

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

## News in Brief

### Nature Photography

Ian Moodie will touch on some of the photography lessons he has learnt the hard way - from a strictly amateur's perspective. Ian is the Education and Assets Co-ordinator for the Parks Wide department at the City of Whitehorse and has been taking photos concentrating mainly on the natural world for more than 50 years. During this time Ian has made just about every mistake in the book when it comes to getting the elusive 'good shot'

> **Wednesday 4 February 7.30 pm, Bull and Bush Room at the Grand Hotel, Warrandyte**  
**Bookings: Natalie on 9840 9124.**

### Breakthrough public forum

Join UK climate change communications specialist, George Marshall who will help us to understand the psychological and social mechanisms behind our failure to engage with the urgency and seriousness of the issue. By exploring new ways of talking, and by engaging with new people, George Marshall will give us a new sense of direction to motivate us to be more effective in engaging with the climate reality.

[www.climateconviction.org](http://www.climateconviction.org)

> **Sat 14 Feb. - 2.00pm, RMIT University - 445 Swanston St Building 80 - Lecture Theatre 80.02.007**

### Scenes On The Yarra

One of a series of seven events down the Yarra from the headwaters to the sea. This new project will again be led by Jeminah Reidy, the experienced arts facilitator and scenographer with a passion for the Yarra River (and the inspirational director of our Waterway Reflections last November). Visual artists, musicians, dancers, puppeteers, projection artists, or other creative beings will be welcome to join the preparatory workshops, Feb., 03 - 24. Contact Jeminah on 0414 419 182. The performance will begin at Como Landing to cross over to Herring Island, as part of the Herring Island Summer Arts Festival.

[www.scenesontheyarra.com](http://www.scenesontheyarra.com)

> **Wednesday February 24**

**News In Brief cont. on page 2.**

*Welcome to our 26th year of environmental advocacy and activities. Your committee members continue to network and negotiate on several fronts - never a dull moment, and always stimulating! 2015 is already jumping with a concerted approach to ensure a successful global agreement from the Paris Climate Summit next December. Our newsletters will continue to list the relevant seminars that are brought to our attention.*

### WATERWATCH MONITORING

The first monthly physical and chemical testing of the Grace Burn will be on Friday January 30. One set of creek samples is collected at Wallace Parade and the other from within Queens Park near the bbq rotunda - where the tests are carried out. These are simple but interesting routines and the Grace Burn Project team would appreciate some extra assistance if you are available on Fridays once a month. Call Lou on 5962 1224.

> **9.30am Wallace Pde., Queens Park 10.00am**

### MELBOURNE WATER GRANT

Once again HEWI has been fortunate to receive a \$1,000 grant from Melbourne Water towards the administration and equipment costs for our Waterwatch and revegetation projects - our 15th annual grant since the initial planning meetings with Melbourne Water and Shire of Yarra Ranges staff in 1998/9. These were arranged due HEWI's concern about the loss of many of the Mountain Swamp Gums along the Don Road drain.

We are most grateful to our two local MW representatives, Katie Drummond and Steve McGill who are always most supportive of our various activities. There are also larger grants available if any member wishes to organise more extensive stream frontage works or monitoring - with cameras for instance.

### WIRRUP YALUK

This is the name given to the waterway previously called the Don Road 'drain' which is actually a natural creek arising at the base of Mt Riddell and flowing through Queens Park to join the Grace Burn. Aunty Joy Wandin Murphy chose Wirrup Yaluk (Blackfish Creek) and HEWI made a submission to Yarra Ranges Council to have this indigenous name recorded on the Register of Geographic Names. This was rejected, due we believe to an erroneous translation, although Council did have a sign placed on the creek. We have since obtained letters of support and confirmation from Melbourne Water, the Victorian Aboriginal Corporation for Languages and Healesville Indigenous Community Association Services which were submitted to Council last year but no acknowledgement has been received.

Interestingly, Badger Creek has been designated as *Coranderrk* Creek on our Melbourne Water River Health reports for several years - but there appears to be no trace of the origins for this changeover.

We will enlist the support of Cr McAllister to help us solve these puzzles!

