

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

News in Brief

Monbulk Landcare Group AGM

The theme of the meeting will be Renewable Energy, with two leading participants in the industry giving their perspectives on reducing our carbon intensity, very fast trains and solar energy systems.

> **Saturday 5 March at 9.45am, at the Monbulk Hub**

Solar Cook Up.

On lawn in front of Emerald IGA. (Weather permitting). The same scone recipe will be tried on all 5 different solar cookers. Solar billys will provide hot water. Bring a folding chair.

> **Saturday March 19 10am - 1pm**

Nature and a new climate

The 'Managing Biodiversity in Victoria under Climate Change' symposium has resulted in 10 recommendations which include increasing funding and resources for our national parks, introducing new 'climate-ready' species in rehabilitated areas, increasing the genetic diversity of plantings and improved health of riverside vegetation. www.vicnature2050.org

Yarra4Life Project

This major environmental project in the Yarra Valley that aims to protect, improve, increase and connect habitat for native animals including the Helmeted Honeyeater and Leadbeater's Possum has received \$100,000 grant from the Victorian State Government. In addition, Yarra4Life has had significant support through the Australian Government's National Landcare Programme. www.yarra4life.com.au.

Welcome to Barry, our newest member

Greetings to all our members and friends for this rather warmish end to summer months. We continue our interaction with community groups and local projects as well as working with all levels of government on strategic issues. HEWI also embraces the defining principles of "credibility, authenticity and rigour" (from Environment East Gippsland).

WATERBUGS WITH HEALESVILLE PRIMARY SCHOOL

This is one of our annual events, working with Year 4 students from Healesville Primary School, their teachers and parents to discover the joy of searching for – and finding! – waterbugs in our creek water samples. The students use identification charts to help them classify each organism that they discover. These are the same students who planted 2,000 seedlings along Wirrup Yaluk last year and so they return to learn about the tiny creatures that their plantings protect. The HEWI Waterwatch team are delighted to have their spirited company again!

Wirrup Yaluk is the creek that flows under Don Road into Queens Park and then under the Maroondah Highway to join the Grace Burn. We are still trying to have this Wurundjeri name officially placed on the Registrar of Geographic Names.

> **Friday March 04 9.30am – 12noon Rotunda Queens Park**

CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY

The site that we have nominated this year is the Silverleaf Bushland Reserve on the Grace Burn at the end of Silverleaf Place. Our Grace Burn Project facilitator, Karen Garth, will be there to answer questions about the project so all residents along the Grace Burn and those of Silverleaf Place have been notified and invited to join us in a walk through the remnant vegetation. This will provide an opportunity for residents to meet and record their views on the management program for the reserve, with some identification of weeds and indigenous plants. We will also be looking for a suitable site to plant as part of a legacy that we have been offered. All members are most welcome to join us in this little-known reserve.

Bags are available if you would prefer to clean up your own site – call Maureen for delivery and collection! 5962 1224

> **Sunday March 06 10am – 12noon, Silverleaf Bushland Reserve (turn right at Poppy's) Refreshments will be served!**

WATERWATCH ACTIVITIES

HEWI and Mt Toolebewong and District Landcare members monitor the health of the Grace Burn waterway with physical and chemical testing each month. This creek appears to be in good condition and our work with residents through the Grace Burn project should help to maintain this standard. It is interesting to note that the local community expressed their appreciation of this waterway in a recent survey. However, there are many contributing factors to potential pollution and we remain committed to constant surveillance.

Look for our new Platypus protection signs on drainage covers across our township!

March 04

Waterbugs from the Grace Burn
Year 4 Healesville Primary
students
9.30am – 12noon

March 06

Clean up Australia Day
Silverleaf Bushland Reserve
10am – 12noon

March 10

HEWI meeting
HL&LC
7.00-9.30pm

March 14

Labour Day holiday

March 25 – April 10

Easter/school holidays

April 03

Leadbeater's Possum
Rediscovery day
Cambarville

April 10

Ecotopia Junction Festival
711 Old Warburton Rd
Wesburn

April 16

Waterwatch invertebrate ID
Badger Creek old school
10.00am -12noon

April 21

HEWI meeting
HL&LC
7.00pm-9.30pm

April 25

Anzac day

FOREST NEWS

The Premier's Forest Industry Taskforce has had its first meeting for the year. There are many difficult issues still to be discussed but the group is nevertheless required to present recommendations to the government by June. Discussions are still taking place on the deferral of logging in High Conservation Value coupes, but progress to date has been both inadequate and slow. VicForests is still planning to log many contentious coupes in the next few months.

Members will have read the excellent front page article in the Mountain Views Mail "[Plan for Possums](#)". It contains an excellent summary of the main features of the Leadbeater's Possum Recovery Plan which is available for public comment until 20 May. It is likely the plan, when finalised, will contribute to a much-needed revision of the State Action Statement, so it is important that it is as strong as possible. A workshop is being planned to support members of the public who wish to make a submission. Get in touch if you would like to receive further information.

You can also support the dedicated work of Friends of Leadbeater's Possum by attending their annual Rediscovery Day at Cambarville on Sunday April 3.

HEALSIVILE STRUCTURE PLAN

There is still time to contribute your comments to this draft plan that will guide all future developments and land use for many years ahead. HEWI's submission is in draft form if any member would like a copy.

The document can be downloaded from Council's website, under Planning and a council planner will be available at the Community Link on Tuesdays 10am -4pm at the Community Link in Healesville, where you can also view a copy of the Draft Plan – also at the Healesville Community Market on Sunday 7 March, 9am-12noon.

By email: mail@yarraranges.vic.gov.au

By post: Strategic Planning, Yarra Ranges Council, PO Box 105, Lilydale, 3140

By hand: To any Council Community Link office.

> Submissions close March 15**CLIMATE CHARTER WIN!**

The Independent Review into Victoria's Climate Change Act has recommended that Victoria adopt a Climate Change Charter. The Charter will contain objectives and principles for dealing with climate change and could provide a model that could be used in local, state and national jurisdictions around the world. The Victorian government must now turn this excellent recommendation into law, to drive real reductions in greenhouse gas emissions across Victoria. (from [Environmental Justice Australia](#) who decided that a legal mechanism to ensure that governments take meaningful action was needed to reduce emissions and deal with climate change impacts).

Bronwyn has been busy writing receipts and we are most grateful to all who have renewed their memberships and the many donations.

Unfortunately Autumnfest has been cancelled so we will miss catching up with many of you at that venue.

However, your committee is beavering away at other activities to entice you!



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www.hewi.org.au

<http://roundleafpomaderris.org.au>