

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

News in Brief

Friends of Leadbeater's Possum Yellingbo plantings:

We aim to plant 2,000 trees over 2 days at the Yellingbo Conservation reserve. Please join us at the depot shed, Shield Road, Yellingbo. Bring gloves, gumboots, water, sunhat and wet weather gear. RSVP for Saturday 16th June by 3pm Thursday 14th June and for Saturday 11th August by 3pm Thursday 9th August. Your RSVPs are required so that we know how many plants to prepare

RSVP Sue 0427 055 071 possum56@gmail.com.

> **Saturday June 16 and Saturday August 11 Shield Road**

Healesville CoRE

"From Dreams to Solar Reality"

A night of review and celebration in movements towards Healesville's net zero, solar energy future.

HCoRE was launched in June 2017 to a capacity audience with regular community meetings and workshops for the next 12 months towards a transformation that would enable Healesville to become a Net Zero town. This review will feature our project partners outlining projects that are being put into place and those that are envisioned for the future use of renewable energy only. Hear how residents and businesses can save money and how we as a community can invest in Healesville's future. Book: <http://healesvillecore.org.au/community-events/>

> **6.45pm for 7.00 – 9.00pm, Thursday June 21 at the Memo.**

Seminar: Traffic and wildlife don't mix: solutions for a growing Melbourne

Local urban and road ecologist Dr Rodney van der Ree will share his expertise in this field, drawing on local and international research and practice to outline the numerous impacts of roads and traffic on biodiversity and delve deeply into the many novel solutions that can help nature thrive alongside an efficient and safe transportation system. No bookings required

> **Wednesday 04 July, 7.20pm for a 7.30pm start, The Grand Hotel, Warrandyte**

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Welcome to **ENVIRONMENT DAY**, June 5 which HEWI celebrates across the whole month! We began with the highly successful film evening on June 1, our display in the large glass case at the library from June 4-30 and our annual planting day on June 22. This year's theme for the library display is the Great Forest National Park with some stunning photos by Chris Taylor, Steven Kutter and others with text boards by Evelyn Feller.

REVEGETATION OF GRACE BURN June 22

Our 21st annual partnership planting will provide infill along the banks of the Grace Burn within Queens Park. This area is under a fire restriction overlay as it forms part of the Neighbourhood Safer Place for community emergencies, so the plants will be small grasses, lilies and shrubs to provide groundcover under the larger shrubs and trees already present. These protective banks are reasonably wide along this section to protect the waterway as it enters the recreational area and commercial activities on the other side.

Once again, we will have the company of Year 3 Healesville Primary students, their adult 'buddies' from Cummins Filtration, HEWI volunteers, Council and Melbourne Water staff to plant 2,000 seedlings. All volunteers are most welcome but Working with Children clearance is essential for all activities with young people.

We will also be joined by a small HICSA playgroup, their teacher, parents and grandparents – an exciting first! Their teacher, Nikki Madgwick, will welcome everyone with an Acknowledgement of Country at 10am.

Our bbq lunch provided by Melbourne Water at 12noon will be followed by a few presentations of goodwill.

> **Friday June 22, top pathway within Queens Park, (near the sound shell).**

REPORTS:

WW&W HEALESVILLE BIODIVERSITY OFFSETS SITE

Our second visit to this ex-tip site was full of surprises! The revegetated area was packed with indigenous tall shrubs and trees – from the bare soil of 2013 - and we were shown many other developments within the 33ha site by Council officer Glen Terry. There are 4 other similar sites within the Yarra Ranges, all of which are similarly covenanted with Trust for Nature, which includes strict monitoring of leachate and methane leakage, with world first technology employed for the leachate collection draw down.

The revegetation area in Swampy riparian woodland containing Swamp Gum and Green Scent-bark (vulnerable *Eucalyptus fulgens*) has thrived since our 2013 visit. Yearly monitoring cameras on fixed points have revealed Long-necked Tortoise, Sacred Kingfisher, Swamp Wallaby, Eastern Grey Kangaroos with one dead Powerful Owl found on the track.....and deer.....

The Herb-rich foothill forest has established via natural recruitment and these species also used to propagate seedlings for another revegetation site. Tall Manna Gum forest occurs along the wide creek buffers of the Grace Burn continuous with the Yarra Ranges National Park - an extensive, protected waterways buffer zone.

Over refreshments, Glen offered HEWI a spring walk with wildflowers and orchids – how exciting will that be! Watch this space....

