

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

News in Brief

World Habitat Day - Monday October 3

BirdLife Australia.

Visit the display in Healesville Library set up by the Yarra Valley Branch for the whole month of October.

> **Aussie Backyard Bird Count October 19 - 25**

Vision for Badger Creek

Help develop a community plan that would make Badger Creek a better environment in which to live.

Yarra Ranges Community Liaison staff which to hear your ideas. Soup and cake provided.

> **Wednesday, October 26, Badger Creek Hall 7.00 - 9.00pm**

Yellingbo Conservation Area Coordinating Committee

There is 1 vacancy on the (YCACC) for a community rep from the Yarra Ranges Council area to be advertised next week in local media with a 2-week deadline to receive applications. Details about YCACC membership, committee objectives and the Terms of Reference are on the [YCACC](http://www.ycacc.org.au) website.

WaterWatch Monitoring

Melbourne Water have issued guidelines to cover snakes emerging in Spring and the threat of extreme weather events. We will pass these on to all contributing residents within our community Grace Burn Project.

The World Passes 400 PPM Threshold. Permanently.

Closure of Hazelwood Power Station

The media is reporting that Hazelwood's owners plan to announce that Australia's dirtiest coal plant will close in 2017! Exciting news for all those who have been campaigning - and marching! - for the last 10 years to end pollution from Australia's dirtiest power station.

On Monday October 3, the United Nations celebrates World Habitat Day, surely the yin and yang of our environmental advocacy. Our surrounding forested mountains and abundant waterways provide the ideal landscape for relaxed and healthy living - but are we also supporting the essential habitat for the native fauna and flora that have evolved in this environment?

Our 27th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Everyone is cordially invited to share this celebration with the committee who have chosen to enjoy a convivial evening in a relaxed environment. Thank you to members and friends who have already responded to the notice included last month. We hope that others will be able to join us for a light meal, quick agenda, and then a relaxing insight into some stunning Canadian landscapes, courtesy of Evelyn and Michael Feller.

As the meal will be catered, we would appreciate your rsvp by October 7 with any food allergies that you might have. (5962 1224).

As usual, all positions are declared vacant at an AGM and your committee would deeply appreciate some new personnel to assist with our community programs for the coming year. Registration forms available from Maureen or on the night.

> **Thursday October 13 6.15pm, 193 Badger Creek Road, Badger Creek**

SENIOR CITIZENS WALK WATCH & WONDER EVENT

Our offer to lead a short walk in the Yarra Ranges National Park has been included in Council's free booklet for Senior Citizens activities in October.

This will be a short walk from Donnelly's Weir along the Maroondah aqueduct track to Echo Tunnel and then downhill to the road. The Rotary community bus will pick up participants in Coronation Park, Healesville and then drive to Donnelly's Weir for the light refreshments provided. The total length of this pleasant stroll is only 2 km and the bus will pick us up at the gate on Donnelly's Weir Road for the return to Healesville.

Bookings are essential due to the catering requirements. Hat, walking shoes and water bottle recommended. Please call Maureen on 03 5962 1224 and leave your details.

> **Friday October 14, 10.00 am Coronation Park, returning at 12noon.**

WATERWATCH - INVERTEBRATE IDENTIFICATION

Our spring session for the waterbug count will be held in the Picnic Pavilion in Queens Park, near the entrance to the outdoor pool. Samples are collected from the Grace Burn at Wallace Pde and within Queens Park using a prescribed netting method. Smaller amounts are then examined in large trays. Individual macro invertebrates are separated into ice cube containers and smaller species are examined under a stereo microscope.

As with the Autumn session, we have invited residents along the Grace Burn to join us and discover the amazing variety of species that they are protecting by caring for their frontage along the waterway. This is a fun event, often full of surprises! Join us if you can to discover these delicate critters and their essential role in the food chain for Platypus and Water Rats.

> **Saturday October 15 10.00 am - 12noon Queens Park
Picnic pavilion (near the Grace Burn, opposite the kindergarten)**

October 03

World Habitat Day

October 05

Platypus Protection project
Filming along Wirrup Yaluk

October 06

C148 submission due
C122 submission due

October 13

HEWI AGM
Badger Creek
6.15pm

October 14

Senior Citizens WW&W
Maroondah aqueduct track
10.00am - 12noon

October 15

Spring Invertebrates ID
Picnic Pavilion Queens Park
10 am - 12noon

October 21

Yarra Riverkeepers AGM
Darebin Parklands Enviro Centre
Alphington.
6.30pm

October 22

HPS 150th carnival

October 26

'A Vision for Badger Creek'
Badger Creek Hall
7.00 - 9.00pm

October 28

Leadbeater's Possum AGM
Forest Discovery Centre,
Main Road, Toolangi

NOVEMBER

HEWI Library Display

November 6 - 20

Toolangi Sculpture Trail

November 26

Aus. Forests and Climate Assoc.
AGM

PLASTIC BAG FREE HEALESVILLE

Congratulations to this enterprising group, initiated by the very enthusiastic Ria Lidgerwood who has researched the project through many groups which have tackled the same problem in their regions. Ria has many lateral ideas that will continue to move the project along throughout the entire shopping precinct of Healesville. Not only will there be a reduction in plastic bags, but a revival of colourful material bags to brighten our shopping days!

The box for materials is just inside the entrance to the Community Link and the Library and if you would like to make some bags, Ria would be most grateful for your assistance. Contact: plasticbagfreehealesville@gmail.com

[Earlier this month, France passed a law banning all petroleum-based disposable plastic utensils by 2020 and there have been calls for Australia to replace non-renewable plastics with bio-plastic products. Bio-plastic is sourced from plant materials and is more environmentally friendly as it more easily degrades than normal plastic].

FORESTS UPDATE

Premier Andrews has been provided with a Statement of Intent from the Victorian Forest Industry Taskforce and announced his support for the Taskforce continuing its work.

"The Great Forest", a stunning natural history documentary from the Toolangi forests has won best environmental film at the Colorado Film Festival!

Friends of Leadbeater's Possum AGM will be held in the recently reopened Toolangi Forest Discovery Centre. Arrive at 6:30pm for light refreshments and look around before AGM at 7:00pm, dinner at 7.30pm, followed by the Wildlife of the Central Highlands team, (WOTCH) who will talk about their successful surveying work, show some of their recent photographs and films and explain the significance of their records in protecting critical habitat.

Flowering of Pomaderris vacciniifolia

Our critically endangered Pomaderris vacciniifolia may well be flowering this week, so do look out for the amazingly beautiful flower heads as they last such a short time. Last week, Steve and Maureen visited Rokeby Reserve to meet Baw Baw Shire environmental staff, volunteers from the West

Gippsland Seedbank and Habitat Creations and view a few spindly specimens of Pomaderris vacciniifolia the rail trail.



However, as we walked along, more specimens were discovered, the bright yellow buds standing out in the forest.

This was a most exciting encounter and plants at all stages of development were eventually discovered revealing another prime habitat for this species.



We have set a busy timetable for the middle of this month and look forward to your support for these activities - and the AGM!

