

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

News in Brief

The Power of Volunteering - "Give Happy Live Happy"

Yarra Ranges Council and Eastern Volunteers are hosting their 3rd free conference. Learn how to better recruit & support your volunteers, to give happiness, so that others may live happily. Contact: Lou Sbalchiero on 0419 523 678 l.sbalchiero@yarraranges.vic.gov.au

Japara Living & Learning Centre, Kilsyth

> **Tuesday 5 May 8.30 am to 4 pm**

Trees for Mum

This is a Landcare initiative to "celebrate your Mum by planting a tree in her honour", sponsored by Mt Toolebewong and District Landcare. Meet at the corner of Bluegum Drive and Badger Creek Road for this planting along the Coranderk Creek which runs through Healesville Sanctuary opposite. Registration essential: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/T4Mregistration>

> **Sunday May 10 9.00am - 12noon**

HEWI library display

Visit our environmental display for more information about our coming events and activities.

Geoscience and Geoheritage

Dr Neville Rosengren has spent much of the past 40 years identifying sites of geological and geomorphological significance across most of Victoria (and elsewhere). He will describe the concept of geoheritage sites, a methodology for identifying and evaluating them, and present a case for greater recognition and legislative protection. Case studies from varied environments will be presented with particular reference to the intriguing nature of the Yarra River. Grand Hotel, Warrandyte.

> **Wednesday 3 June 7.30 pm**

Field Trip: The Gorges of the Yarra

This field trip will visit sites of geomorphological significance of the Yarra's tortuous course from Warburton to Warrandyte. Bookings essential: 9840 9326

> **Thursday 4 June 2015 10.00 am - 4.00 pm**

Within the next few weeks, HEWI offers two free community events to celebrate WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY June 5 as designated by the United Nations: to stimulate worldwide awareness of environmental issues and encouraging political action.

"The theme for 2015 is how the well-being of humanity, the environment and economies ultimately depends on the responsible management of the planet's natural resources. Reliable evidence is building that people are consuming far more natural resources than what the planet can sustainably provide.

Many of Earth's ecosystems are nearing critical tipping points of depletion or irreversible change, pushed by high population growth and economic development. By 2050, if current consumption and production patterns remain the same and with a rising population expected to reach 9.6 billion, we will need three planets to sustain our way of life. Living well within planetary boundaries is the most promising strategy for ensuring a healthy future"

FREE COMMUNITY EVENT 1

WALK, WATCH and WONDER! - Myrtle Gully Track

This first activity to celebrate our lead up to ENVIRONMENT DAY will begin at the Tanglefoot carpark (on Sylvia Creek Road, 10 km from Myers Creek Road) at 11am for our acknowledgement of country, introductions and an early lunch. A leisurely walk will allow us to arrive at the remnant rainforest of Wirrawilla by 3pm.

Our leaders, naturalist Jane Calder and ecologist Malcolm Calder will demonstrate the relationships of the plant communities within this Mountain Ash forest and the importance of this ecosystem on which many fauna depend - including Leadbeater's Possum which was officially designated as "critically endangered" on April 22nd.

The track is moderately difficult in parts where it descends into the rainforest gullies and as this is an area of very high rainfall the track may be waterlogged during periods of heavy rain. However, this will be a slow and safe walk of continuous discoveries as we watch and listen to Jane and Malcolm sharing their knowledge and experience of the intricate connections occurring within each different microclimate.

Suitable footwear, warm, waterproof clothing are essential. BYO lunch and water supply.

HEWI will provide tea and cake at Wirrawilla and organise a car shuttle to return drivers to Tanglefoot.

Registrations are *essential* and will close on May 28. Your contact details are required in case arrangements change. Car pooling is highly recommended. Bookings and more information contact Maureen: 5962 1224.

> **Saturday May 30 11.00am - 4.00pm**

Leadbeater's Possum and Mountain Ash Forests

The Threatened Species Scientific Federal Committee - a national panel of conservation scientists that advises Environment Minister, Greg Hunt - identified the threats to the species' survival as fires and timber harvesting in its primary habitat of mountain ash forests. "... under future projected habitat conditions, the decline in the species' numbers over the next 18 years was estimated to be over 80%. The species would also continue to lose numbers in the years following as the Leadbeater's Possum preferred habitat of big, old trees with hollows in them would further decline until 2060..... the most effective way to prevent further decline and rebuild the population of Leadbeater's Possum is to cease timber harvesting within montane ash forests of the central highlands'.

