

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

News in Brief

First Aid Training For Environmental Volunteers

Life-saving techniques including CPR, wound care, anaphylactic treatment, equivalent to a Level 2 Qualification. If you've never been trained, or it has been over three years since your last First Aid qualification, this course is strongly recommended.

Limited spaces available. To book your place for this free training day, please email Jen - j.ellison@yarraranges.vic.gov.au - with your name, your Group, phone and email details.

> **10am - 4pm Saturday 14 October Yarra Junction Community Link**

Friends of Leadbeater's Possum AGM

> **Friday October 27, Forest Discovery Centre, Toolangi**

Mt Toolebewong & District Landcare AGM

Meet at the Toolangi Forest Discovery Centre by 2.00pm and take a walk along the Yea River, led by Karen. Return for free afternoon tea and AGM meeting in the theatre.

> **Saturday 28 October 2017 Toolangi**

Toxic And Terminal: Coal-Fired Power Stations

Environmental Justice Australia Press release 15.08.2017, based on months of research by EJA's legal and research team.

The results are shocking. New coal-fired power stations are **not the answer.**

Please [email](#) state and federal environment and energy ministers and ask them to immediately impose international best practice emissions limits on all coal-fired power stations, and publicly commit not to build, finance or approve any new coal-fired power stations in Australia.

Although we try to cover our activities each month, the format of these newsletters does not allow the reporting of the committee's advocacy on environmental issues - which is extensive. We are delighted to have received two new nominations for the next committee that will allow more discussion and support with our submissions. Even more nominations would be most welcome!

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING NOVEMBER 10

We have been discussing a theme with Samantha Dunn, MP for her presentation on this evening - so much to condense into a snappy title! Samantha, our representative on the Legislative Council, is the Greens spokesperson on public transport, planning, local government and forests. These issues also cover HEWI's main advocacy focus - so we will have an ideal opportunity to learn more about Samantha's experience with. and approach to, our shared interests.

New HEWI memberships and renewals will also be available and encouraged! As an incorporated group, HEWI must submit our AGM records to Consumer Affairs, including our membership numbers which have dwindled recently. Although this newsletter has a wide circulation due to requests received at various activities, we need to actively promote paid memberships. So we strongly encourage any reader interested in the conservation of our natural environment to join our active group at this meeting.

> **Friday November 10, 6.30pm for 7.00pm** *RSVP would be helpful*
Youth Hub, Healesville Living and Learning Centre, 1 Badger Creek Road

FORESTS UPDATE

[Great Forest National Park Pressure Builds](#)

Kath Sullivan, The Weekly Times, September 27 (extract)

PRESSURE is mounting on the Victorian Government to declare where it stands on a proposal to develop the Great Forest National Park, east of Melbourne - 355,000 hectares of protected forests across the Eastern Victorian Central Highlands, including [many] of Victoria's native logging coups.

The Labor Environment Action Network, a green group within the Australian Labor Party, has taken the unusual step of making a public statement in support of a new national park. LEAN describes itself as a network of grassroots ALP members and supporters concerned about the health of the planet, and is understood to have about 2000 members nationally. "The Government has to ensure workers and communities are well looked after, but we can't pretend that forest ecosystems aren't in serious trouble either. There's still a viable future for timber and wood products in Victoria **but not at the expense of our water supply, carbon storage and endangered species.**"

HEWI welcomes recognition of the science and mutual benefits of a GFNP - unfortunately lacking in some of our current Yarra Ranges Councillors

HAINING FARM

DELWP and Parks Vic have released a final plan, which recognises 80% support for the Environmental/Conservation Concept (Concept 3) received in the recent public survey. The decision took account of, but did not adopt, a "Final Concept Plan" submitted by the Yarra Working Group, a local lobby pushing for 50% pasture retention for dairy farming. In a letter to Minister D'Ambrosio, HEWI has welcomed the plan to allow 71% conservation of the site with "restored habitat capable of supporting 75 lowland Leadbeater's Possums. The current wild population has been reduced to less than 40 animals, all of which live in a single, fragile Conservation Reserve at Yellingbo. This expanded range within the Yarra Valley will also increase resilience and support ongoing recovery of the Helmeted Honeyeater, other significant species of flora and fauna and the unique Sedge-rich *Eucalyptus camphora* vegetation class."

