

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

### News in Brief

#### Earth Hour

The annual Lights Out for one hour to prove the world can unite to tackle climate change.

> **29 March, 8.30pm-9.30pm.**

#### Yarra – Source to sea

Dr Neville Rosengren will outline the geological and landform history of the Yarra River and its major tributaries. The river corridor divides into three broad regions based on valley width and depth of incision and includes alternating reaches of gorge and floodplain. Neville will describe the geomorphology of the Yarra valley and explain how the varied geology and tectonic and volcanic history has shaped the present landscape.

> **7.30pm Wed April 2, Grand Hotel, Warrandyte**

#### Big Trees and Tributaries

Interested artists are invited to join 19 other artists for a week of immersive workshops with local historians, Aboriginal historians, local environmentalists and other scientists to create an exciting new project from the impressive "Scenes on the Yarra" team and their site-specific performance/installations. Warburton Environment is the partner for this event supporting the creation of the **Great Forest National Park**. All activities will be captured by a local filmmaker for a documentary to be screened in Federation Square next year for the Sustainable Living Festival. The detailed program for participants can be found at: [www.scenesontheyarra.com](http://www.scenesontheyarra.com)

> **Sat April 5 – Wed April 9**

#### Ecotopia Festival

ECOSS, Yarra Junction: the theme for this year's festival is Honey Bees with live music, performers, delectable local foods, information stalls, innovation and the widely popular recycled fashion parade. Indigenous seedlings from their nursery also available.

> **Sun, 13 April 10am-4pm Yarra Junction Skate Park**

<http://feest-au.com/Ecotopia-Junction-Festival-Yarra-Junction-04-13>

*March has been so much more pleasant for most of us – and an extremely busy one for your committee, with more to come. It is always a delight to be invited to join another group's festival to learn from their activities and hopefully encourage more interest in our environmental issues - as we experienced at Coranderrk Festival last weekend.*

#### HEWI at AUTUMNFEST

Our stall at this year's permaculture festival will again offer the popular weed exchange for indigenous plants and free dabber bottles. We have two boxes of beautiful seedlings, so bring along your bags of pesky weeds and select your seedlings.

We will also feature our Grace Burn project and flyers advertising our 150 years event ahead in November, as at last week's Coranderrk festival.

Waterbugs samples will also be available, a shared activity with the Landcare groups from Mt Toolebewong and Chum Creek, with a Council display also adjacent featuring sustainable living in the home, offering free energy efficient light bulbs.

> **Saturday March 22 Coronation Park, Healesville**

#### HEALESVILLE STRUCTURE PLAN

HEWI is represented on the Advisory Group for this future-planning project but all community members are encouraged to attend the next workshop with Council's Strategic Planning team. Topics to be considered include:

How big should Healesville get?

If extra housing is needed, what type and where should it be?

Should the commercial centre get bigger or diversify?

Is more land needed for industry?

How can Healesville's natural environment be protected while still minimizing fire risk?

What services and facilities are needed to support Healesville in the future?

All feedback is vitally important so please contact Maureen if you have ideas but cannot attend this meeting. Bookings for the workshop are required. Please phone Strategic Planning on 9294 6165 or book online at [www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au](http://www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au)

There will be information, displays and registration available from 6pm.

> **Wednesday 26 March, 7.00pm-9:30pm**

#### ENVIRONMENT COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT FORUM

These bimonthly meetings have been presented in different regional venues across the shire for the past two years. A wide variety of topics has been covered – chosen by the enviro volunteers who participated in the previous forum. So if any member wishes to raise a particular environmental issue, this next meeting in Healesville is your ideal opportunity!

All the presentations over the past two years have been interesting, some more challenging than others. Question times are always lively, with networking and more discussion after the lunch provided – so registration is essential.

With at least two of our regular participants away, I hope that some of you will be able to join us this time – unfortunately, there are no details available as yet.

> **Saturday April 5 10.00 am – 1.30pm, H'ville Comm. Link**

#### WATERWATCH and the GRACE BURN PROJECT

Congratulations to Lou and the WW gang for obtaining an \$8,000 grant from Melbourne Water towards the production of our own spectacular performance art event to highlight the last 150 years of living with our local waterways. Coordinator Jeminah Reidy is currently artist-in-residence at Montsalvat and joined us last week to outline her creative procedure and requirements for the extensive preparations involved. This will be a stunning contribution to the 150

