wildlife along the Yarra River.

Meet at 6 pm on Dee Rd and wear warm clothing and covered footwear. BYO torch, insect repellent and binoculars if you have them.

Children must be accompanied and supervised by an adult.



Numbers are limited and RSVPs are required by Sun 7 April to admin@hewi.org.au or 0418 999 936.

Please provide your mobile contact for the day in case we need to postpone if inclement weather.

We thank Yarra Ranges Council for the HEWI Community Partnership Grant which funds this activity.



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