

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

News in Brief

Code of Practice, Yarra Ranges Council

This is the chosen topic for the next Environmental Community Engagement Forum. The presenter will be Kym Saunders, Urban Fringe Weeds Project Officer. Wombat Mange w'shop after lunch.

> **Sat. November 7 10:30am to 2pm Conference Room, Council Office**

CLIMATE CHANGE TIMETABLE

Saturday 14 November:

Australia's biggest ever door-knock day, <http://www.peoplesclimate.org.au/doorknocks>

Friday 20 - Monday 23 November:

Geelong Sustainability is hosting the Act on Climate Festival. Visit their website: <http://www.actonclimatefestival.org> for more info.

Friday 27 November:

Melbourne People's Climate March! Visit <http://www.peoplesclimate.org.au/melbourne> and have a look around.

Community Bushfire Risk Forum

Weekend session jointly sponsored by Yarra Ranges Council and the Southern Ranges Environment Alliance.

> **December 5 & 6 Venue tba**



Arthropodium strictum (Chocolate Lily)

This is a landmark month for CLIMATE CHANGE and as HEWI is an active partner in the People's Climate March, our activities ahead are focused on this global issue.

HEWI ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

PLEASE NOTE: We regret that we have had to change our plans to present Dr Mary Cole as our guest speaker, but we hope to have Mary with us early in 2016.

As our contribution to CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION this month, we will show "**Merchants of Doubt**" - Naomi Oreske's film exposing the use of public relations tactics by tobacco companies and corporations to defend their businesses against scientific results that indicated dangers to health or the environment. These tactics frequently include the use of highly paid individuals discrediting well known scientific studies and were developed by the tobacco industry in the 1950s in response to evidence that smoking was a significant health risk. The film argues that these same tactics have been applied to forestall regulations of greenhouse gas emissions and to defend regulations requiring use of fire retardants in furniture.

"An intelligent, solidly argued takedown of the network of professional fabricators, obfuscators and pseudo-scientists who have lately attempted to muddle the scientific debate around global warming."

Please join us for a brief AGM followed immediately by this 90minute film then supper and networking for the BIG March!

> **7.00pm Thursday November 05
Senior Citizen's Hall, Green Street, Healesville**

PEOPLE'S CLIMATE CHANGE MARCH



This march in Melbourne will be just one of countless climate rallies taking place around the world to coincide with the critically important climate change talks in Paris.

The timing of this march will allow as many as possible to join and make an impact on the world community and especially our leaders who must represent us at the Paris assemblies.

Could you please let me know if you would like to be part of a HEWI group and if you would be willing to help with our banner which will demonstrate the commitment from this region? Carpooling to Lilydale Station is encouraged; the last bus returning to Healesville leaves Lilydale at 9.15pm.

> **Friday November 29 5.30pm cnr. Swanston and Latrobe Streets**

ACTIVITY REPORTS:

THE SEX LIFE OF ORCHIDS - a Walk, Watch and Wonder event

Nineteen people enjoyed a bush walk on Sunday October 04, led by our leader Kaye McRae, discovering beautiful orchids, singly and in patches all the way. We were also fortunate to learn more about the biology of orchids from our supporting naturalists Jane and Malcolm Calder. We identified 12 species and 3 more in bud.

GRACE BURN PROJECT / COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP LAUNCH

We were delighted with the response from residents living along the Grace Burn waterway to meet at the Picnic pavilion in Queens Park on Saturday October 10. Property owners arrived to discuss their weed and erosion problems with Katie Drummond, local River Health Officer, Melbourne Water, Matt de Boer, Communities for Platypus officer, Yarra Ranges Council and HEWI facilitator,

November 05
HEWI AGM, followed by
"Merchants of Doubt"
7.00 - 9.30pm
Senior Citizens Hall
Healesville

November 07
 Code of Practice, YRC
 10.30am
 Council conference room
 Lilydale

November 27
 People's Climate March
 Melbourne State Library
 5:30pm, Friday

December 05 & 06
 Community Bushfire Risk Forum
 Lilydale



On the Walk, Watch and Wonder track

Karen Garth. Each resident received an information bag with brochures, an herbicide dabber bottle and gardening gloves. Karen has already received more calls from interested neighbours and will arrange further meetings and inspections as required for registration with Melbourne Water's Streamside Management Program.

GREAT FOREST NATIONAL PARK - Council Agenda, October 13

HEWI has formally thanked Laurence Gaffney who raised two major issues at the last Yarra Ranges Environmental Advisory Committee that were then placed on this council agenda by Cr Len Cox. Item 11.1 concerned the apparent decline of *Banksia marginata* and Councillors approved a request to be made to the state government for a grant to cover monitoring of this species in Kurth Kiln.

Item 11.2 was more controversial – it proposed that an assessment be made about the costs and benefits of the Great Forest National Park and its impact on Yarra Ranges Council. The original recommendation was amended by Cr McAllister and the final inclusive wording passed by 5 Councillors was: *That*

1. Council commission a report by an independent external consultant on the 'Great Forest National Park' proposal, including
 - (a) an assessment of the economic, social, cultural and environmental costs and benefits of the proposal for the Shire.
 - (b) recommendations regarding Yarra Ranges Council's position on the creation of the park.
 - (c) consultation with Murrindindi Shire Council
2. The report be prepared and presented to Councillors within 6 months

PLANNING APPLICATION FOR DEVELOPMENT OF THE OLD MILL SITE

HEWI has been making submissions on proposals for this prominent site – the 'gateway to Healesville' since 2005. Last December, a new proposal was lodged with Council and by September 2015, the developers had managed to submit further information requested by Council back in January. There have been changes to the mix of businesses since the previous proposal that was approved by VCAT in 2013 but our objections remain the same – loss of amenity, indigenous vegetation and habitat; totally insufficient landscaping to prevent visual intrusion of buildings and car parking and complete lack of sensitivity to a site that overlooks our rural environs of the Yarra River valley and agricultural floodplains.

We urge all members to record their opposition to this current application YR-2015/1199 with Council as soon as possible. The files can be viewed at Healesville Community Link.

Some images from our The Sex Life Of Orchids - a Walk, Watch and Wonder



Please consider joining our committee to assist our advocacy role in local issues. We are deeply indebted to members who act on our behalf in different forums, but new face are always welcome!

