



HEALESVILLE * CHUM CREEK * YARRA GLEN * BADGER CREEK * STEELS CREEK * TARRAWARRA * TOOLANGI

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

News In Brief

GREAT NEWS From HCoRE!!

Our first Healesville Community Solar Bulk Buy is now being planned for launching in February 2019! This will be active for the 3777 post code communities. (see attachment)

Biological Control of Wandering Trad

Bill Incoll, President of Monbulk Landcare, has advocated for and followed this process for many long years. It will provide huge relief to all areas overtaken by this introduced species, a rampant weed throughout our region. The Department of Agriculture has released the draft report of the risk analysis for the release of *Kordyana brasiliensis* for the biological control of the weed 'Wandering Trad' (*Tradescantia fluminensis*). Please find the Biosecurity Advice for this risk analysis at: <http://agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity/risk-analysis/memos/ba2018-27> - this draft report is available for a 30 day consultation period, closing on 12 November 2018. We expect to release the final report before the end of 2018. Community support encouraged.

Yarra Riverkeeper Association AGM

If any member could attend this meeting, I will send you all the details which cover a huge amount of interesting work towards the Yarra River Plan. Requires RSVP to info@yarrariver.org.au by 5pm, 14 Nov.

*7.30pm 14 Nov the Sheet Room, Abbotsford Convent 1 St Heliers St Abbotsford

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)

- released its special report on global warming of 1.5°C on Monday October 8, finding that current national pledges are not enough to limit warming to 1.5°C. "It's clear that concerted action from all countries, particularly significant greenhouse gas polluters like Australia, is critical if we are to keep temperatures below the 1.5°C limit" - "The solutions are available. We need to accelerate the transition to renewables and storage technologies and ramp up other climate solutions across all sectors of the economy," Full IPCC report, [here is the link. climatecouncil.org.au](https://www.ipcc.org/)

Our October community events were all well attended, with some reports below. Members will have received our AGM reports - saving time at the meeting. Wildflowers are superb this Spring, providing plenty of nourishment for our birds and mammals. We are excited to offer another day walk and a first - spotlighting our arboreal wildlife!

SPRING WILDFLOWERS AT HEALESVILLE BIODIVERSITY OFFSETS SITE Community Walk, Watch and Wonder!

As promised, we are returning to this bushland adjacent to the Yarra Ranges National Park to discover the wildflowers that have regenerated at the old Healesville Tip. Glen Terry, Council's Environmental Project Officer has kindly offered to lead this walk to ensure that we find the most interesting patches of wildflowers and orchids. Bookings essential: contact Maureen: 5962 1224 or hewisec@bigpond.com. Hat, walking shoes, sunscreen and water recommended.

***Saturday November 17, 10am -12noon - gates open 9.45am.**

SPOTLIGHTING EVENING Community Event

Thanks to our Yarra Ranges Grant, HEWI has purchased two lightweight spotlights for our facilitator, Karen Garth to lead spotlighting walks over the next four years. Join us to discover the local nightlife, including the Greater Glider, the largest gliding possum in the world. It is listed as "vulnerable to extinction", yet there is no action plan to protect it. Local plants will also be discussed, and an introductory talk with photos will be given to set the scene. Walking will be on formed, gravel tracks.

BYO small torch (no headlamps), binoculars. The venue, specific route and meeting place will be notified on booking. Adults only - \$10 donation to HEWI per person. As our previous spotlighting evenings were booked out, we advise early bookings to Karen: 5962 5115 or gbfacilitator@gmail.com

***Tuesday 29 November, 8.00pm - 10.30 pm**

YARRA RIVER PLAN ADVOCACY

The release of the [Progress Report for the Yarra Strategic Plan](#) was announced last week by the Minister for Water Lisa Neville and the Minister for Planning Richard Wynne. The progress report provides an update of the work undertaken to date on the Yarra Strategic Plan and outlines next steps to deliver the [community's vision for the river](#).

Alongside the progress report Melbourne Water has released the [Yarra Strategic Plan Map Book](#), which offers maps of the whole Yarra corridor showing key recreational sites and protected areas.

The extensive engagement undertaken on the project will inform the development of the draft Yarra Strategic Plan, which will be released for public comment in 2019.

* **The HEWI committee would appreciate assistance** with assessment of the Yarra River floodplain from Coldstream to Woori Yallock - specific sites with which you might be more familiar. Riparian areas that need protection from stock; streams flowing in that need revegetation buffers - positive or negative reports that we could include within our response to the Roundtable debate. Please send your comments to Maureen: hewisec@bigpond.com by Nov 7.