This advice strongly supports our ongoing advocacy for the "Great Forest National Park" to encompass the Central Highlands forests that sit on Melbourne's north-east fringe.

However, as locals are well aware, new recovery programs must be designed and acted on immediately; further reviews and delays are completely unacceptable.

<http://vnpa.org.au/page/publications/nature-news-hub/leadbeater%27s-possum-now-critically-endangered>

May 02Botanical Gardens
Cranbourne
10am -5pm**May 06**Nocturnal Birds
Warrandyte 7.30pm**May 10**Trees for Mum
Badger Creek 9am -12noon**May 14****HEWI meeting
HL&LC 7pm****May 13-19**

National Volunteer Week

May 15-21

National Families Week

May 18 - June 18**HEWI Environment Display
Healesville Library****May 22****World Biodiversity Day****May 22**Waterwatch Invertebrate ID
HL&LC
11am -12noon**May 26**

National Sorry Day

May27 – June 3

National Reconciliation Week

May 30**Walk, Watch & Wonder
Toolangi forest
11am – 4pm****June 03****"Frackman" Free film
The Memo, Healesville
7.30pm****June 03-04**Geoscience and Geoheritage
Warrandyte**June 05****ENVIRONMENT DAY****June 19****Revegetation
Wirrup Yaluk
9.30am – 1.00pm****FREE COMMUNITY EVENT 2**

This film provides an inspiring message of personal resilience for all environmentalists as well as a sobering demonstration of the vast threat of multinational companies to our natural environment. We are most grateful to our Climate Change officer, Michelle Barton, for the poster design and the Memo bookings provided by Sustainability and Community, Yarra Ranges Council

FRACKMAN

Australian feature-length documentary film which follows the personal story of former construction worker turned anti-fracking activist Dayne Pratzky as he responds to the expansion of the coal seam gas industry near Tara, Queensland.

Dayne became an accidental activist when faced with the personal intrusion of gas mining on his family property. This is a personal story of his struggle against international companies who have sunk more than **30,000 'fracked' wells** in Queensland alone. He and his neighbours have unwittingly become the centre of a massive industrial landscape and they have no legal right to stop mining on their land.

Dayne embarks on a journey that transforms him from conservative pig-shooter to sophisticated global activist as the **Frackman**. He meets the people drawn into a battle that is crossing the ideological divide, bringing together an uncharacteristic alliance of farmers, activists and political conservatives.

Along the way Dayne encounters love, tragedy and triumph!

Join us for this stimulating social documentary with messages that relate to all our issues affecting community and sustainability of our natural resources.

> **Wednesday, June 3 Memo Hall, Healesville 7.30pm**

Unburnable Carbon: why we need to leave fossil fuels in the ground.

This new report from the Climate Council uses a 'climate budget' approach to estimate that ninety per cent of Australia's current coal reserves will need to be left in the ground for Australia to play its role in limiting warming to no more than two degrees Celsius.

<http://www.climatecouncil.org.au/uploads/bbde02cecaa0963cc2a2d01c495043fb.pdf>

BUT: David Spratt has recently completed a survey of the relevant scientific literature "Recount: It's time to 'Do the math' again" which concludes that there is **no** carbon budget available if 2°C is considered a cap or upper boundary. Decades of procrastination mean there is no longer sufficient time for an incremental and non-disruptive reduction in emissions. The evidence demonstrates that action is necessary at a faster pace than most policy makers conceive is possible.

<http://reneweconomy.com.au/2015/time-to-do-the-math-again-allowing-2c-global-warming-is-madness-56033>

Another groundbreaking report reveals for the first time the true 'social cost' of our state's archaic coal-fired power stations. Hazelwood is costing us a staggering \$100 million in health damage and \$817 million in carbon emissions every year. Yallourn power station, owned by Energy Australia, is costing us about the same and the Anglesea power station emits so much sulphur dioxide that it causes around \$170 million in health problems annually.

<http://www.theage.com.au/victoria/the-hidden-cost-of-the-hazelwood-coal-power-plant-20150418-1mnmdf.html>

As we plan for these two community events, our Grace Burn team will conduct the bi-annual macro invertebrate study on Friday May 22 and our combined revegetation activity will follow on June 19, along Wirrup Yaluk. You are most welcome to join us for each event and activity.



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