

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

News in Brief

Fruit Fly Information evening

Chum Creek Landcare has organised an evening information session on the fruit fly, which no-one wants in our area. If you grow fruit you should inform yourself about the fruit fly and what you can do to help prevent it becoming established. Led by Bronwyn Knoll, Fruit Fly regional coordinator in the Yarra Valley.

> **Wed March 7, 7-9pm, Chum Creek Primary School**

Healesville Community Renewable Energy

Community Solar Models & Legals Working Group present a community workshop facilitated by Community Power Agency's Tom Nockolds. Participants will work on the legal principles, regulations and local requirements that underpin each model, settling on the most appropriate model for the Healesville community and developing an action plan.

> **Sat 24 March 9.30am-2.30pm** for venue: contact@healesvillecore.org.au

Eastern Yellow Robins and Urbanisation

Have you ever met an Eastern Yellow Robin? Perhaps you've seen a flash of bright yellow in the forest understory. Or maybe you've heard the melodic piping sounds of a robin at dawn. Sadly, the accelerating front of urbanisation in Melbourne is threatening yellow robins, and other 'bush birds'. In 2014, we heard from Deakin University PhD student Christine Connelly about her research into the effects of urbanisation on this charismatic species. Now Christine is excited to share the findings of her research with you.

> **Wed 4 April, 7.30 pm to 9.00 pm The Grand Hotel, Warrandyte**

FIELD TRIP: How to measure Eastern Yellow Robin 'micro' habitat. Book 9840 9124

> **Sat 7 April 10am - 12pm**

Our GET WELL wishes to Arthur Harford who is slowly recovering from a sudden double by-pass operation last week.

This month looms as an extremely important month for us, in several directions. One of these will be the announcement of Council's 4 year grant recipients, of which we hope to be one. There are many grants available through Council, the CMA, governments, and various foundations, but we believe that our partnerships with Yarra Ranges Council have been the most beneficial to our local community - and our waterways!.

Another issue of the highest importance was the decision of the Federal Court handed down last Friday, March 2, which accepted the position of the Commonwealth over the arguments of both VicForests and Friends of Leadbeater's Possum. However, this led to an encouraging media release from Environmental Justice Australia, representing FLBP:

Federal Court gives conservationists hope in Victorian forests case

The Court found the Regional Forest Agreement for the Central Highlands exempts logging from Federal threatened species law - despite non-compliance with terms in the RFA that require five-yearly reviews - but importantly the Court also found that non-compliance with other terms in the RFA would remove that exemption.

"Today's decision in the Federal Court is a step forward for threatened species protection in our forests, though it's not exactly the outcome Friends of Leadbeater's Possum was hoping for," said Steve Meacher, spokesperson for Friends of Leadbeater's Possum. We will now examine the decision carefully with EJA and consider our options to progress the protection of affected threatened species."



POSSUM PALOOZA: Compered by Rod Quantock - MARCH 7

HEWI members and supporters are invited to this event, hosted by [Friends of Leadbeater's Possum](#) and [Environmental Justice Australia](#)

Possum Palooza will help raise funds to take cases to court that push for stronger environment laws that truly protect nature.

The organisers have invited an exciting array of speakers, ecologist Prof David Lindenmayer (ANU), lawyer Danya Jacobs (EJA), environmentalist Maggie Riddington, with live music (The Legless Lizards), Magic Steven and a silent auction (Friends of Leadbeater's Possum), finger food (Asylum Seekers Resource Centre) and drinks for purchase at the bar. Book now [Eventbrite](#)

> **5.30-8.00pm Wed 7 March, Bowls Club, Flagstaff Gardens**

March 02
Waterwatch monitoring

March 02
Clean up Day
Queens Park waterways
9.00 – 11.30am

March 04
Environmental Volunteers
Karawara Gardens
2.00pm – 5.00pm

March 07
POSSUM PALOOZA
Flagstaff Gardens
6.30-8.00pm

March 07
Fruit Fly seminar, 7pm
Chum Creek Primary School

March 07
Healesville Safer Together
RACV 7.00 -9.00pm

March 15
HEWI at HL&LC
7.00pm - 9.00pm

March 21
U3A Garden group walk
HEWI guided along Watts River

March 23
Waterbugs, Year 4
students
Queens Park
9.30am – 11.30am

March 24
HCoRE solar workshop

March 24
Earth Hour - Spot the Platypus!

April 13
Waterwatch monitoring

April 19
HEWI meeting
HL&LC, Room 1
7.00pm-9.00pm

April 20
Invertebrate ID
HL&LC, Room 2
10.30am- 12noon

Our heartfelt sympathy to Irene, who lost her husband, Robert, recently.

EARTH HOUR March 24

Melbourne Water has suggested that this particular evening could be celebrated with a Platypus Spot walk along your local waterway looking for Platypus

It's the time of year when juvenile platypus start emerging from their burrows, so you may see platypus turn up in some unusual places as they explore their environment. Remember to keep inquisitive dogs on leash around waterways to protect these young platypus. All sightings are significant and can be recorded at www.platypusSPOT.org as a contribution to the ongoing conservation and research of this iconic Australian species. Local members are encouraged to load the PlatypusSPOT app on to your phone.

HEWI had a very successful community Platypus walk along the Watts River last year so that might be a good pathway to try.

Climate change impacts platypus through altered rainfall patterns that can reduce the amount of flow in our waterways. Platypus survival depends on actions such as reducing our carbon footprint and water use – less waste on our gardens and quicker showers!

If you would like to learn more about platypus in each catchment, there are some great maps and information available on the Your Say website: <https://yoursay.melbournewater.com.au/healthy-waterways/platypus>

HEWI WATERWATCH ACTIVITIES

Our Waterwatch team has recently been approached by two community members offering to assist our activities. Melbourne Water conducts brief training sessions, so if anyone else is interested, please contact Karen, 5962 5115. We are most appreciative of new volunteers to assist with these regular commitments, allowing a more flexible roster to be established.

March 2: Clean up volunteers arrived as the water monitoring continued and in less than 2 hours, the two waterways and grounds of Queens Park were cleaned up with 9 full bags of rubbish collected. Morning tea was self service and the gift drink bottles appreciated. Thanks to Kath Gannaway for her publicity photo in the MV Mail last week!

The WW team's next activity will be introducing waterbugs to Year 4 HPS students.



Lou and a group of HPS students

Many thanks to our Council bushland team for organising the Green Army weeding of our 2017 planting along Wirrup Yaluk. Unfortunately this is their last few days for this round, but we hope they will return soon. These young folk have formed their own team and many now hope to undertake conservation courses due to this involvement – even if it includes weeding! HEWI is fortunate to have a local 'green army', the VET students at HHS who have assisted with planting for the GRACE BURN PROJECT.



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www.hewi.org.au

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