November 08

HEWI meeting
HL&LC Rm 1
&.00-9.00pm

November 09

Waterwatch
Phys & Chem testing
9.30-10.30am
QP rotunda

November 14

YRKA AGM
Abbotsford

November 17

Walk, Watch and Wonder!
Healesville Wildflowers
10am -12noon

November 21

Enviro Vols Forum
Coldstream C'ty centre
5.30 – 8.00pm

**ENVIRONMENTAL VOLUNTEERS
FORUM** Change of venue and
date!

5pm – Networking & Light Snacks.
Optional tour of Margaret Lewis
Reserve

5.30pm – Introductions & YRC
Environment Dept Updates from
previous Forum

6pm – Yarra Ranges Environment
Advisory Committee Update

6.30pm – Bushland Contractors
Information 7pm – Fauna
Monitoring Presentation

7.30pm – Future Forum Planning &
Networking

Open to all community members
Please RSVP by 14th November.

[www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/
Forum2018](http://www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/Forum2018)

November 25

FNCV: Excursion:
Terrestrial Invertebrates Group
Buttongrass Nature Trail,
Bunyip State Park Meet 10 am
in the car park at Guide Track
(on Camp Rd). Contact: Reiner
Richter.fncv@rnr.id.au

November 27

Spotlighting Evening
8.00pm – 10.30pm

REPORTS:

GALEENA BEEK

This indigenous property opposite Healesville Sanctuary has undergone several transformations and unsuccessful development plans in which HEWI was involved by various submissions depending on the quality of the proposals. Finally, the formal handover of the Title for the three Galeena Beek properties to the Wurundjeri Tribe Land and Compensation Cultural Heritage Council took place at their Abbotsford HQ. We have acknowledged this significant event in a letter to the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Natalie Hutchins, who said that the transfer of these properties, totalling 14 hectares, along with a grant of \$150,000 to assist with maintenance will allow Wurundjeri to grow and plan for the future. HEWI has also acknowledged the many long years of involvement by the Board of HICSA towards this outcome.

[interesting aside: Yarra Ranges Council employs the Wurundjeri Narrap team (land management) to assist Council's bushland teams on reserves]

YARRA VALLEY CLEAN AIR WORKSHOP

Michael Feller was the HEWI delegate at this event and reported that the main feedback was the oppressive effect of planned burns, especially in the Dandenongs. We have a number of Clean Air Fact sheets available in the office or <https://www.environment.vic.gov.au/sustainability/clean-air-for-all-victorians>

FIRE FORUM – Healesville Safer Together Community Group

There was an overwhelming response to this event and the stall holders in the foyer received plenty of interest from the attendees (210!). Presenter, Justin Leonard, Melbourne University, used photos from their research with CSIRO of several bushland communities post-fire to reveal vulnerable ignition defects in most houses. He also had some practical measures for specific areas of buildings, including replacement of all adjacent gardens with gravel beds. From their detailed examination of burnt sites, the main message for a Code Red day remains – leave early.

ORCHID WALK

A perfect day for the early orchids' flowering, one a first record and two new indigenous plant species added to the list for this Juliet Ave reserve that our local landcare members have been surveying for some years. Find Karen's photos on our facebook page. We met several new community members and hope to return for the later flowering species.

SENIORS' EVENT**WATERBUG DISCOVERY DAY**

Q:What does Seniors Week and HEWI's Spring Invertebrate Count have in common?

A. Lots now! when Members from the Caladenia Club Men's Group and three other Seniors responded to HEWI's invite in the "What's On for Over Fifties In Yarra Ranges October 2018" booklet. This year's Spring Invertebrate Count was one of the best ever with high abundance of Mayflies, Caddisflies and Stoneflies. For those who came along for the first time it was an eye opener to the diversity of living invertebrates in our local waterways rather than just seeing a creek full of flowing water. It was a smorgasbord of platypus food to feast our eyes upon that also included three small trout fingerlings and a healthy freshwater yabby. Morning tea and discussions were enjoyed by all!

NEW ALLIANCE MEMBERSHIPS

HEWI has joined the Victorian National Parks Association and renewed our Environment Victoria membership. Both groups address issues that concern our region and have far better facilities for research than we do! VNPA also produce worksheets for their "Wild Families" section, which we use with our Year 3 and 4 HPS students. Local member Sera Blair has recently joined this section, so we look forward to more innovative ideas ahead!

Articles, letters, comments for our newsletters always welcome. We hope that you will be able to join one of our walks!



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