

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

## News in Brief

### Yarra Glen Arts Show

Founded by six local artist's friends and operating since 2002, the Yarra Glen Art Show, now rebranded the Yarra Glen Arts Show is a major community bi-annual art event for the Yarra Valley.

The new Artist Awards are attractive and will address the diverse range of mediums accepted in the show including painting, photography, sculpture, textiles and metal works, capturing styles from realist to impressionist and contemporary abstract to traditional landscape.

There are a number of new activities: a local schools' activity, and an activity designed to encourage visitors to participate in the creation of an art work during the three-day event. These new activities will be fun, create a sense of belonging, and enrich the experience of all visitors to the show.

> **11-13 March 10.00am-4.30pm Yarra Glen Memorial Hall, 45 Bell Street**

### UN's International Day of Forests.

"Forests and trees absorb the sun's energy and store it by turning it into wood—the world's most used source of renewable energy. While we have been using this energy source to cook and heat our homes since the discovery of fire, today's scientific advances are opening up even more uses, like turning wood waste into liquid biofuels that fuel cars and airplanes. Using wood harvested from sustainably managed forests keeps a balance for future generations and ensures that wood remains a fuel of the future. Join us in celebrating the International Day of Forests on 21 March 2017".

<http://www.fao.org/forestry/international-day-offorests/en/>

### Leadbeater's Possum Awareness Week

This year will be the 150th anniversary of the description of Leadbeater's Possum as a new species by Frederick McCoy at the Melbourne Museum. LbP Awareness Week will start on Monday 27th March and culminate with our usual picnic at Cambarville, where Eric Wilkinson saw the first living Leadbeater's Possum in 1961.

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*In our active community there have been so many date clashes with our own films evening this Friday, that we decided to run an early edition for our March activities. If you can assist with any of these, there will be an opportunity to sign up in the memo foyer before the films.*

### WATERWATCH ACTIVITIES

#### Friday March 10

Our monthly monitoring of water quality from two sites along the Grace Burn. One collection point is on Wallace Parade and the other from within Queens Park, near the picnic shelter where we do the physical and chemical testing of the two samples. Please call Lou: 5962 5714 if you would like to assist this team.

#### Friday March 24

This is our annual Waterbugs session with Year 4 students from Healesville Primary School who planted 2,000 seedlings along the Grace Burn last year. Now they will learn about the diversity of invertebrates that their plantings are sheltering within the waterway, providing a healthy diet for the Platypus population that still thrives in Healesville waterways. Our trained volunteers will lead two sessions assisting the students and their teachers to find and identify the many different species that live in a healthy waterway.

We will need more members this year to compensate for those with other commitments so please call Karen: 5962 5115 if you could assist with this activity.

> **Friday March 24 9.00am – 11.30am Queens Park picnic shelter**

### CLEAN UP DAY

Our registered activity this year will be a walk along Wirrup Yaluk to collect litter and assess the condition of this waterway for future revegetation activities. Meet at the picnic shelter in Queens Park (near the pool) after our Waterwatch monitoring. Bring gloves, hat and wear strong shoes, bags will be provided. If we had two teams it would only take one hour each to cover both sides of this waterway.

Please call Maureen: 5962 1224 if you would like to join us.

> **Friday March 10 9.30am at the picnic shelter Queens Park**

### DIGITAL PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Yarra Ranges Council are developing a digital system for Planning Applications to replace the hard copy folders that were previously available to the community at Lilydale and each relevant Community Link. In Healesville, the monitor will be at the end of the counter – formerly the Vic Roads section. However, to date, this screen is not connected to a printer so any copies of relevant data for a submission is not possible. There have also been complaints about the inability to access drawings – an essential feature of all applications. It would appear to be obvious that all major developments must be available in hard copy to allow consideration of the total concept.

