

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

News in Brief

Wurundjeri and land management

Wurundjeri elder Uncle Dave Wandin has been working with indigenous land management teams for the conservation of significant cultural heritage and ecologically rich sites and will describe past and recent works with a focus on current effort by the Narrap Team at the Yarra River eel trap site.

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

FIELD TRIP: Aboriginal Cultural Heritage

Dave Crawford is an educator of ecology and traditional Aboriginal culture. Dave will lead us on a walk and provide a workshop for participants to try their hand at some traditional skills such as string making. Please note, you must attend Uncle Dave Wandin's seminar to be eligible to attend and bookings are essential, please email: eeadmin@manningham.vic.gov.au

> **Tuesday 10 May, 10.00 am - 12 noon**

Trees for Mum

Community tree planting at Badger Creek on the Sunday AFTER Mother's Day. BYO gloves, no pets. Come with your mum and help revegetate the creek, or plant in memory of a loved one. Morning tea provided, please RSVP for catering. Contact Karen 5962 5115, Mt Toolebewong & District Landcare.

> **Sunday 15 May 10am -12 noon, Cnr. Badger Creek Rd & Bluegum Drive**

National Reconciliation Week

May 27 the anniversary of Australia's most successful referendum and a defining event in our nation's history. The 1967 referendum saw over 90 per cent of Australians vote to give the Commonwealth the power to make laws for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and recognise them in the national census.

June 03 Commemorates the High Court of Australia's landmark Mabo decision in 1992, which legally recognised that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have a special relationship to the land—a relationship that existed prior to colonisation and still exists today. This recognition paved the way for land rights or Native Title.

A community group acting to protect and conserve important elements of our local environment

WALK, WATCH AND WONDER, TOOLANGI FORESTS

Celebrate the **International Day for Biological Diversity** with an interesting wander through our local bushland areas, led by Evelyn Feller.

We meet in the carpark of the Forest Discovery Centre on the Healesville - Kinglake Road, where Steve will give us a brief outline about the new community management of this valuable resource. Evelyn will lead us along the Sculpture trail which is also about to be revitalized and then we will cross to the Yea River trail to experience the grandeur of our unique Mountain Ash and its ecosystems.

Lunch will be at the old quarry site adjacent to the Wirrawilla Rainforest before walking along the boardwalk under the ancient Myrtle Beeches with their myriad growths of epiphytes. Evelyn will give you the details when you book.

Carpooling will be offered from Healesville – meet Bron and Maureen in the library carpark, leaving by 9.30am.



Participants will need their lunch, water, rain gear, warm clothing and strong footwear.

Bookings essential. Please contact Evelyn: evefeller@gmail.com

> **Sunday May 22 10am - 2.30pm, from the Forest Discovery Centre, Toolangi**

ANOTHER VCAT HEARING FOR THE OLD MILL SITE

This protracted development application for the prominent site at the "gateway" to Healesville has once again been taken to VCAT by developers unwilling to negotiate with Council and the local community. HEWI will submit yet another 'Statement of Grounds' listing our objections but the brief period of opportunity – including a long weekend - will no doubt deter many individuals from following this tedious procedure.

Thank you to all members who submitted objections to Yarra Ranges Council, which has rejected the "new" proposal, including the amendments made by the developers under the same Permit Application. Obviously, such practices make it even more difficult for residents to keep up with the process. This application to VCAT was made just before the Council meeting which voted against the amended Permit Application and after a NEW Permit Application to subdivide the site had been filed by the developers!!

Ironically, the draft Healesville Structure Plan includes a recommendation to rezone the whole site – if only this could be considered by the Tribunal as the preferred community option.

Pomaderris vacciniifolia, Round-leaf Pomaderris

Following the February 2009 fires, it seemed as if the plight of this rare species which HEWI had only recently (18 Feb 2009) succeeded

May 04

Wurundjeri & Land Management
Warrandyte
7.30pm

May 10

Field Trip
Aboriginal cultural heritage
10.00am – 12noon

May 15

Trees for Mum
Mt T. & D. Landcare planting
Badger Creek
10.00am – 12noon

May 19

HEWI meeting
HL&LC
7.00 – 9.00pm

May 20

HEWI Waterwatch
Physical/Chemical testing
Grace Burn
10.00am – 12noon

May 22

Walk, Watch and Wonder
Toolangi forest trails
Bookings essential
10.00am – 2.30pm

May 27 – June 03

National Reconciliation Week

June 17

HEWI planting day
Grace Burn, Queens Park
9.30am – 1.00pm

June 18

HEWI Waterwatch
Physical/Chemical testing
Grace Burn
10.00am – 12noon

in having 'added to the list of taxa and communities of flora and fauna that are threatened' under the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act, 1988, would be even more precarious. So further representations were made to the Australian government and Federal listing as 'Critically endangered' under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act was finally approved in 2014. Fortunately, as with several other indigenous plant species, the Round-leaf Pomaderris has recovered surprisingly well, with the ash beds providing ideal habitat for the seeds to germinate. Many more plants and some new sites have been discovered in our region since 2009.



Originally we were funded to set up a specific website for this beautiful *Pomaderris vacciniifolia* - thanks Emma.

All information from this site has now been transferred to our HEWI website <http://hewi.org.au> - thanks Adrian. We would love to hear of new sightings to include in our data base and perhaps your photos - flowering occurs late September – October.

GRACE BURN PROJECT REPORT

We can now confirm that the Healesville RSL Sub-Branch has signed a Stream Management contract with Melbourne Water and we are grateful to manager, Gary Slater, for following up our approach to protect their lengthy frontage along the Grace Burn. We are delighted that the RSL community also supports the planting of even more seedlings than those provided by Melbourne Water, so this area will be significantly enhanced and may possibly become a feature of our town.

Farnham Road residents are now obtaining their grant offers and it is expected weed control work will commence soon.

FRIENDS OF LEADBEATER'S POSSUM

Gregory Andrews, Threatened Species Commissioner, released the LbP Draft Recovery Plan last February and the Friends are organising submission-writing meetings. If you would prefer to receive background information and specific points to include in your own submission, please call Steve on 5962 9008.

<http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/threatened/recoveryplans/comment/draft-recovery-plan-leadbeaters-possum>

Email submissions to: recoveryplans@environment.gov.au by May 20.

REVIEW of the NATIVE VEGETATION CLEARING REGULATIONS

HEWI has also submitted a detailed response to this review which we regard as a positive approach to correct past anomalies and ensure improved conservation. We are indebted to Evelyn Feller for working on our submission during her vacation back in Canada.

VICTORIAN CLIMATE ACTION NETWORK

- would love your support for the new version of the Climate Emergency Declaration petition on Do Good. The link is:

<https://climateemergency.good.do/climateemergencydeclarationpetition/>

This version is particularly useful if you are on Twitter or Facebook as it's easy to share that way. But please email the link to friends as well.



ABN: 67 253 515 594 Reg. No. A0018935T

www.hewi.org.au

<http://roundleafpomaderris.org.au>