OCTOBER

Library Display
Melbourne Water and H'ville
Historical Society

October 06
Waterwatch Phys/Chem testing
9.30am -11am

October 12
HEWI meeting
HL&LC Rm 1
7.00-9.00pm

October 14
First Aid Course
Yarra Junction Ct'y Link
10.00am – 4.00pm

October 15
Yarra River stories
Healesville Scout Hall
11.00am – 4.00pm

October 18
Meeting with Council Officers
Community Link Healesville
9.00-10.00am

October 20
Spring Invertebrates ID
HL&LC Rm 1
10.00am – 11.00am

October 27
FLBP AGM FDC

October 28
MT&DL AGM FDC
2.00-4.00pm

November 10
HEWI AGM Youth Hub
6.30 – 9.30pm
Healesville Living & Learning Centre

November 11
HEWI stall -
Racecourse Festival

**ACTIVITY REPORT:
PLATYPUS PROTECTION IN HEALESVILLE**

This HEWI event should have been called **Platypus Detection!**

In drenching rain, a hardy group ventured out to the Watts River – and were rewarded with their first Platypus sighting! Another HEWI member was stationed downstream and also had good vision of an adult Platypus. The soaking coats and jackets soon dried in the Senior Citizens' Hall, where we enjoyed a pleasant dinner prepared by the Country Women's Association.

Our first speaker, Tiana Preston, Waterwatch coordinator for Melbourne Water, shared a video of their surveys, with some of the hazards faced by platypuses, especially "Opera House" nets in which they become trapped and drown. This is of special concern on private dams, which Melbourne Water cannot monitor.

However, Jess from Healesville Sanctuary, surprised us all with her amazing research findings along Badger Creek where there are many burrows and several breeding platypuses.

Our partners in streamside revegetation, Healesville Primary School, had produced their own engaging video to highlight all the everyday litter that enters our waterways through careless disposal – a cautionary tale for us all. Plastic Bag Free Healesville displayed their Boomerang and platypus calico bags, offering free samples to celebrate the successful survey.

Star of the evening was Billie, way out of her depth, who unselfishly posed for selfies in a very warm environment. In her Council role, Julie facilitates "Communities for Platypus", which provided welcome support funding for this activity as had Tiana from her Waterwatch funds. Congratulations to our facilitator Karen Garth, for her organisation of this successful and informative community event.

(Karen has also received thanks from residents within our Grace Burn Project and then a report, from an ex-zoo keeper, of a juvenile Platypus crossing under Maroondah Highway, (last February) right in the heart of our township!!)

**YARRA STRATEGIC PLAN.**

Melbourne Water has issued an invitation to attend one of their upcoming Yarra Stories events - to share your story of the Yarra River and aspirations for its future. These stories will be used to develop a fifty-year community vision for the Yarra River. This event is a celebration of the Yarra River, providing opportunities for you to meet, share your Yarra story and talk to experts about the future of the Yarra. You can drop-in at any time during the event to participate in an activity or chat to an expert. There's no need to register, just come along on the day. Kids will be able to share their Yarra River story too!
Highly recommended!

> **Sunday 15 October 2017 11am - 4pm Healesville Scout Hall
25 Maroondah Highway, Healesville. (Lower Rural Yarra reach)**

Melbourne Water have a large display in Healesville library this month which is supported by a Historical Society presentation of their archival photos. HEWI has applied for another annual grant from Melbourne Water and your committee is considering an extension of our Partnership Grant through Yarra Ranges Council. If you have a preference for any type of activity or suggestions for other projects, please contact Maureen – or better still, join the committee at our AGM!



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