### ENVIRONMENTAL VOLUNTEERS CELEBRATION EVENT 2015

"Yarra Ranges Council wish to invite you to the annual event for environmental volunteers as our way to thank and celebrate all the wonderful work that you do for the environment". Drinks & Canapés will be supplied.  
RSVP: [www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/celebration](http://www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/celebration)

> **March 01, 4.00 - 7.00pm Burrinja Cultural Centre, Upwey Crn. Glenfern Rd & Matson Drive (car pool if possible).**

**January 30**  
WW testing Grace Burn  
9.30am -11.00am

**February 03**  
Meeting with Cr McAllister

**February 04**  
Nature Photography  
Warrandyte

**February 07-28**  
Sustainable Living Festival  
Melbourne

**February 12**  
**HEWI meeting**  
**HL&LC 6.45-9.15pm**

**February 14**  
Breakthrough Forum  
George Marshall  
RMIT 2.00pm

**February 25**  
Scenes on the Yarra  
Herring Island

**March 01**  
Enviro Vol Celebration  
Burrinja, Upwey  
4.00pm - 7.00pm

**March 04**  
Bat Appreciation Week  
Warrandyte

**March 22**  
Ectopia Junction Festival  
10.00am - 4.00pm

### MONSTER CLIMATE PETITION

Late last year Victorian Women's Trust members asked themselves 'could we provide a mechanism for huge numbers....to give voice to their concern about the almost total lack of national leadership on securing a safe climate?' The result was 71,866 signatures that went to the Australian Parliament in November with a letter to all G20 leaders attending the November Summit. HEWI was a modest contributor with signatures collected at our stall during the 150 Party in the Park - everyone was very keen to sign!

Due to the overwhelming response in such a brief period, it has been decided to keep the petition alive for a second tabling in August 2015 ahead of the Paris climate Summit in November 2015. HEWI will reprint new forms for new signatures but we would encourage others to download the forms from the website to present at their local interest group. [www.monsterclimatepetition.com](http://www.monsterclimatepetition.com)

### NATIVE VEGETATION MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

The new Victorian government has committed to reviewing Victoria's nature protection laws and renewing our biodiversity strategy. Your HEWI committee will redraft a detailed submission about our concerns that was originally sent to Cindy McLeish, MP (but not acknowledged) and forward this to our new Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water, Lisa Neville. All member comments welcome!

We will also be checking the current status of Yarra Ranges offsets program.

### FOREST UPDATE

In November, VicForests sent us an invitation to comment on their "Updated Forest Management Plan and High Conservation Value Strategy." HEWI has decided not to make a submission. This decision is consistent with last year's agreement with nineteen environmental non-government organisations (eNGOs) not to engage in formal consultation with VicForests, as part of its bid for Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification. The group of organisations had formed in 2013 in response to VicForests' announced intention to re-apply for FSC (their previously application in 2009 failed). However, when VicForests offered no new, substantive or meaningful concessions we were forced to conclude that the corporation was either unwilling or unable to demonstrate a clear commitment to protecting high conservation value forests. The goodwill necessary to underpin formal consultation didn't exist and we unanimously agreed not to proceed.

HEWI and the other groups will now focus on responding to the auditors appointed by FSC to conduct the certification process, which could begin in April.

### Celebration imminent!

The uplisting of Leadbeater's Possum to "Critically endangered" is expected to be announced in coming weeks. This will be a critical acknowledgement that policies adopted in the last twenty years, attempting to "balance" conservation with habitat destruction through industrial logging, have failed. Friends of Leadbeater's Possum have approached the new Environment Minister, Lisa Neville, urging immediate review of existing prescriptions so that the possum, and the Ash forest ecosystem, are effectively protected as we await the declaration of the Great Forest National Park.

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### News In Brief cont...

#### Safeguarding our economy, ecosystems, communities and climate

What does it really mean to move beyond fossil fuels?

Bob Massie is the outgoing President and CEO of the Economy Coalition, whose mission is to support a just transition to a new economy that enables both thriving communities and ecological health. Moving beyond fossil fuels to an economy powered by green energy has the potential to nurture our communities, including the most vulnerable, create meaningful sustainable jobs, protect our land and water and safeguard our children's future. Sponsored by our affiliates at 350.org.

> **24th February New Council Chambers Trades Hall**

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*Committee members were treated to a delicious cool supper after their first meeting for the year with fresh fruits from the Feller's garden and homemade icecream! Thank you Evelyn and Michael. Annual memberships are now due, there will be a form attached with this newsletter. We will be happy to receive your ongoing support - for any number of years if that is more convenient.*



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[www.hewi.org.au](http://www.hewi.org.au)

<http://roundleafpomaderris.org.au>