### CARAVAN PARK FOR COLDSTREAM

HEWI has lodged an objection to this Planning Application which proposes a caravan park on 28ha of prime agricultural land within a Green Wedge Zone. Other issues include the lack of any protective vegetation on such a large block of land; dangerous access to Maroondah Highway only metres from the Traffic lights; the significant stand of Eucalypts on the roadside verge; and the loss of amenity due to the exposed slope of the site towards the tourist highway.

**March 9**  
**HEWI meeting at HL&LC**  
**7.00pm-9.00pm**

**March 10**  
 Waterwatch monitoring  
 Grace Burn Queens Park  
 9.00am – 10.30pm

**March 10**  
 Clean up - Wirrup Yaluk  
 10.00am -12noon

**March 19**  
 Enviro Volunteers Day  
 Yarra Ranges Council  
 Karwarra Gardens  
 2.00pm – 5.00pm

**March 24**  
 Waterbugs with HPS students  
 Picnic rotunda Queens Park  
 9.30am – 11.15am

**March 26**  
 Ectopia Festival  
 Yarra Junction

**April 02**  
 Leadbeater's Possum Day  
 Cambarville picnic ground

**April 13**  
**HEWI meeting**  
**HL&LC 7.00pm**

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### News in Brief cont...

#### Leadbeater's Possum Awareness Week

We are hoping Eric will once again be able to join us to share his amazing story. We shall also be enjoying a walk through the Tall Trees and visiting the waterfalls. Falling on the eve of rediscovery day (3rd April), this is always a celebration not to miss.

Our submission also included the recent conversion of a Healesville Tourist Park to residential housing and the possible precedent this might set for later transition of this site within our protected Green Wedge.

We also questioned the media quotes from a Council employee supporting this proposal on economic grounds when it obviously flouts Council land policies for Green Wedge Zones and the inability to access details of this application at the Healesville Community Link even though it is within the Ryrie Ward.

*Planning Application YR-2016/833, 669-671 Maroondah Hwy Coldstream*

#### NATIVE VEGETATION CLEARING REGULATIONS

The Victorian Government released its review into native vegetation clearing regulations late last year with proposed changes to planning and permits rules. Victoria is the most cleared state in Australia and so these regulations are key to protecting our remaining habitats.

The review has been a two-year process and has included consultation with the Victorian Community and key stake holders. Three key documents 'A Summary of Proposed Amendments to Victorian Planning Provisions, Native Vegetation Clearing Assessment Guidelines and a Vegetation Assessment Handbook have been produced.

This process has involved much more than just focusing on guidelines for native vegetation clearing and has included a review of all the legislation and planning schemes related to native vegetation management. One immediate criticism is that the focus is on 'no net loss' not 'net gain'. Positive aspects of the proposed guidelines are greater emphasis on the avoid, minimize steps before proceeding to offset, more requirements for onsite assessment, greater protection of large trees and to some extent considering cumulative impacts of vegetation removal by looking at what has been removed over the previous 5 years. In the offset process, in some situations, the amount of area to be compensated for vegetation loss is double the original area lost to allow for problems like poor recovery, fire or pests. Unfortunately, the regulations may be much more complex for agencies to implement and there is no clear statement on the penalties for illegal removal of vegetation.

This is an important process to comment on particularly in areas like the Yarra Ranges. If you are pressed for time the assessment guidelines document is a good place to start. You can access these documents from the 'Engage Victoria' website.

#### > **Submissions due March 09 2017**

#### FLORA and FAUNA GUARANTEE ACT 1988 REVIEW

The Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change has only recently released the Review of the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act – Consultation Paper for community consideration and comment. The Consultation Paper and information about the review can be found at the Victorian Government's [Engage Victoria](http://www.engage.vic.gov.au) website.

The consultation paper represents an opportunity to provide input into the design of improvements to the Act. Feedback is 'welcome' – (more time would also have been most welcome...).

#### > **Submissions due Monday 13 March 2017.**

*There has been a welcome response to subscription renewals and we are grateful for your support. Bronwyn will also be ready to write a receipt if you are re-joining on the films evening.*



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

<http://roundleafpomaderris.org.au>