

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

News in Brief

HEALING THE SPIRIT - Reconciliation Healesville

To participate in this moving ceremony and hear these inspiring speakers you will need to register immediately with Shenae Voce on 92946734 or Gary Detez: g.detez@yarraranges.vic.gov.au. Light refreshments will be served.

Welcome to Country - Auntie Joy Murphy

No Longer a Wandering Spirit - Anty Phyllis Andy and Sharon Heubner

Return of the Firestick - Dave Wandin

First 1000 Days - The social and cultural determinants of Aboriginal health Professor Kerry Arabena

> **Friday June 1 at the Memo, 235 Maroondah Highway**

Badger Creek Community Day

There will be a HEWI stall in the Badger Creek Old School to join local residents celebrating this dynamic local community. There will be fun activities across several sites - Badger Creek Hall, CFA, the Men's Shed and the BC Old School with a barbeque, a variety of refreshments, kids' entertainment, including waterbugs and live music.

> **Sunday June 18 11am - 3.30pm**

Healesville Community Renewable Energy Project

The official launch of this timely new project will be at a free community meeting at the Memo, Healesville, with free refreshments to follow. Expressions of interest have already been made to Convenor Jeff Barlow and preparatory meetings have been held to work on a basic agenda for this launch. This is an exciting project for our Healesville community and is totally supported by the HEWI committee. **The aim of the project is to stimulate and organize the uptake of community solar electricity and solar hot water for residents, businesses and non-profits in Healesville.**

For the full details and to register, open their website www.healesvillecore.org.au RSVP by June 22 is preferred - you can refer any questions to Jeff before the meeting, on contact@healesvillecore.org.au

> **Thursday 29 June 6.45pm for 7.00 - 9.00pm at the Memo**

This month we are celebrating 20 continuous years of waterways restoration that began in 1997 with a request from Yarra Ranges Shire and Melbourne Water to revegetate the eroding banks of the 'Don Road Drain'. A terrific record but it "gets better"! HEWI also began a campaign to have this waterway recognised as the naturally occurring creek that it is, and we approached Senior Wurundjeri Elder, Auntie Joy Murphy, for a suitable aboriginal name. Auntie Joy chose Wirrup Yaluk (Blackfish Creek) which was finally acknowledged by Council this year at their January 24 meeting. Official recognition by the Registrar of Place Names was announced on April 3 so our creek should now be recorded in the new Melway Maps and all location devices!!

GO WILD FOR LIFE!

This is our theme for our Environment Day (June 5) display, in the large glass display cabinet in the Healesville Library - (the display will remain for the whole month of June!).

HEWI and Friends of Leadbeater's Possum are sharing the display based on our common advocacy for the Great Forest National Park. We are extremely fortunate to have had the guidance of Karena Goldfinch renowned for her photographic imagery. Unfortunately, Karena has had to cope with our rather poor quality photos of our numerous activities -but it will certainly be our best display ever - *thanks Karena!*

HEWI ANNUAL REVEGETATION DAY

This year we will be returning to that initial site from 20 years ago as some saplings have fallen recently, leaving spaces for infill plantings. Once again, we will welcome two Year 3 classes from Healesville Primary School, their buddy partners from Cummins Filtration and HEWI volunteers. We aim to plant 2,000 indigenous seedlings in the areas prepared by Council's Bushland staff in our usual two hours - fast workers! - after which Steve McGill from Melbourne Water will reward us with barbeque sausages and veggie burgers. This food and drinks will be served at the Picnic shelter about 12noon, so we will have to walk back - admiring previous plantings along the way! Lunch will be followed by a few presentations by our Special Guest.

Students, staff and parents became our first major partners in 2000 when Susi Sheaffe (Weber), first brought her Year 3 students to help us out. We also had a long association with Lilydale TAFE Conservation and Land management students until the Napthine Government decided that Lilydale TAFE education was superfluous. In 2010, we were approached by Cummins Filtration at Kilsyth to become our first corporate partners and how welcome they have been! Congratulation to the hundreds of volunteers who have transformed Healesville waterways with protective vegetation for the Platypus that breed in the heart of our Township.



This year's planting site is along the creek from the HICSA's fenceline towards the bridge - the boundary that faces Badger Creek Road. Gloves, hats and water are always recommended but the plants and tools will be provided by Yarra Ranges Council staff - who will also pre-dig the holes with their augers to make our plantings so much easier!

This is a fun day, so everyone is welcome - there are plenty of small tasks that would be

most helpful to the planters if you are able to join us but like me, are unable to plant.

