

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 AGM

You are warmly invited to attend the presentation by Karena Goldfinch that will precede the AGM at the Yarran Dheran Info Centre, Mitcham (Mel 49 B6).

> **Saturday 10 October 2015 at 3 pm**

(Karena is a local artist, photographer and forest activist/Knitting Nanna: 'My inspiration comes from nature, its fragility, its strength and the hand of man upon it.' She is also Artist-in-residence at Healesville Sanctuary this Spring)

Victorian Native Orchids

Friends of Hoddles Creek are hosting an evening of orchid appreciation, where Emily Noble will share her love of orchids, and highlights from her vast collection of exquisite images. Where: Hoddles Creek Primary School, Gembrook-Launching Place Road, Hoddles Creek. Supper will be provided.

> **Monday 26 October, 7:00 pm**

Mt Toolebewong & District Landcare AGM

Mark Cairns will be guest presenter with his native animals display. RSVP to Karen 5962 5115 toolebewonglandcare@gmail.com

> **Sat. Oct 24, 2.00pm Badger Creek old school**

Community Bushfire Risk Forum

ADVANCE NOTICE

The next weekend session jointly sponsored by Yarra Ranges Council and the Southern Dandenongs Environment Alliance should not be missed!

> **December 5 & 6 Venue tba**

October 5 is designated World Habitat Day and we will be highlighting the beauty and diversity of our local flora the previous day – we hope you are able to join us in the ideal weather conditions forecast

THE SEX LIFE OF ORCHIDS! NEXT SUNDAY

"When we look at a plant or animal we see the physical forms, not the swirling patterns of instructions inside them".

We are incredibly fortunate that Jane and Malcolm are able to help us gain some insight into those 'instructions', by enhancing our knowledge of orchid biology on this Spring Walk, Watch and Wonder event. Kaye will be our local guide and we have orchid ID sheets compiled by the late Jenny Barnett to help us all along the way. Meet at the corner of Skyline Road and Mt Wise Road, Yarra Glen. MEL. REF: 266 F9.

Bookings essential: please call Maureen on 5962 1224

Bring your lunch, water, hat and sunscreen. HEWI will provide afternoon tea on our return in a nearby garden.

> **Sunday Oct 4 10.30am – 3.00pm Skyline Road and bush track**

GRACE BURN PROJECT/COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP LAUNCH

Invitations have been delivered to all residents along the Grace Burn living in Elamo, Don and Farnham Roads as well as Wallace Pde and Graceburn Ave, for a combined 'meet and greet', facilitated by HEWI and supported by Melbourne Water and Council representatives.

Project convener, Lou Sbalchiero, will introduce this Stage 2 extension of the Grace Burn Project, with our facilitator Karen Garth, funded by Council and Katie Drummond from Melbourne Water. Residents will be encouraged to discuss the benefits that the Streamside Management Incentives Program provides to landowners and to the adjacent waterway. This could include weed removal, replacement indigenous plants and fencing.

We will also have a waterbugs display on site - all interested members and friends are most welcome to join us for this community gathering – official launch at 10.30am.

> **Saturday October 10 9.30am – 12noon Queens Park Rotunda (back of swimming pool)**

FRIENDS OF LEADBEATER'S POSSUM AGM

Dr Dan Harley (Zoos Victoria) will be the guest speaker on "Project Possum" and the captive breeding program at the FLP's 10th AGM. An optional dinner will be offered at the venue, Healesville Sanctuary.

> **Friday October 30**

HEALTHY FUNGI FOR HEALTHY FORESTS

You will be surprised how intriguing and fascinating this topic can become when presented by the inimitable Dr Mary Cole who has spent 35 years researching soil health and sustainable farming methods. This well-known academic and plant pathologist, is a nationally and internationally recognised expert in the management of the fungal pathogen, *Botrytis cinerea*.

In 1980 Mary founded Agpath Pty Ltd, a small soil biology company providing laboratory testing in many fields of fungal and microbial pathology and also farming consulting services in agriculture, horticulture, viticulture, environment air and water and food manufacturing.

Their mission is to introduce farmers to biological farming with the view of improving soil health and productivity giving them a sustainable future while raising standards of environmental awareness, encouraging debate in alternative and more sustainable farming methods and generating innovative ideas for the long-term health of our planet for future generations.

