

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

News in Brief

A GRAND STAND for the Environment Inc.

Following last month's forum "Australia's Climate and Energy Dilemma – the Case for Emergency Action", you are warmly invited to a **free screening of 'The Wisdom to Survive'**.

This film examines the challenges that climate change poses and discusses meaningful action that can be taken by individuals and communities. Come along to hear Bill McKibben, Joanna Macy and others with their thought-provoking, compelling message, and be inspired by visions of how we should live in the midst of massive environmental challenges.

> **Tuesday 5th August 7.30pm Templestowe, Manningham Uniting Church, 104 Atkinson St**

EASTERN YELLOW ROBINS - Christine Connelly

Along with climate change, urbanisation is one of the biggest threats to nature and biodiversity. Christine has looked at what type of habitat Yellow Robins require and how the urban matrix affects movement patterns across the landscape. Learn about her research methods and her findings about how the expansion of peri-urban eastern Melbourne is likely to affect this species. Bookings: Natalie on 9840 9124. Attendance essential for field trip

> **Wednesday August 6 7.30pm, Bull and Bush Room at the Grand Hotel, Warrandyte**

FIELD TRIP: Eastern Yellow Robins and their habitat

Christine will show examples of Eastern Yellow Robin habitats in the Warrandyte State Park, their biology and behaviour.

> **Thursday 7 August 2014, 7.30 am – 9.30 am**

THE POSSUM THAT ROARED!

A presentation on Leadbeater's Possum by Steve Meacher.

Why is it Victoria's faunal emblem? How many are there? Why is it called the naked darts? Can it survive in forests managed for harvest? This session will give you greater insight into the history, ecology and problems of a local celebrity on the brink of extinction - and what can be done to save it! Bookings: tdchinc@bigpond.com \$5.00

> **Friday 15th August 7.30pm Toolangi Castella District Com. House**

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

Following a very active and inspirational month of activities within the environmental month of June, we are regrouping to plan our next major events in October and November. We strongly support Council's initiative to invite Professor David Karoly to speak on the latest science available on climate change. A highly recommended presentation, even if you have had the opportunity to hear David in the past.

ENVIRONMENT COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT FORUM

'Are all our revegetation projects viable and sustainable.'

This theme was a HEWI suggestion for discussion.

David Harper (Manager, Parks and Environment) will open the forum followed by Jess Baillie (Bushland Management Officer) on Yarra Ranges revegetation projects using Richards Reserve as a case study.

The viability issues of our own local projects will be workshopped by small groups. There will be an optional walk to Richards Reserve after lunch.

> **Saturday 26th July 10:30am – 1.00/3.00pm Montrose**

FIRE OPERATIONS MANAGEMENT FORUMS

The Fire Operations Plan is a three year rolling plan which seeks input from communities, Local Councils, the Country Fire Authority (CFA), industry and interest groups. The Plan outlines where DEPI intends to carry out fire prevention activities such as planned burns, hazardous tree treatment, slashing, mowing and clearing to create permanent fuel breaks. The draft plan will be available for public comment during August.

In the meantime our colleagues from the Southern Ranges Environment Alliance have organised monthly information sessions with Department of Environment and Primary Industries and Parks Victoria staff for all Yarra Ranges residents.

Unfortunately there was no HEWI member available for the first of these but we hope to be able to participate at all future meetings including September 11, October 16 and November 13. Please note these dates and let Maureen know if you are available.

> **6:00 – 8:00pm August 16 Environment Centre Birdsland Reserve, 271 Mount Morton Road, Belgrave Heights**

RSVP: Melanie Anderson 0400 834 534 or melanie.anderson@depi.vic.gov.au

YRC ENVIRONMENT RESTRUCTURE

The recent Environment Friends newsletter contained details of the new structure for Council's Environment Department into Parks and Environment and Strategy and Sustainability sections. Members with long memories will be aware that a previous Sustainability department was disbanded as it was considered that sustainability principles should be applied across all Council departments.

The current changes reflect the perceived need to broaden recognition of sustainability improvements, innovation and education, and includes capital works and asset management.

Volunteer groups have contact with a wide range of personnel for different projects and HEWI has expressed appreciation for this information and other articles concerning Council projects across the above divisions - such as the one below:

YELLINGBO CONSERVATION AREA

Creation of the Yellingbo Coordination Committee was in response to the Yellingbo Investigation Final Report by the Victorian Environmental Assessment Council (VEAC) to which so many of us made detailed submissions last year. Yarra Ranges and Cardinia Councils conducted an Expressions of Interest process for membership to this Yellingbo Conservation Area Co-ordination Committee in early July.

