

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

### News in Brief

#### Latham's Snipe case a win for locals

A recent VCAT ruling on a proposed development in Port Fairy included consideration of the effects of climate change and predicted future sea level, saving one of three ephemeral wetlands to provide an important buffer for adjoining migratory bird habitat in the wetland complex. The developer must make concessions for the shy migratory bird, Latham's Snipe, by transferring several lots to the local council.

#### Environment Engagement Forum

The next topic will cover the viability of our revegetation projects with Richards Reserve as the case study. To register for this forum please click here.

> **Saturday May 24 10.00 – 12.30 Menzies Creek Hall**

#### Mistletoes – indicators of ecosystem health and diversity

Anna Burns will describe the diversity and ecological roles of mistletoes in Australia, including their interactions with animals and host plants. Mistletoes provide food and shelter for birds, mammals and invertebrates and contribute to nutrient cycling. These parasitic plants can also be indicators of ecosystem health because over-abundance of mistletoes indicates an imbalance in nature.

> **Wednesday 4 June Grand Hotel, Warrandyte 7.30pm**

#### The Ninth Waterbug Workshop Monash University

Three day course with an intensive introduction / refresher to Family level ID, using advanced CCTV microscope technology and human-based teaching methods. Cost: \$484, includes course notes, forceps, morning and afternoon teas. Register: [flatworm@ozemail.com.au](mailto:flatworm@ozemail.com.au) by June 7.

> **Wednesday – Friday July 2-4**

#### Environmental Justice Australia

This is the new organisation (formerly the Environmental Defenders' Office) is in response to the withdrawal of government funding. 'We believe Australia needs a truly independent group of legal experts who can use the law to stand up for our climate, nature and communities'. Congratulations EJAs!

#### Steels Creek Market

Apologies to our friends in Steels Creek; we were unable to attend your April market as promoted in The Jolly Thing. However, we are still coming! Hopefully, we will join you on Saturday June 14.

*This month the Melbourne Water calendar features Adrian's remarkable photo of the Platypus discovered in Wirrup Yaluk at this time last year. Their presence no doubt sustains our hardy WaterWatchers as they brave the icy Grace Burn for their sampling twice a month. Our 'Waterways' display in the Healesville library for June will provide a graphic view of the privilege to be living amongst such healthy creeks in our region.*

#### "HEALING"

We offer you this inspired choice of activity to celebrate **WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY 2014**.

Healesville Environment Watch, MyEnvironment and Friends of Leadbeater's Possum will be co-hosting a special showing of this brand-new feature film "HEALING" (<http://www.healingthemovie.com>) as a fund-raiser for our **Great Forest National Park** project.

The film was made in Healesville and has had excellent reviews (At the Movies <http://www.abc.net.au/atthemovies/txt/s3985194.htm> and The Age <http://www.theage.com.au/entertainment/movies/healing-review-deft-handling-gives-prison-story-wings-20140501-37jxx.html>) and there will be TWO showings so set aside the date in your diary now! *Healing star Don Hany, with a barking owl at Healesville Sanctuary. Photo: Justin McManus*



> **Thursday 5th June Memorial Hall, Healesville at 7:30pm**

> **Sunday 8th June Memorial Hall, Healesville at 2:00pm**

#### REVEGETATION DAY 2014

With the more recent assistance provided by the volunteers from Cummins Filtration, Kilsyth, the Healesville Primary School students have exceeded all past records. This year our volunteer teams will be challenged to plant

2000 seedlings within two hours! Their effort will transform the banks of the Grace Burn flowing within the 'Nook' - which also contains a historical fountain.

There have been recent discussions about the 'development' of this site. Indigenous revegetation will enhance the quiet serenity of this small space and we believe it should be retained as naturally as possible.

One outcome of the most recent meeting was the discovery that the 310m exclusion zone for the Neighbourhood Safer Place has been reviewed and we will now be able to plant an ecological mix of plants on this side of the 20m buffer provided by the Maroondah Highway. This is most welcome news as the ground covers planted last year are not providing adequate protection for our significant waterway.

These planting days generate a wonderful cooperative atmosphere and we welcome all members and friends to visit us for any length of time.

Our bbq lunch host Steve McGill from Melbourne Water will be at the rotunda in Queens Park to cook our hot lunch, with drinks and presentations to follow.

> **Fri June 20 10.00 am - 12.00 noon The Nook – adjacent to the RSL.**

#### LEADBEATER'S POSSUM ADVISORY GROUP

You will have read some details of the report issued by this government-established group and the account of the ignominious exclusion of members of the Recovery Group, the scientific and community team with practical field experience, from the media release at Healesville Sanctuary, April <http://www.depi.vic.gov.au/environment-and-wildlife/wildlife/leadbeaters-possum>

The professed outcome was to save the 'Ladies' AND a sustainable forest industry! Unfortunately, these aims are mutually exclusive - and meanwhile Leadbeater's Possum remains threatened with extermination.

Steve has already written an urgent request to Minister Smith re concerns that logging may precede habitat assessment in critical coupes.