**March 14**  
Waterwatch tests

**March 15**  
Coranderrk Festival

**March 22**  
Autumnfest in Coronation Park  
River Street Healesville  
9.00 am – 3.00pm

**March 26**  
Healesville Structure Plan  
Community Meeting  
Memo hall  
7.00-9.00pm

**March 27**  
Transition Towns Network  
Yarra Ranges Council  
6.30-8.30pm

**March 28**  
Water Bugs with HPS students  
Grace Burn Queens Park  
9.00am -12noon

**March 29**  
EARTH HOUR  
8.30 – 9.30pm

**April 03**  
HEWI meeting  
HL&LC  
6.45 – 9.15pm

**April 05**  
Environment Community Forum  
Healesville Community Link  
10.30am -2.30pm

**April 08**  
Meeting with Cr McAllister  
H. C. Link

**April 11**  
WaterWatch Phys/chem. tests  
Grace Burn & Wirrup Yaluk  
Queens Park  
9.30am – 11.00am

**May 01**  
HEWI meeting  
HL&LC  
6.45pm – 9.15pm

**May 09**  
Autumn Invertebrates  
Badger Creek Old School  
10.30am - 12noon

years festival in November. We are extremely grateful to Courtney Deans, Melbourne Water Waterwatch Coordinator North East, for sourcing the funds to cover this ambitious community project.

Four HEWI members attended three different training sessions with Melbourne Water last month and found all most informative and helpful.

#### STATE EMBLEMS CONSERVATION AREA

This is a most exciting announcement! The state government has largely agreed to 19 recommendations from the Yellingbo investigation by the Victorian Environment Assessment Council into how to best manage, preserve and restore the Yellingbo Nature Conservation Reserve.

One of Victoria's most precious and fragile patches of the environment, home for two of our endangered animal emblems, the Helmeted Honeyeater and Leadbeater's Possum, will now be protected in this new conservation network.

Agreed recommendations include the vital 2940 hectares of adjacent reserves and natural features that will hopefully reverse the vegetation decline occurring within the original swamplands. This will include the Coranderrk bushland within Healesville Sanctuary.

A coordinating committee will include a wide range of authorities and community representatives. Bob Anderson, long time President of FOHH (and local resident) is especially delighted that the coordinating committee will be established this year. Congratulations HEHOs! – and thanks to all HEWI members who made supportive submissions to this VEAC Investigation.

#### Next step – the establishment of our Great Forest National Park.

#### CLIMATE CHANGE – THE CHALLENGE WE FACE

The Climate Council's latest Angry Summer report (<http://www.climatecouncil.org.au/angry-summer>) analyses climate data from across the country for the 2013-2014 summer with searing temperatures and more than 150 weather records broken. Climate Council chair Professor Tim Flannery said the scorching summer was part of an overall trend of more extreme weather events in Australia, and called for action on cutting carbon emissions – "this is the critical decade for action".

#### But who will provide this critical action?

Professor Lesley Hughes, Macquarie University, said the weather patterns were clearly due to climate change and governments need to address it as an issue. The report called for "urgent and deep reductions in the emissions of greenhouse gases" to stabilise the climate.

#### But are any federal, state or local governments listening?

The nature of heatwaves is changing, they are now tending to start earlier, last longer and occur more frequently – (Victoria's February fires burnt 280,000 hectares of land and Melbourne had its hottest 24-hour period -average temperature 35.5°C!! Canberra had 20 days above 35°C.) There were also records for above-average rain – in northern and western Australia - but seriously lowered rainfall forecasts have been issued for the east and south.

#### How would you like HEWI to address climate change issues within our community?

#### REGULATING CATS AND DOGS IN YARRA RANGES

Following a survey and in compliance with State government Domestic Animals Act 1994, Council has approved an Order that prescribe areas where dogs are prohibited or can be exercised on or off a lead and controls relating to cat confinement. This Order was the direct result of community consultation which was overwhelmingly in favour of a 24hours cat curfew due to the recognition that cats are natural predators of birds and mammals, decimating our native wildlife.

It will be essential for council to advertise these controls to domestic animal owners to avoid emotional responses if their animal is impounded. Council staff deliver cat cages to residents who have unwanted cats entering their property, with all catches collected and delivered to local pounds who charge a fee for release. Council are still to set their own fees and these will be an important component as they could be used to provide more doggy bag containers and clear notices about the pollution of waterways and drainage from doggy poo.

Maps containing the locations of dog off-lead and areas prohibited for cats and dogs will be available shortly.

*Thank you to all our loyal members who have renewed for another year – it would be great to catch up at our next stall – and others may wish to renew subs too. We will also have the Great Forest National Park petition to sign if you have not been able to do so previously. Another cheery community day together!*



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

<http://roundleafpomaderris.org.au>