

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

News in Brief

Mullum Mullum Festival

Presentations and walks with eighteen experts on a range of topics. \$2.00 donation per person per session appreciated. See the Mullum Mullum website for details.

> **5th and 6th of May, Yarran Dheran Reserve.**

World Biodiversity Day

is UN-sanctioned for the promotion of biodiversity issues. It is currently held on May 22

Writers and Rhythms

Another wonderful night of celebrating original local musicians and writers including Cathie Nolan, and Margaret Fuller. \$15.00

> **Friday May 25, Uniting Church, 7-9pm**

National Reconciliation Week, 27 May-3 June

Celebration of the culture and history of Australia's Indigenous people and an opportunity to join the reconciliation conversation. The theme for NRW 2018 is **Don't Keep History a Mystery.**

This year, we invite Australians to Learn, Share, and Grow – by exploring our past, learning more about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures, and developing a deeper understanding of our national story. Check YR Council website for local activities.

> **The week begins on Sunday 27 May with [National Sorry Day.](#)**

Threatened Orchids Of Middle Yarra and the Warrandyte-Kinglake nature conservation link

Presented by local ecologist, environmentalist and Parks Victoria Ranger, Cam Beardsell, who will speak about seven of our most locally threatened native orchid species, their threats and management. Cam will provide numerous colour photos to visually aid his discussion of the conservation aspects of these orchids including; threats such as the impacts of habitat loss, fragmentation and herbivore grazing, ecological interactions with fire, pollinators and associate plants. Cam will also discuss management programs such as population recovery and site protection relevant to these species

> **Wednesday 6 June 2018 7.30pm, Grand Hotel, Warrandyte**

We are offering a free walk and new film within the next month and there will also be our annual library display in June. Volunteers to assist with setting up the latter on Monday June 4 would be most appreciated. Our advocacy for an improved environmental section on Council's website, including the YREAC Minutes, and the resumption of volunteer forums have all been successfully achieved -Yay! We are continuing our requests for replacement of essential staffing appointments within Council's Environment and Engineering directorate to be included in the current restructure..

WALK, WATCH and WONDER!

Our Autumn community walk will be a guided tour of Council's carbon offset plantings at the old Healesville Tip site and surrounding bush remnants. We will also walk to a pristine section of the Grace Burn, which will hopefully be running higher than it is at the present. HEWI last visited this area in 2013, impressed by the new Offsets concept and the planning behind the implementation of this site. Once again we will have an Environmental Officer, Glen Terry, to lead us and answer all our questions about the development of this project. Obviously the revegetated area will have grown tall and hopefully more endangered species will have been discovered in the bushland areas within the 15ha site, which is adjacent to the Yarra Ranges National Park.

We are limited to 20 participants, with warm clothing and sturdy boots for bush tracks recommended. Carpooling, and early arrival encouraged: gates will be locked at 1.00pm.

Refreshments will be available on our return to the car park.

Full details will be provided on registration, which is essential: via Maureen, 5962 1224 or email: hewisec@bigpond.com. Please note that this walk will be cancelled if heavy rain falls during the previous week, with the optional date of May 26.

> **Saturday, May 19, 12.30pm – 3.30pm, Mt Riddell Road, Healesville**

THE DESPERATE PLIGHT of the Orange-bellied PARROT

HEWI was delighted to be offered the opportunity to present this new, highly acclaimed film that highlights the intense efforts being made to restore viable populations of a critically-endangered, beautiful and amazing bird.

The Orange-bellied Parrot is on the verge of extinction with only 17 birds left from breeding in the south-west Tasmanian wilderness. The fledglings and parents then fly across Bass Strait to winter along the southern Victorian and South Australian coast. The film was launched at the NOVA earlier this year and the photography has been highly commended by specialists in the field. David Neilson is a local film maker whose photography has been instrumental in campaigns to save wild places. In his film 'The Desperate Plight of the Orange-bellied Parrot' he presents a compelling case to prevent this Parrot's extinction. David and other specialist speakers will provide current research updates to support the film's positive outlook.

The Yarra Valley branch of Bird Life Australia has offered to partner HEWI to cover our costs. All community charges and donations will contribute to funding the protection of critically endangered species, including the Orange-bellied Parrot and our local Leadbeater's Possum.

Tickets: \$12 :50 Details of how to book will follow later but tickets will also be available at the door.

