

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

News in Brief

Library Display – 150 Years & More Along Our Waterways

Evelyn has produced so many interesting posters for this November display in the Healesville Library that we have had to book two large sets of display boards! Not to be missed!

> **Monday November 03 – Friday November 28**

Healesville Parade & Festival

Look for the HEWI green and white banner in the midst of our Landcare friends, Mt Toolebewong & District and Chum Creek, the colourful banner of our Knitting Nannas and the stunning new Great Forest National Park banners from MyEnvironment.

Bring your cameras!

> **Saturday November 8, 10.30am – 12.30pm Main Street Healesville**

Party in the Park! There will be a HEWI stall in Queens Park for this free festival event so do call in and say 'hello' as you enjoy the festival atmosphere.

1.00pm– 4.00pm

Bush Poetry

Lawson, Paterson and contemporary bush poets - readings on Herring Island. (Access by punt from Como Landing on the Yarra River, opposite Como Oval, Toorak).

\$25.00 by Friday November 7. YRKA : <http://www.trybooking.com/FXDG>

> **Sunday 9th November**

1.45pm - 4.30 pm

Waterway Reflections

Our major event in Queens Park

> **Saturday Nov. 15, 4.30-6.30pm**

Wurundjeri presented by Uncle Bill Nicholson

Uncle Bill works as education manager for the Wurundjeri Tribe Council. In this presentation Bill will discuss traditional uses of food, fibres and tools. Past present and future projects that connect Wurundjeri to country and culture will also be discussed.

> **Wednesday 3 December, 7.30pm**

Bull and Bush Room at the Grand Hotel, Warrandyte
Bookings essential with Natalie: 9840 9124.

Associated Field Trip: Attendance at above seminar essential.

> **Sat. 6 Dec., 10.30 am – 12.30 pm**

Dear members and friends

This is your personal invitation to our 'Waterway Reflections' event. We can assure you that this unique performance involving storytelling, living sculptures and creative installations, will leave you entranced and inspired! Cultural and natural environmental values will be interwoven with historical references to the 150 yrs - and beyond - of living with our waterways in Healesville.

> **Saturday 15 November, from 4.30 pm to 6.30 pm, in Queens Park.**

We will gather at The Meeting Place in Queens Park (adjacent to Oonah Learning Centre – 1a Badger Creek Road) for the welcoming ceremony and then follow this roving performance as it winds its way through the park to the banks of the Grace Burn (near the Sound Shell). This event is free and for all ages. Parking will be available in Queens Park via the Don Rd entry.

Waterway Reflections Workshop

This exciting performance is being meticulously designed and researched by our creative director Jeminah Reidy, who brings her immeasurable experience and total commitment to its unique presentation.

We are most fortunate to have been offered facilities at the Healesville Living and Learning Centre for the artists' workshop the week before the event. If you know anyone who would be interested in joining the fun for any time that week, **Nov.11 – 15**, please call Jeminah: 0414 419 182.

HEWI is seeking volunteers on the day of this event, Saturday November 15, between 3.00 pm and 7.00 pm to assist with: Marshalling; Set up & Pack up; and Photography.

Please call Maureen if you can help us in any way.

LIFE MEMBERSHIP CONGRATULATIONS!

The intended recipient to celebrate HEWI's 25th AGM was Lou Sbalchiero who was an active member of the original Healesville Heritage Watch (which became Healesville Environment Watch in 1994) and he remains one 25 years on! Lou has coordinated our WaterWatch program for many years and earlier this year was appointed as a **Waterways Ambassador** by Melbourne Water. This has resulted in our major event, **Waterway Reflections** this month.

Unfortunately Lou was too ill to attend our 25th AGM, but we had a lot of fun with the photos – Steve had a projection of a very young Lou and we held up his LM certificate as if he was actually reaching down for it! The photo board was subtitled "hair styles and head gear" in reference to the diversity displayed across the years!

YARRA RANGES ENVIRONMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

At the last bi-monthly meeting for 2014, the finalisation of the terms of reference for YREAC and adoption of a timetable for the new Committee were presented.

Community representation on YREAC is to be increased to 12 (instead of 8) with one representative having links to the indigenous community and another to be a young person. Members will be appointed as individuals based on their qualifications and experience and if you will be available on a regular basis over the next 2 years, please consider making an application to represent our region.

