

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

### News in Brief

#### Fire Learning Network Forum

A focus on research and practice, with presentations from Adjunct Professor Jim McLennan, Bushfire Safety Researcher from La Trobe University, "Marketing household bushfire safety: What does research since Black Saturday suggest to us?"

and Barry Megee, the Chairperson of the Fire Prevention Committee for Monbulk CFA brigade and lead of the Monbulk Fuel Management Working Group Pilot Project "Monbulk Community Based Fuel Management Planning - an example of successful collaboration within all relevant agencies and councils"

A light dinner and networking opportunity, register:

[east.central@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:east.central@delwp.vic.gov.au)

> **Tuesday 2 May 6-8.30pm**  
**Brussels Room-Dialogue Conference Centre**

27-29 Little Lonsdale St Melbourne

#### Environmental Seminar

The River and the Bay - the Yarra beyond the Valley

Presented by Dr Neville Rosengren

> **May 03 7.20 pm Grand Hotel Warrandyte**

with Follow up Field Trip: **04 May 10.00am-3.00 pm**

Bookings essential: [eepadmin@manningham.vic.gov.au](mailto:eepadmin@manningham.vic.gov.au)

#### Water-bugs. Creating Connections with Nature

Join Claire and Tobey beside the Grace Burn in Queen's Park, for a morning of discovery and creativity. We'll be looking at a variety of creatures up close and learn about some of their life cycles and habits. Morning tea will be followed by an art workshop, that turns our water-bug discoveries into works of art. All art materials and morning tea will be provided.

A booking must be made for each individual wishing to attend. Children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult and both must register, \$5.00 each. [clarejamesartist@bigcartel.com](mailto:clarejamesartist@bigcartel.com)

> **Saturday May 6**

#### Mystery member!

Thanks for your membership! If you used a Vic Teachers' association account, could you please let us know your identity?

Our HEWI committee is excited to learn of a proposed new community group to initiate renewable energy promotion in Healesville. We have agreed to auspice their application to Yarra Ranges Council for a seeding community grant and look forward to a cooperative partnership on common aspects - HEWI is already planning another film and discussion event which may well raise interest in the more focused activities for the new project.

#### HEALESVILLE COMMUNITY RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECT

Edited extract of letter to HEWI from Jeff Barlow:

'I am initiating the formation of a Healesville Community Renewable Energy Project supported by Julian Guess and Simon Woodland from the Strategy and Sustainability Unit of the Council and by Jessica Adams, Community Development Officer, YRC. Council. The vision is to establish a Healesville Community Renewable Energy Group. The function of this group would be to initiate and action renewable energy projects in Healesville. The focus is to be on community engagement and development, renewable energy projects, developing the local economy, employment and the growth of social capital - working hard towards a zero carbon future.'

The inaugural community meeting to discuss the formation of a steering committee will be held in early May. If you would be interested in attending, please contact Maureen. ...an exhilarating opportunity to develop our own energy-saving projects!

#### CORANDERRK REVEGETATION

The April planting was cancelled due to heavy rain. So once again we invite you to join HEWI committee members at Coranderrk on Sunday May 7 - but there will also be planting on the Saturday May 6. We encourage all to arrive for the Welcome to Country at 9.30am. Please bring hats, gloves, sensible shoes, BYO lunch and water. Register with Maureen or at [coranderrkreeplanting@gmail.com](mailto:coranderrkreeplanting@gmail.com) and include your preferred day (May 6 or May 7), your name, number of people attending and contact details.

Saturday May 6 and Sunday May 7, 9.30am -3.30pm 19 Barak Lane, Healesville

> **Sunday 9 April Sunday 7 May, 19 Barak Lane, H'ville 9.30am -3.30pm.**

#### HEALESVILLE BUSHFIRE SCENARIO

We have already circulated this invitation from Council which began with the sobering statement: *Healesville and its surrounding communities are considered some of the highest bushfire risk communities in Victoria.*

HEWI members have long been involved with planned burning networks hosted by DELWP fire officers and our committee would urge everyone to attend one of these identical seminars.