A collection of articles about the Orange-bellied Parrot is attached with this newsletter.

Note: *This month, researchers at Australia's Threatened Species Recovery Hub released lists of birds and mammals 'more likely than not' to become extinct.*

For the first time, researchers calculate the risk Australian birds and mammals will not survive the next 20 years on Earth. The Parrot is #2/20 and Leadbeater's Possum # 7/20 <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-04-24/scientists-calculate-extinction-risk-australian-birds-mammals/9687952>

May 05-06

Walks and Talks
Mullum Mullum Festival
Yarran Dheran Reserve

May 11

**WaterWatch monitoring
Physical & chemical assays.
Queens Park BBQ pavilion
9.30-10.30am, Grace Burn**

May 17

**HEWI meeting
HL&LC Rm 1
7.00pm – 9.00pm**

May 19

**Walk Watch & Wonder
Healesville Old Tip site
12.30pm -3.30pm**

May 22

World Biodiversity Day

May 25

Writers and Rhythms
Darron Honey Centre
7.00-9.00pm

May 27 -June 03

National Reconciliation Week

May 28

**Solar Energy for Landlords &
Tenants**
Income from Solar Production
HCoRE Darron Honey Centre

June 01

**NEW FILM
"Plight of the Orange-bellied
Parrot"
7.00pm – 9.30pm
Memo, Healesville**

June 02 – 30

HEWI library display

June 06

Threatened Orchids
7.30 – 9.00pm
Warrandyte

FORESTS UPDATE

Congratulations to the Friends of Leadbeater's Possum for achieving successful Court decisions which will temporarily save some sections of Mountain Ash forest from logging.

This achievement was the result of canny foresight by Environment Justice Australia lawyers, the huge community survey commitment and precise recordings required, and the tenacity of the Friends to pursue legal protection for our internationally recognised as critically endangered, Leadbeater's Possum.

The Hearing listed for April 24 resulted in large areas being protected from logging due to recorded footage of the Greater Glider as well as Leadbeater's Possum.

However, the final decision will be made by Justice Mortimer on May 2.

SOLAR POWER IN THE YARRA RANGES

The Carbon Management Program was established by Yarra Ranges Council in 2009 and Councillors recently received confirmation that the initial T5 street lighting and solar installations are already producing electricity costs savings, with Council on track to achieve their 30% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2020. (One initiative, by twenty councils, including Yarra Ranges, and four of Victoria's Greenhouse Alliances, is Solar Savers, which will assist pensioners to install solar panels by approved contractors). The major project is on track to produce viable and successful projects which will radically reduce our greenhouse emissions and eventually provide surplus funding for other initiatives across our region.

We are fortunate in Healesville to have a new community group, established last July, to assist our township to achieve Net Zero emissions within 10 years. Healesville Community Renewable Energy organises a series of skill-building meetings, working with local specialists, Council, Monash University and the Smart Energy Council.

Our solar town: from dreams to reality"

A night of review and celebration in movements towards Healesville's net zero, solar energy future

Come and hear our project partners talk about our projects that are being put into place and that are envisioned for the future to transform Healesville into a Net Zero town – a town that uses only renewable energy. Hear how the residents and businesses can save money and how we as a community can invest in Healesville's future.

> **Thursday June 21, 7-9pm, Memo, Healesville**

ENVIRONMENTAL VOLUNTEERS FORUM

Following sustained lobbying by HEWI and others over the last 18 months, these forums were resumed on Sunday April 29, and the attendance justified our persistence for their re-instatement. The agenda was highly ambitious, but well organised, which ensured a relatively smooth exchange of views within the 4 hours. Congratulations to Jen Ellison for the organisation of her first EV forum – and good luck with all those responses that will be required for the post-it note questions!

Volunteers appreciated the opportunity to meet Council officers and raise their local issues.

There are obvious benefits to both Council and volunteer groups for regular networking meetings to ensure that our diverse projects conform with current policy making. Advocacy groups, such as HEWI, are in a minority, but we are all conservation groups with a dedicated interest in working with Council to maintain and enhance our (constantly threatened) natural environment.

Letters of thanks have been sent to all our supporting partners for the new grant and we have received congratulatory responses. Unfortunately, our finely-tuned application was severely cut back, so even more volunteer hours will be required to make adjustments.. If you have suggestions re other sources for environmental grants, please let us know!



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