October 04

*Walk, Watch & Wonder:
The Sex Life of Orchids!*
Skyline Road
10.30am – 3.00pm

October 08 & 09

"Managing Victoria's Biodiversity
under Climate Change"
VNPA symposium

October 10

Grace Burn Project:
Community Engagement
Queens Park
10.00am – 12noon

October 15

HEWI meeting
HL&LC
7.00pm

October 24

MT&D landcare AGM
Badger Ck Old School
2.00pm

October 30

Friends of Leadbeater's Possum
AGM with Dan Harley
Brolga Room, H. Sanctuary

November 05

HEWI AGM
Mary Cole - Soil Fungi
Senior Citizens Hall
Healesville

November 11

Yarra Riverkeepers' 10th birthday
Cocktail party, \$55, \$35
Fitzroy Town Hall

November 27

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

December 05 & 06

Community Bushfire Risk Forum
Lilydale

Mary runs workshops with landcare groups, organic and biological farmers, providing a fascinating and stimulating insight into the lifestyles of fungi and microbes within a specific soil profile and their vital impact on the vegetation. She is also concerned with the health of our forests and adverse impacts on the natural soil biota. Her presentation will add another dimension to our understanding of the complex biodiversity of our forests.

Do save this date in your diary and please consider offering your nomination for the HEWI committee. Our brief AGM will begin at 7.15pm, immediately followed by our guest speaker and then supper.

> **Thursday November 5, 7.15pm Senior Citizen's Hall Healesville**

CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION

HEWI is negotiating to show "This Changes Everything", Capitalism vs the Climate review - Naomi Klein's powerful and urgent polemic that addresses climate crisis as the clash between the expanding demands of humankind and a finite world. We hope to screen this powerful film as part of our active partnership with the Climate March coalition. There will be climate rallies taking place around the world to coincide with the critically important climate change talks in Paris.

Keep this weekend free!

> **Friday November 27 – Sunday November 29**

*(We have forwarded another sheaf of signed petition sheets to the Victorian Women's Trust who are collating this second batch of the **Monster Climate Petition** to be tabled in the House of Representatives before the U N Climate Change Conference, November 30 to December 11).*

EUROPEAN WASP CONTROL

October is the time to catch the QUEEN wasp before she makes a nest using a simple environmentally friendly method. Thanks to Laurie Nicoll for this proven recipe.

Method: Drill a 1.25 litre soft drink bottle with 3 holes approximately 10mm in diameter and about 100 - 150mm from the bottom of the bottle. Use a bait made from honey, water and a little pure vanilla essence (which has alcohol in it) this ferments in the sun. Make up a solution of 4-5 tablespoons of honey in hot water with a little pure vanilla essence. This will do 4-5 traps. The bait will take a couple of days to activate. Divide the bait between traps, top up with water to just below holes, replace cap and hang in a sunny spot in the garden - Fruit trees with curly leaf is a good place. Shake every few days to let bait dribble out. Keep in place until January. Strain out when full, reuse and top up bait with water.

Register of Environmental Organisations

"The Committee is inquiring into the administration, transparency and effectiveness of the Register of Environmental Organisations under the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997*".

Our Chairman, Steve Meacher was invited to address this Inquiry at Parliament House, Melbourne on behalf of MyEnvironment, of which he is Vice-president. Steve presented a detailed rebuttal of the false and unsubstantiated claims made by Mr Mark Poynter the previous day, and so all the historical records and scientifically verified facts will now be on the public record for all time.

We are most grateful to Steve for his continuing diligent and meticulous research - ask for a copy!

My thanks for your feedback to recent newsletters, which last month included my parochial exaggeration implying loss of Mountain Ash as a global species. Hopefully, the mighty 'regnans' will continue to survive in Tasmania and even - perhaps - in very small pockets here in south eastern Victoria. However, the fact is that only 1% of our Mountain Ash forests are now unlogged and unburned compared to at least 30% in the pre-European era. This limited area of old-growth and the lack of recruitment of hollow-bearing trees contributed to the published assessment under IUCN criteria that the Mountain Ash ecosystem of our Central Highlands is critically endangered. Hence the urgency for our Great Forest National Park! MB.



ABN: 67 253 515 594 Reg. No. A0018935T

www.hewi.org.au

<http://roundleafpomaderris.org.au>