

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

### News in Brief

#### Friends of Leadbeater's Possum 10th AGM

Guest Speaker, Professor David Lindenmayer will present on changes that have occurred in the last ten years and the importance of community support and activism for Leadbeater's Possum and forest conservation.

> **Friday October 10**, The Memo, Healesville, 6:30pm for light refreshments, AGM 7:00pm, followed by Prof Lindenmayer and Sera Blair. RSVP Wed Oct 8- [info@leadbeaters.org.au](mailto:info@leadbeaters.org.au)

#### Living with fire in Manningham

presented by Owen Gooding, the Vegetation Management Team Leader for the CFA who will discuss fire in Australia with social, cultural, ecological and historical themes: fire behaviour; house loss, what is and is not worth doing; approaches to vegetation management; and planned burning to maintain ecological processes and protection of significant plant species.

> **Wednesday 5 November 7.30 pm**, Bull and Bush Room at the Grand Hotel, Warrandyte. Bookings essential: Natalie on 9840 9124.

#### FIELD TRIP: Living with fire in Manningham

Visit a regenerating 'autumn prescribed' burn site in Manningham. Owen will lead observation and discussion on how plants and ecosystems respond to fire, recognising fuels and how topography influences fire behaviour. Bookings are essential as places are limited.

> **Thursday 6 November, 10.00 am - 12.00 noon**. Note: You must attend the corresponding seminar to attend field trip.

#### Trust For Nature

During September and October you can visit private conservation properties that are not normally accessible to the public. These landowners have generously offered to show the hard work and dedication they have made to helping protect Victoria's native plants and wildlife through guided walks and talks. Also meet with Trust for Nature staff and other partners who make conservation of private land possible.

[www.trustfornature.org.au/data/media/00002063/Spring-into-Nature-2014](http://www.trustfornature.org.au/data/media/00002063/Spring-into-Nature-2014)

#### Congratulations!

To the Community Weed Alliance of the Dandenongs (CWAD), which has secured \$450K to manage Wandering Trad and host a Green Army project.

*A community group acting to protect and conserve important elements of our local environment*

*We continue our waterways theme this month with our Walk Watch and Wonder! event that was booked out weeks ago! Our next outdoor activity in November will be unique to Healesville – **Waterway Reflections!** HEWI is most grateful to Melbourne Water for the large grant that has enabled us to sponsor the local creative artists who will tell a story about our natural environment in a quite distinctive way, enriching both participants and audience alike.*

#### "WATERWAY REFLECTIONS"

A unique environmental arts project involving artists and other creative individuals, historians, scientists and indigenous knowledge-keepers in a shared learning journey that will create a site-specific group performance and exhibition in November.

#### THE WORKSHOP:

The project is led by Jeminah Reidy, an internationally experienced arts facilitator and scenographer who has strong connections to the region, and a wealth of experience in projects involving group artistic collaboration and the environment. Jeminah describes the creative process that she has developed:

*Local knowledge holders, e.g naturalists, historians, indigenous historians and other scientists, will share insight into the local landscape and waterways with artists, by describing the importance of natural features to our life and how they shape our culture. This part of the project will get the creative juices flowing! Visual artists, musicians, dancers, puppeteers, projection artists, or other creative beings are all welcome!*

Working together, sharing ideas and inspiration, Jeminah will assist the group to develop those ideas into a range of artistic responses. Creating music, dance, sculpture, performance, or art installations – **ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE!** The group energy will guide the experience, and the outcome. All materials, insurance, advertising and delicious meals during the 5 days are included. The entire workshop is FREE.

**This is a rare opportunity – please let your friends know about it.**

Contact Jeminah on 0414 419 182 or for inspiration from past projects and to apply online - [www.scenesontheyarra.com](http://www.scenesontheyarra.com)

> **11-15th November 10 am - 6 pm** Healesville Living and Learning Centre

#### THE PERFORMANCE:

On the final day of the project, the community performance will transform Queens Park and the audience will be invited on a guided walk along Wirrup Yaluk and the Grace Burn to experience the magic created by the artists through installations, stories and music making. We will begin at the Meeting Place in the southern Swamp Gum woodland of Queens Park, adjacent to the Oonah Aboriginal Centre, 1a Badger Creek Road.

> **Saturday November 15th 4.30pm – 6.30pm**

*(Please note that we will need volunteer marshals to assist during this event)*

#### WATER WATCH EVENTS

October 24: This will be our spring session for Invertebrates identification, 11am – 12noon in Room 5 at the Healesville Living and Learning Centre. Always interesting and fun!