HEWI thanks member Jean Edwards who is resigning from her sustained and perceptive contribution to YREAC, including the detailed discussions that have led to the new Environment Strategy format.

November 03 – 28
HEWI Library Display
Healesville waterways
150+ years of change!

November 07
 Environment Strategy
 Submissions DUE.

November 08
 Street Parade
 Main Street
 Healesville 150 years festival
 10.30am – 12.30pm

November 08
 Party in the Park!
 HEWI stall
 Queens Park
 12noon – 4.30pm

NOVEMBER 15

"WATERWAY REFLECTIONS"

**Cultural and environmental
 performance art event
 from the Meeting Place to the
 Grace Burn**

Queens Park 4.30 – 6.30pm

November 20
HEWI meeting
HL&LC 6.45 – 9.15pm

December 03
 Wurundjeri with Uncle Bill
 Warrandyte

December 06
 Wurundjeri Field trip
 (Must attend both and prebook)

ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY

Most of the YREAC meetings this year have comprised a good deal of discussion on the Draft Environment Strategy. The simplified format was deliberate with **Actions** in a separate Draft Preliminary Action Plan - these proposed actions are not always budgeted for in advance and the plan may have to be modified or reduced. However, the Strategy remains as an intact document and enviro community groups are generally appreciative of this structure that will allow further input if the need for a certain action becomes imperative.

David Harper, manager Parks and Bushland and Alison Fogarty, Special Projects officer (E.S.) who has collated most of the papers, also presented to the Environmental Community Forum on October 2 and responded positively to the barrage of questions from a full 'house'.

HEWI encourages all members to submit comments, if you have not already done so:

www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/haveyoursay.

Or send a brief note to us to be incorporated into the HEWI submission.

> **due date: 7 November 2014.**

FOREST UPDATE

The clearfelling of the controversial Rusty coupe on Sylva Creek Road has been completed, extending the highly visible scar on the face of Mount St. Leonard.

At the beginning of October a paper was published (Burns et al.) which assesses the unique assemblage of species that comprises the Mountain Ash Forest Ecosystem of the Central Highlands of Victoria to be Critically Endangered (email for a copy of the paper). However, the state government has announced a new Code of Practice for Timber Production that waters down even further existing protections for our native forests and wildlife.

This strengthens the case for urgent declaration of the Great Forest National Park. The GFNP will be on the agenda at the IUCN World Parks Congress in Sydney this month, through an electronic poster developed by our chairman, Steve Meacher. (*Your committee enjoyed a sneak preview – it's fabulous!*) Meanwhile, two recent independent polls have confirmed a high level of public support (64% and 89%) among Victorians for the new park. YAY! (*Our votes for environmentally responsible candidates will be vital in the state election at the end of the month, and several urban candidates have included 'our' park in their campaigns*).

ACTIVITY REPORTS

1. October 12 Walk, Watch and Wonder – a most enjoyable day with three knowledgeable leaders, yummy food courtesy of Yarra Ranges 'Live it Up' program and simply perfect weather! And yes, a Rotary bus to drive us back up that hill!! Several participants came from Melbourne and remarked on the community spirit that they experienced on the day. There will be a range of photos on our website.

2. October 24 Spring Invertebrates ID followed by a stall at Badger Creek Primary School fete where the youngsters were enthralled with the water bugs that they were discovering.

(So waterbugs will be on again at our Queens Park venue on November 8!)

Spring Training Weekend

A Southern Ranges Environment Alliance initiative, co funded by Yarra Ranges and Cardinia Councils, PPWCMA, and Melbourne Water. Fire management, plant ID, management plan development, waterways management, cultural awareness, weed management, fauna awareness - activities to assist decisions about your local reserve, property or project.

Accommodation for 2 nights and all meals. Contact Glenn: info@srea.org.au or www.srea.org.au Adults \$70.00 Con. \$30.00 Kids under 16 FREE

> **Mt Evelyn "Oasis", 4pm November 14 - 4pm November 16**

November will be a delightful community month for Healesville and we trust that our associates from other districts, as well as locals, will join us for our one-off "Waterway Reflections". We wish Steve well for his presentation amongst global peers in Sydney and look forward to sharing the conference outcomes on his return.