**The creation of the Great Forest National Park is absolutely essential for LbP's survival.**

**May 18**

Landcare for Singles  
Coranderrk Creek  
Meet Badger Creek Road and Blue  
Gum Drive

**May 18**

YRC Volunteer day at HS

**May 24**

Enviro Community forum  
Venue tba

**June 02**

**Meet with Cr McAllister  
Healesville C'ty Link**

**June 02**

**'OUR LOCAL WATERWAYS'  
HEWI display  
Healesville Library**

**June 03**

Reconciliation Luncheon

**June 05**

**WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY**

**June 05**

"HEALING"  
First release feature film made  
locally  
Fund raiser for the Great Forest  
National Park  
Memo Hall, Healesville  
7.30pm

**June 08**

"HEALING"  
Supporting the GFNP  
Memo Hall, Healesville  
2.00pm

**June 14**

Steels Creek market

**June 19**

**HEWI meeting**

**June 20**

**Revegetation of Grace Burn  
The Nook, Healesville  
10.00am – 1.00pm**

**COMMUNITY CABINET in UPWEY**

Organised for the same day, local environmentalists made a rush trip to Upwey and were able to express their views to the Premier and cabinet clearly and unambiguously.

**FUEL REDUCTION BURNING**

*East Central Bushfire Risk Landscape Strategy: Community Workshops & Public Consultation Process*

This title is longer than any effective community consultation!

DEPI was to present their Strategic Bushfire Management Planning - 'to better manage the risk of bushfire on public land and the impact that those fires have on communities, infrastructure and the environment' at two sites within the YRC region this month.

Unfortunately there was no discussion paper ready and only a few web links sent out at the last minute when few had access to them.

The draft Strategy will *only* include fuel reduction burning and will not be available for further submissions due to a government deadline. DEPI planners acknowledge the importance of several other criteria - education, for instance - but these will not be considered for at least another year. In the meantime, the burns will follow the Phoenix Rapidfire modelling even though there is scant data available for successive years of regrowth and ecological impacts.

**LIVING with HEALESVILLE'S WATERWAYS - 150 years of change**

Organisation for our two events is well under way, with some details below. Please mark these dates in your diary - your preferred options within this historic recognition period!

**WALK, WATCH and WONDER FREE EVENT**

*Walk with local naturalist Jane Calder and botanist Malcolm Calder to Watch and Wonder along the track between Maroondah Dam and Donnelly's Weir, Yarra Ranges National Park. This is an easy one-way walk, suitable for families, mostly downhill with two small rises nearer the weir. You will be welcomed with morning tea and a brief introduction to the history of Maroondah Dam by Jim Viggers, lead author of 'Melbourne's Water Catchments.'*

*On the walk, Jane and Malcolm will illustrate changes to the vegetation and habitats along these waterways over the past 150 years, and the protection of our natural environment within national parks.*

*Lunch will be served at Donnelly's Weir, and a bus, kindly provided by the Rotary Club of Healesville, for the return to Maroondah Dam. (Toilets are available at Maroondah Dam and Donnelly's Weir).*

> **Sunday, October 12 10.30am – 3.00pm**

**LIVING with HEALESVILLE WATERWAYS**

Funded by an \$8,000 grant from Melbourne Water and featuring Jeminah Reidy from 'Scenes on the Yarra.' With her team of talented local artists, storylines will be created and performed as we roam throughout Queens Park and discover some of the wonderful waterway connections between people, events, landscape and wildlife through creative storytelling, song, dance and environmental art.

*Initiated by our Grace Burn Project team, this will be a special presentation for the Healesville 150 Celebration - a unique performance that will leave you mesmerised with a deeper sense of joy for life in Healesville.*

*Accessible to all ages and an ideal event for family groups. Details tba.*

> **Saturday 15 November - at dusk, 4.00-6.00pm - in Queens Park**

**WEATHER STATIONS – CURRENT CLIMATE**

This recent forum at the Wheeler Centre was part of a brand new global project, which places literature and storytelling at the heart of the conversations around climate change. Launched this year, the Weather Stations project harnesses the transformative power of words to imagine, in the context of a threatened environment, how we might live our lives differently.

Bernie attended this event (as our forest advocate!) and notes that there seemed to be general agreement that, although the situation is very serious, it is not out of control, nor beyond human inventiveness to overcome.

Each Weather Station has appointed a writer in residence, whose task is to produce a body of work that reflects how they view our relationship with the environment. The Wheeler Centre's writer in residence is Tony Birch who will be blogging regularly at [globalweatherstations.com](http://globalweatherstations.com) and, in collaboration with some of Victoria's young citizens, will explore the wide-ranging implications of climate change on future generations.

*There have been several interesting letters from HEWI members in recent editions of our local press. If you are especially concerned about a particular issue and would like your committee to also follow up your specific interests, then do let us know. With so much at risk, we need to support each aspect of encroachment on our natural values.*



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

<http://roundleafpomaderris.org.au>