FORESTS UPDATE

Case 1. Congratulations to Friends of Leadbeater's Possum for gaining an Injunction in the Federal Court which currently protects 5 logging coupes that have substantial records of Greater Gliders. There are 38 other coupes with similar Greater Glider numbers recorded that could be protected if Vic Forests decided to schedule logging them. The Quoll was found in a coupe that overlaps with some of these coupes, demonstrating their rich biodiversity. Critical Habitat is also nominated under the Flora and Fauna Guarantee ACT.

- June**
- 05 ENVIRONMENT DAY**
- 08 Water Watch monthly monitoring
Grace Burn, Queens Park
10am**
- 14 HEWI meeting
HL&LC
7.00-9.00pm**
- 16 FLBP planting
Yellingbo**
- 21 HCoRE 12 months review
The Memo
7.00-9.00pm**
- 22 Revegetation of Grace Burn
Queens Park
10am – 12.30pm**
- 29 Library display dismantled**
- 30 2015-8 YRC grant sign off**
- JULY**
- 01 2018-22 YRC grant operates**
- 04 Traffic & wildlife
Grand Hotel, Warrandyte
7.20-9.00pm**
- 12 HEWI meeting
HL&LC 7.00-9.00pm**
- 13 Water Watch monitoring
Grace Burn, Queens Park
10am**
- 29 National Tree Day
Grace Burn Reserve
10am – 12noon**

The delay in releasing a Recovery Plan for Leadbeater's Possum is deplorable when strongly supported scientific criteria has already published.

Case 2. The Flora and Fauna Research Collective have been forced to a Hearing – June 18, Supreme Court- in defence of 34 areas of Wet and Damp **Old Growth Forest** in East Gippsland which will be opposed by Vic Forests and DELWP. faunaandfloraresearchcollective.wordpress.com

THE PLIGHT OF THE ORANGE-BELLIED PARROT June 1

Thanks to our Vice Chairperson, Evelyn Feller, for her organisation of our local showing of this spectacular film by David Neilson, whose close-up photography over long periods of time must be almost unique. He had a superb array of coloured feathers to work with, and his images will remain deeply imprinted on minds that have been entranced by his deft film making. HEWI is most grateful to have been supported by Birdlife Australia for this presentation, so that all ticket and item sales, plus donations, will be shared by two endangered species, the Orange-bellied Parrot and Leadbeater's Possum.

Department of Environment, Water, Land and Planning

This year, DEWLP are using "[Engage Victoria](#)" sites to encourage direct community consultation and we believe that brief statements are being noted, whereas long submissions are apparently lost in the mass of media with which we are all swamped. Anyone may subscribe; here is the current list of environmental links:

[Residential Noise Regulations](#)
[Golden Plains Wind Farm EES Inquiry](#)
[Clean Air for All Victorians: Victorias Air Quality Statement](#)
[Cultural River Precinct Structure Plan](#) (next 50years for Yarra River).
[The Authority to Control Wildlife system review](#)
[Improving Stormwater Management Advisory Committee](#)

CULTURE and COUNTRY

This year's Reconciliation event, supported by Yarra Ranges Council, was an inspiring presentation with contributions from all ages. One of these, "The Firestick Dreaming" featured a workshop that Uncle Dave Wandin organised with Dixon Creek Primary School's students to illustrate the values of firestick burning. A delightful and insightful book was published by Council that followed each stage of this workshop, called **Parent Trees Talking**, which the young students read in front of the large screen featuring forest habitats.

For some in the audience, this was both painful and ironic, when most of our parent trees, these majestic habitats for so many other species, are being logged for paper products and Council will not support their protection within a Great Forest National Park.

HEWI's agenda: If you wish to be involved with the C122 and C148 Amendments which will introduce many changes to our current Planning Scheme, please contact Evelyn: 5962 5227.

*** News In Brief Cont..***

Alpine National Park- Feral Horse Strategic Action Plan

Endorsed by the Victorian Government to manage the impact of feral horses on natural and cultural sites within the ANP.

Please visit: <http://parkweb.vic.gov.au/explore/parks/alpine-national-park/plans-and-projects/feral-horse-operational-plan>

HEWI thanks:

- to all members who have re-signed as members recently and those who have given generous donations for our projects. We are also grateful to those mystery donors who prefer – or forget? – to leave their details. Hopefully you will be interested in one of our activities and introduce yourselves!



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