As most of us are well aware, Yellingbo has unique biodiversity and ecological values, and establishment of this committee is an important step in improving public land and conservation outcomes in the area. The state government has established the committee to improve coordination and collaboration between land managers and other agencies involved in the management of the Yellingbo Conservation Area following the three million dollars grant received to facilitate this project.

> **Landcare planting, Sunday July 20, MEL: 306 A8**

July 18
HEWI Waterwatch
Grace Burn

July 20
 Landcare for Singles
 Yellingbo 10am-2pm

July 24
HEWI meeting
HL&LC 6.45pm

July 26
 Community Engagement Forum
 Montrose Town Centre
 10.30am-1.00pm

July 27
National Tree day

August 05
 'The Wisdom to Survive'
 Manningham Uniting Church
 Templestowe 7.30pm

August 06 - 07
 Eastern Yellow Robins
 Warrandyte 7.30pm

August 15
 Leadbeater's Possum
 Toolangi Castella Community House
 7.30pm \$5.00

August 15
Waterwatch
Grace Burn

August 16
 Fuel reduction burns forum

August 23
HEWI meeting
HL&LC

August 27
 Prof David Karoly
 Mooroolbark
 7.00pm FREE

October 12
 Walk Watch & Wonder!
 Yarra Ranges NP
 10.30am - 3.00pm

HEWI meeting
HL&LC
6.45 - 9.15pm

BREAKTHROUGH

Over 300 people attended the Breakthrough 2014 National Climate Restoration Forum in late June to discuss pathways to safe climate restoration. Local, interstate and international delegates espoused their strong desire to establish a more powerful response to our climate emergency beyond current climate action.

The Forum articulated a new strategy paradigm, exposing science, economics, politics and social change for safe climate restoration. Many of the presentations are now available on the Breakthrough website and we have copies of some that can be emailed to anyone interested. A display on the importance of the Great Forest National Park as a local contribution to climate restoration received great interest and support from Forum participants.

FORESTS UPDATE

July 4 was the third anniversary of the beginning of the Save Sylvania campaign, when we became aware of VicForests plan to close Sylvania Creek Road from 18th July to the end of August 2011, for the logging of Gun Barrel coupe.

Sure enough, Mountain Ash forest along Sylvania Creek Road was back under assault exactly three years and two Supreme Court hearings later.

This time it is trees in Rusty (coupe 297-547-0007) that are being felled adding to the desolation on the western slopes of Mount St Leonard. This coupe extends from Leo's Foot all the way down to Sylvania Creek Road and contained over 100 hollow-bearing habitat trees before logging began. The Knitting Nannas (KNOT) quickly responded by assembling again on Sylvania Creek Road. On Tuesday July 8, there were demonstrations in the forest and also outside VicForests office in Healesville. HEWI chairman Steve Meacher has written several letters to Environment Minister Ryan Smith calling for logging in Toolangi to be halted pending implementation of the Leadbeater's Possum Advisory Group recommendations, so far without success. On a happier note a Toolangi coupe HEWI raised particular concerns about in its submission to VicForests' proposal to amend the Timber Release Plan has been withdrawn. This is the first coupe to be withdrawn since the election of the state coalition government. But we cannot afford to rest on our laurels; it was only one of 300 coupes added by the amendment. And it could be returned to the TRP in the next year or two.



ANNUAL REVEGETATION ACTIVITY

Our second planting within the Nook area of the Grace Burn was a very special event this year. HEWI and Healesville Primary School celebrated a 15 year partnership over which time the young students have planted 15,000 seedlings! A quite amazing and inspiring contribution to waterways restoration along two degraded creeks and the Watts River. We are most grateful to the production staff from Cummins Filtration Kilsyth,

who act as encouraging buddies to the young Year 3 students. HEWI is also celebrating 25 years of advocacy and waterways protection this year, so we were delighted that the mayor, Cr Fiona McAllister could join us to make all the presentations after our barbeque lunch.

News In Brief cont...

LIVE IT UP

The guest presenter on Climate Change will be Professor David Karoly, Melbourne University renowned for his active research on climate variability and climate change, including greenhouse climate change, ozone and inter annual climate variations due to El Niño. Recently, he has been studying the impacts of climate change on weather extremes and their impacts on humans and the environment. Free and everyone welcome.

> **Wednesday 27th August 7.00pm, Mooroolbark Community Centre, Brice Avenue**

As always, car pooling is encouraged, so you are welcome to contact Maureen if there are distances involved for any of the above meetings which provide the opportunity to share resources across all enviro groups within our shire. As well as the fun of social contact with other committed volunteers!



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