October 24: Later that same day we have been invited to host a stall at the Badger Creek Primary School. Lou and Karen will offer their fascinating water bugs hands-on activity.

#### DRAFT ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY

This has been released by Council and your comments would be most welcome. Environment Forum members were introduced to the process

## Up Coming Events

**October 10**

Friends of Leadbeater's Possum  
10th anniversary  
Memo Hall

**October 12**

**Walk Watch & Wonder**  
**M'dah Dam to Donnelly's Weir**  
**10.30am – 3.30pm**

**October 22**

Candidates Forum  
Darron Honey Hall  
Uniting Church  
Healesville 7.30pm

**October 24**

**Waterwatch Invertebrates**  
HL&LC  
11.00am -12.00noon

**October 24**

Badger Creek Primary  
School fete – **with bugs!**  
4.30pm - 6.30pm

**October 31**

Encounters with Fauna and  
Reflections on nature  
Toolangi Castella District Community  
House  
7.00pm  
Enrol online [www.toolangi.net](http://www.toolangi.net)

**November 08**

150 years festival  
street parade  
Main Street, Healesville

**November 08**

**150 years festival**  
**HEWI stall**  
**Queens Park**

**November 15**

**150 years festival**  
**"Waterway Reflections"**  
**Unique Performance**  
**Queens Park**  
**4.30pm – 6.30pm**

\*\*\*Please Note\*\*\*

Wildlife Vic are appealing for  
more carers, see <http://www.wildlifevictoria.org.au/>. And please  
make sure you have 13 000 94535  
in your phone in case you come  
across an injured animal.

## Community Environment News

by David Harper, manager Environment and Alison Fogarty, Executive Officer, at Council last week. However, there was little time to discuss the most important section, the Draft Preliminary Action Plan, and we urge all members to read these details very carefully. Not all these Actions will be possible within Council budgets, so please record your priorities! Hard copies are available at your Community Link or <http://www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/haveyoursay>.

Comments will be received until the end of November.

### VNPA: NATURE CONSERVATION REVIEW

The Victorian National Parks Association has released its 2014 Nature Conservation Review, the fourth review by VNPA over the last 40 years. Each of these reports has identified areas in the state that are priorities for protection and ecosystems that are particularly threatened. The 2014 report is particularly comprehensive and is the result of over 6 years work. The review summarizes the earlier reports and any progress or improvements in nature protection that was made after each review. It then documents threatening processes and gaps that need to be addressed to achieve protection for marine, terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems followed by failures in governance making extensive recommendations to address these failures. There are over 163 recommendations to improve nature conservation in Victoria. Many of us will be attending candidates meetings for the up-coming elections and this review can provide plenty of material for questions to candidates - it should be mandatory reading for candidates! To access this report see [vnpa@vnpa.org.au](mailto:vnpa@vnpa.org.au) for an executive summary as well as a short article in Park Watch which is also available on this site.

*(Healesville candidates' forum, October 22, 7.30pm Darron Honey Hall, Healesville)*

### LOW DENSITY RESIDENTIAL ZONES

Following a large number of submissions re the proposed changes to the Low Density Residential Zone subdivision provisions by the State Minister for Planning, Yarra Ranges Councillors called a special meeting of submitters last week to hear the community voice on this issue. Speakers were equally divided but the vast majority present agreed that our natural environment is a unique asset. We hope that Council will respect public opinion that the Minister's recommendations be rejected due to the high potential for detrimental environmental and social impacts if the proposed changes to low density subdivisions were approved.

### RIVER HEALTH

A new Water Bill with potential changes to the legal status of environmental flows has been dropped (due to public pressure?), which is a huge relief. With the renewal of grazing licences due this month, Environment Victoria is also highlighting another threat to our waterways - trampling cows - by installing large 'cows' in fresh water sites throughout the city!  
<http://www.theage.com.au/victoria/victoria-state-election-2014/river-licences-to-get-green-light-with-no-new-protections-20140927-10mxfi.html#ixzz3EeU1LQWc>

### HEWI contribution: sign on the Grace Burn, Queens Park



### Platypus & Waterway Protection Project

1998-2014

A joint project between: Melbourne Water, Yarra Ranges Council, Healesville Environment Watch Inc. with support from Healesville Primary School, Swinburne TAFE, Landcare and corporate volunteers.

*It was an honour to receive a totally unexpected Life Membership from my peers at our 25th AGM and we were most appreciative to receive Cr Samantha Dunn's congratulations for HEWI's highly active and sustained role over our long span of years and the maintenance of our conservation responsibilities with integrity and consistency. MB*



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

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