

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

News in Brief

Manningham Environment Seminars (Warrandyte) –

The impacts of introduced grazing on plant communities, by Dr Arn Tolsma, Arthur Rylah Institute for Environmental Research.

Until European settlement, Australia's high country had not seen large, hard-hoofed grazing animals. In fact, it had little exposure to large animals of any kind. So what happens when we introduce livestock and feral grazing animals to plant communities that have not evolved with them?

> **Wednesday, 7 February, 7.30 - 9 pm** River View Room, Grand Hotel, 110 Yarra St., Warrandyte. For information: phone 03 9840 9326

Maroondah's Bushland Treasures

Botanical illustrations by Ruth Jackson
This exhibition at Maroondah Access Gallery will display Maroondah's bushland orchids, lilies, wildflowers and fungi.

> **Friday 19 January to 9 March Monday to Friday 9am - 5pm**

World Wetlands Day at Edithvale Wetlands Discovery Centre

Community invitation to visit the Ramsar listed [Edithvale Seaford Wetlands](#) and explore the discovery centre, hosting artist in residence Zoe Wood! Interactive displays, kids' activities and expert talks on wetland construction. Edithvale-Seaford Wetland Education Centre, 278 Edithvale Rd, Chelsea Heights. Free event, please email: Waterwatch@melbournewater.com.au for group of 10 or more.

> **Sunday 5, 12 & 19 February 1.00pm – 5.00pm all welcome!**

NEW FILM - Orange-bellied Parrot

Launch of this very special film by a local conservationist, will be launched at Cinema Nova in Carlton by Bob Brown. Bookings online only: <https://www.trybooking.com/TOHN>

> **Sunday, February 11th, at 6.30pm**

2018 New Year Greetings from the HEWI committee members to all our newsletter readers. There is another attachment this month - a thoughtful essay from David Johnston which he wrote after viewing our first film last year, "After the Flood". I apologise for not sharing it sooner as although the plastic bag culture is slowly changing at all levels, none of us are making a difference to the global problem, as David reminds us. So please respond to David if you can offer practical suggestions or if you would appreciate further discussion to raise more awareness of this issue.

ENVIRONMENTAL VOLUNTEERS

Last December, Council's Environmental Support Officer, Jen Ellison and Acting Bushland Manager, Melissa Carmody were invited to make a presentation of their involvement with the 70+ Friends and Landcare Groups across Yarra Ranges. Jen and Melissa had previously asked all the volunteers to send in any details of their work on Council land and a short video was produced: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fZ1I75X-AKE> as well as a detailed report. All Councillors were fully supportive of the groups' contributions, with the new Mayor adding that the environment needed every friend and volunteer it could get, noting the pressures involved and the drive that every volunteer displays. See the agenda item at:

<https://www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/Lists/Minutes-Agendas/12-December-2017-Council-Meeting?agenda>

Congrats to Melissa and Jen for compiling this comprehensive report.

Environmental Volunteer Thank You Celebration

Council recognise these community groups with an annual Festivity to which all active members are invited. This provides the ideal opportunity to network with other group members and environment staff as well as enjoying the huge diversity of plants at Kawarra Gardens. If you wish to join in, please call Jen or Sarah:

03 9294 6287 or j.ellison@yarraranges.vic.gov.au; s.fowler@yarraranges.vic.gov.au

> **Sunday 4th March, 2.00-5.0pm Kawarra Native Gardens Kalorama**

NATIONAL SUSTAINABLE LIVING FESTIVAL February 1-28

Federation Square and along Birrarung Marr
HEWI, Friends of Leadbeater's Possum and MyEnvironment combine each year to host a popular information stall for the Big Weekend of this month-long festival which includes 300 events and exhibits celebrating sustainability. A packed program of local and international talks, forums, workshops, film, art and design events!

This year's theme is **CLIMATE CRUNCH TIME!**

"Everything we care about is now under threat. To enable a sustainable world, we must urgently solve the climate crisis. In 2018 the Sustainable Living Festival is staging the world's first safe climate-focused Festival, with 3 program themes".

1. ALREADY TOO HOT! 2. MAKE IT SAFE 3. MOBILISE EVERYONE, EVERYWHERE

This annual festival is always a most exciting, popular event – be sure to visit our creatively designed stall, with thanks to the FLBP committee.