> **Friday June 23 9.30am - 1.00pm, Wirrup Yaluk, Queens Park south**

June 01

Reconciliation event
The Memo, Maroondah Highway
10.00am – 1.00pm

June 01 - 30

HEWI & Friends of Leadbeater's
Possum
With the Great Forest National Park
Pictorial display in Healesville
Library

June 05**ENVIRONMENT DAY**

United Nations Theme
"Caring for Nature"

June 08

HEWI committee meeting
Healesville Living and Learning
Centre

7.00 – 9.00pm**June 16**

Waterwatch monitoring
Queens Park Rotunda
10.00am – 12noon

June 18

Badger Creek Community Day
Badger Creek Hall & Old School &
CFA

11am – 3.30pm

June 23

20th Revegetation Day
Wirrup Yaluk
Southern section from HICSA
fenceline

10.00am – 1.00pm**June 29**

Launch of Healesville Community
Renewable Energy
At the Memo
6.45pm for 7.00 – 9.00pm

July 1

Launch of Plastic Bags Free
Healesville Bags, Live music, Bags,
Give-aways, and Bags!
Healesville IGA
All Day!

July 13

HEWI meeting
HL&LC
7.00-9.00pm

July 30

National Tree Day
Revegetation of Grace Burn
reserve
10am – 12noon

LAUNCH OF PLASTIC BAG FREE HEALESVILLE

This will take place outside the Healesville IGA with a variety of activities to entertain us and a colourful display of the amazing boomerang bags that many volunteers have been sewing for months now to cope with the high demand for these shopping bags. They are called 'Boomerang Bags' as they are offered as replacements for the ones we forget to bring with us! *Borrow and return!*

If you do not have material bags at home, then please keep these same bags in your car so that you will never have to use a plastic bag again! Or they can be returned to the store as really boomerang bags.

There will also be new Calico bags available to buy for your own supply.

This launch will feature a sewing bee, information stall and light hearted 'Plastic Bag' tunes from our local choir. Congratulations to Ria and all involved towards a Plastic Bag Free Healesville. Look for their logo on other shops as well.

> **Official launch Saturday July 1 all day**

YELLINGBO CONSERVATION AREA and the YARRA VALLEY TRAIL

Many HEWI members might recall our support for a bike/hike trail from Lilydale to Healesville in 2006 "We strongly support the opportunity to encourage local commuting by bicycle between Healesville and Lilydale". But there were concerns about other alternatives and so our support was qualified: "HEWI urges the Shire of Yarra Ranges to direct your energies towards a practical, sustainable venture that will provide a healthy lifestyle for the majority with proven tourist potential for minimum capital outlay".

So here we are again, with disquieting evidence from the consultants for Yarra Ranges Council that the preferred trail from Healesville to Warburton will be along the highly vulnerable Yarra River, including sections that have already been assessed as Yellingbo conservation corridors. These corridors were protected following VEAC's extensive surveys and Final Recommendations to the government in 2013. But as we know from recent Council decisions, 'protective powers' can be watered down at the whim of Councillors and Ministers.

There were no references to a trail along the Yarra River in early Council meeting agendas but the Minutes from April 2016 included unanimous recommendations for the consultants to investigate trail construction along the Yarra River - in spite of recommendations from the same consultants in their own extensive Feasibility Study that the Yarra River between Yarra Glen and Healesville was NOT a feasible option.

As the consultants, Cox Architects, are also track/trail construction specialists, there would appear to be a serious conflict of interest in the current process. We are also concerned about the lack of updated information on the webpage, including the evidence of Anne Frazer and Len Milner and consequent unanimous Council recommendations at two Council meetings this year on the trail - April 26 and May 9.

Environment groups have set up our own website which will publish factual information only and include links to other relevant data. Our waterways and their associated ecological vegetation are absolutely vital to the future health of our yarra valley. www.yarrarangesconservationalliance.weebly.com

If you are concerned about possible degradation along the Yarra River buffer zones (zones created by Governments everywhere to protect vital water quality of their essential waterways), then you still have time to express your views on the Yarra Valley trail as the due date for submissions has been extended to June 2 and Councillors will consider this issue at their next Forum on June 6.

We have been privileged to enjoy such a beautiful autumn this year with just enough rain to keep our plants happy and the winter vegies emerging. On a cooler day, the warmth of the library might appeal - so we hope you will enjoy the display there of just some of our many activities, and even make a note to join us when you can!

I want to congratulate Adrian Jeffs, who produced a small gem of an iPhone film that won the Best Documentary award at the MoMo (Mobile Motion) Festival in Zurich on May 27. Unfortunately Adrian was unable to hop on a passing jet so the organisers used Skype to thank our local genius. But the beautiful trophy is yet to arrive by snail mail. Congrats Adrian, HEWI webmaster supremo!