**Monday May 15** - Light lunch **12:30pm for 1:00pm to 3:00pm**

**Monday May 15** - Light Supper **6:30pm for 7:00pm to 9:00pm** -

Contact Joy Harte DELWP, [joy.harte@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:joy.harte@delwp.vic.gov.au) or register at [https://healesville\\_bushfire\\_scenario.eventbrite.com.au](https://healesville_bushfire_scenario.eventbrite.com.au)

#### WATERWATCH and INVERTEBRATE IDENTIFICATION

Our Waterwatch Co-ordinator invites all readers to join our team for their Autumn sampling of macro invertebrates from the Grace Burn. The waterbugs sampling for the Healesville Primary Students revealed three tiny Mountain Galaxias, so we are hoping for more to study in detail with our stereo microscopes. Call Lou: 5962 5714.

> **Friday May 19, 10.00am-12noon, Healesville Living and Learning Centre**

**May 02**  
 Fire Learning Network  
 27-29 Little Lonsdale St Melbourne  
 6.00-8.30pm

**May 03**  
 The River and the Bay - the Yarra beyond the Valley Grand Hotel Warrandyte 7.20 pm

**May 04**  
 Follow up Field Trip:  
 10.00 am to 3.00 pm

**May 04**  
 H'ville Comm. Renewable Energy Project  
 Inaugural meeting 7.30pm  
 H'ville Community Link

**May 05**  
 Waterwatch monitoring  
 Queens Park 9.30-11.00am

**May 6 & 7**  
 Coranderrk Plantings  
 9.30am start

**May 11**  
 HEWI meeting HL&LC,  
 Room 1 7.00-9.00pm

**May 13**  
 Human heart formation  
 Donna Buang 11am-2pm

**May 19**  
 WW Invertebrates ID  
 HL&LC Room 2  
 10.00am -12noon

**May 21**  
 Landcare Planting  
 Badger Creek

**May 22**  
 World Biodiversity Day

**YARRA VALLEY TRAILS**

There are two major proposals for trails being considered by Council and both appear to have the potential for severe environmental degradation if the currently proposed routes are constructed. Property owners who participated in the agreements required to protect river frontages for the Yellingbo project have now been advised that their protected frontages will become a multi-use trail. Birdlife Yarra Valley have submitted a detailed report listing drastic impacts on wildlife corridors. Ironically, there are already suitable tracks available within our proposed GFNP that would provide excellent challenges without adversely affecting our vital waterways.

**COAL FIRED**



**GREAT FOREST NATIONAL PARK**

Our great forests need a great park now! Join 400 people on Mt Donna Buang to send a message so big the Victorian government cannot ignore our unique forests of the central highlands! Help us spell out the message 'WE \*heart\* PARKS' - a human sign in the heart of the forest to send a clear message to the Victorian Government that we want our forests and their wildlife protected in a Great Forest

National Park NOW – before they are logged into oblivion. Bring warm clothes, your picnic rug and lunch, and enjoy some live music after we've sent our message. Register: [greatforestpicnic.eventbrite.com.au](http://greatforestpicnic.eventbrite.com.au). Parking is limited so please try to come in a full car.

> **Saturday, 13 May 11am-2pm Mt Donna Buang summit picnic ground**

**FORESTS UPDATE**

It's now two years since Federal Environment Minister Greg Hunt announced that, in a move "to save Victoria's iconic Leadbeater's Possum", he had accepted the advice of the Threatened Species Scientific Committee (TSSC) to uplist the possum to Critically Endangered under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act. But without a revised federal Recovery Plan, logging has continued in the Victorian montane ash forests. As more and more trees have been carted away the last remaining areas are strongly contested, most likely to be the very areas in which the possum is clinging to survival. Currently, the only effective protection from being logged into extinction resides in the creation of buffer zones around verified sightings, under the Victorian Action Statement 2014. Friends of Leadbeater's Possum has called on the Victorian Minister for the Environment to declare an Interim Conservation Order to protect Critical Habitat under the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act. Population Viability Analysis by the Government's own scientists in 2013 showed that a protected area of 171,345 hectares of montane ash forest is necessary for the animal's long-term survival and the group is asking Minister D'Ambrosio to act on that advice without further delay. In another development, the Scientific Advisory Committee has recommended that the Greater Glider be listed under the FFG Act and the minister now has 30 days to decide whether to accept the advice. This new listing will give even more force to our calls to protect our precious forests.

*Campaigning and actively enhancing our environment are equally rewarding – plenty of opportunities for both this month!*



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

<http://roundleafpomaderris.org.au>