Clean Up Day 2018 – HEWI event

This year we will be cleaning up along the Grace Burn flowing through Queens Park - our next revegetation site in June. The HEWI Waterwatch team will be testing the physical and chemical composition of the waterway in the bbq rotunda from 9.00-10.00am and then we will begin the clean-up. Bags and gloves available at the rotunda, where we will return for morning tea at 11.30am. ALL welcome to join us. Call Maureen, 5962 1224.

> **Friday March 02 10am – 11.30am Grace Burn, Queens Park**

January 19–March 04

Maroondah' Bushland Treasures
Botanical Illustrations
Maroondah Access Gallery

February 05, 12 and 19, 1-5pm

World Wetlands Day (Feb 2)
Edithvale

February 01-28

Sustainability Festival, **Climate
Crunch Time**
Federation Square & Birrarung Marr

February 10-11

Big Weekend Stall

February 15

**HEWI committee meeting
HL&LC 7.00- 9.00pm**

February 27

Photopoint monitoring workshop
Melbourne Water Waterwatch
Mitcham

March 02

**HEWI Waterwatch and Clean-up
day
Queens Park BBQ rotunda
10.00am – 11.30am**

March 04

YRC Enviro Volunteer Day
Kawarra Gardens
2.00pm-5.00pm

March 15

**HEWI meeting
HL&LC 7.00-9.00pm**

March 23

**Waterbugs with Year 4 students,
HPS
9.30am – 12noon**

POSITIVE CHANGES IN 2017 – Environment Victoria report

HEWI members have actively contributed to four of the following achievements and the Yarra River Protection (Wilip-gin Birrarung murrong) **Act 2017** was another highlight.

#1 Victoria is leading the country on climate change

Thanks to the Victorian community leading the way and standing up for our climate, our state has new climate change laws to cut pollution to zero. Now thousands of us are calling on the EPA to take the next step and limit emissions from big polluters.

#2 Together, we retired the oldest & dirtiest power station in the country
After more than 10 years of community campaigning, Hazelwood closed.**#3 There was a flood of support for our Murray River****#4 The clean energy boom is coming**

Thanks to community action, we have a new Victorian renewable energy target that will lead to a boom in clean energy. Solar powered trams, offshore wind farms... and #Repower groups are springing up in communities around the state. (*Healesville Community Renewable Energy, HCoRE, for instance!*)

#5 More than 25,000 of you acted on extinction

The new campaign for stronger nature laws in Victoria is gaining momentum with a large public forum, submissions to a review of the Flora & Fauna Guarantee Act and many petitions to the Minister. (HEWI remains engaged in all these ecological issues, with detailed submissions re the native vegetation regulations, the protection of critically endangered fauna, especially both species of Leadbeater's Possum, Greater Gliders and Helmeted Honeyeaters and we are also involved with pest management, especially deer).

All these positive outcomes achieved in 2017 will continue to require constant vigilance, actions and submissions from all of us.

THE LEADBEATER'S POSSUM REVIEW

– The Australian National University August 2017

The next 5-10 years will be critical for how the Central Highlands ash forests and the species that inhabit them persist (or otherwise) over the next century. This latest report is available and provides essential background for all Great Forest National Park supporters:

[Fennerschool.anu.edu/news-events/leadbeaters-possum-review-august-2017](http://fennerschool.anu.edu/news-events/leadbeaters-possum-review-august-2017).

HEALESVILLE SAFER TOGETHER BUSHFIRE WORKSHOP -

These local community workshops were organised by our regional officers from the department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) late last year and there have been three preliminary meetings. This response was received following the December 2017 meeting:

"Thank you to everyone who responded to our request for feedback from our previous meeting, we have held a debrief and are currently working on your actions and suggestions. Next proposed meeting - tentative for Wednesday March 7th, 2018. We look forward to working with you to develop a diverse reference group to ensure Healesville and surrounds are well represented when it comes to bushfire management".

If any other community member would like to be involved in this vital local issue, please contact Joy Harte, Joy.Harte@delwp.vic.gov.au

HEWI is, once again, the grateful recipient of another annual grant of \$1,100 from Melbourne Water in recognition of our 29 continuous years of caring for Healesville waterways. Special thanks to Katie Drummond, Waterways and Land officer, MW, for supporting our grant application.

Articles for this 2-page format are always welcome; let us know if you would like a specific issue covered in more depth. There is also a membership renewal form attached – please note that those joining or renewing from October 2017 are already 2018 members.

Your renewal supports our submissions as representative of an active, viable environmental community in this region

