

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

News in Brief

Paint disposals

You can now safely dispose of your old paint, household batteries and compact fluorescent lamps for **free** throughout the year in Coldstream with a new permanent Detox Your Home site - now open.

Register Your Burn!

The CFA have requested all residents who are planning to burn off on their property to register the time and date ahead so that volunteer firefighters are not called out unnecessarily.

Call 1800 668 511

Sustainable House Day

Celebrating 12 years of inspiring sustainable living and there are a few homes in Melbourne that will be open for inspection. Check them out:

<http://sustainablehouseday.com/cat/2015/page/10/>

> **10am-4pm Sunday, September 13**

Scenes on the Yarra at Docklands

Another imaginative presentation by Jeminah Reidy to celebrate World Rivers Day with a one night only, free event that is suitable for all ages along the Yarra River at Docklands.

See: Scenes on the Yarra @ Docklands

> **Sunday September 27 5-7pm North wharf**

Australian Native Bees

Jess Baumann, from Melbourne University's Green Infrastructure Research Group, will focus on Australia's unique bee fauna, comprised of about 1,700 species that are mostly solitary and do not form hives. In greater Melbourne alone, 150 different species can be found. Learn about what they look like, where they live and their social behaviours, and find out how to encourage them into your garden..

> **Wednesday October 7 Grand hotel, Warrandyte**

Welcome to new members Michael, Liz and Allan and thank you for the renewals at the Rod Quantock event

Welcome to Biodiversity month. This year it is an extremely important and deciding month for the survival of both Leadbeater's Possum and Mountain Ash as individual species on planet earth. The urgency for species survival in both cases cannot be overstated and an immediate logging moratorium is critical for both. Maybe there will be a welcome reprieve announced on Threatened Species Day, September 7.....we wish.....

THE SEX LIFE OF ORCHIDS!

Our Spring Walk, Watch and Wonder event will be a leisurely walk along Skyline Road where our new leader, Kaye McRae, has been watching the progress of several local orchids towards their peak flowering. Kaye will be joined by our ecologists par excellence, Jane and Malcolm Calder, who will lead us into the mysteries of orchid reproduction and regeneration.

As we return via a bush track there will be many other indigenous species in flower which we hope to identify and learn more about their life cycles also.

We will meet at the corner of Skyline Road and Mt Wise Road, Yarra Glen by 10.30am.

MEL. REF: 266 F9. Park along roadside - car pooling is recommended. Please bring your lunch, water, hat and sunscreen. HEWI will provide afternoon tea on our return.

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

(Call Maureen if you would like to car pool from Healesville)

SPRING INTO WATERWATCH

This Melbourne Water "healthy rivers" event introduced us to an amazing Citizen Science project to which we are all encouraged to contribute. **Bowerbird** has been designed by an enthusiastic Ken Walker, (native bee specialist at the Museum), to provide a socially interactive site for user-generated biodiversity projects. Uploaded photos with GPS data can be identified by others and if relevant, will be transferred to the Atlas of Living Australia site. The Bowerbird project is already filling the many gaps in the maps provided by the Victorian government Department of Environment.

* www.bowerbird.org.au *(look for Karen's orchids and Bower Bird photos!)*

IDENTIFICATION OF THE GRACE BURN INVERTEBRATES

Our Spring count of the local water bugs will also include the quality control and assessment tests required by the Waterwatch team at Melbourne Water, so another interesting morning ahead!

Members are always welcome to join us and discover the delights of this aqueous world.

> **Friday September 11 11am -12noon Room 2 Healesville Living & Learning Centre**

LAUNCH OF GRACE BURN PROJECT/COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

Invitations will be delivered to all residents along the Grace Burn living in Elamo, Don and Farnham Roads for a combined 'meet and greet', facilitated by HEWI and supported by Melbourne Water and Council representatives.

This event will be an informal gathering for a general introduction to the project and individual contact with our facilitator Karen Garth and volunteers to arrange a site visit for those interested in receiving grants and assistance from Melbourne Water. The Streamside Management Incentives Program provides financial assistance to landowners to improve the condition of an adjacent waterway. This could include weed removal, replacement indigenous plants and fencing. All interested members and friends are most welcome to join us for this community gathering.

> **Saturday October 10 10.00am – 12noon Queens Park Rotunda (back of swimming pool)**

ACTIVITY REPORT:

Many thanks to everyone who sent congratulatory messages after the Rod Quantock "The Last Tim Tam" event. It was such a stunning performance - mesmerising and relaxing, with a night of acerbic wit from Rod and deep burbling

September 07
Threatened Species Day!

September 07
 Solar battery storage
 Emerald

September 11
Spring Invertebrates and QA\QC
HL&LC
11am – 12noon

September 13-14
 "Impacts on Biodiversity"
 FNCV Blackburn

September 17
HEWI meeting
HL&LC
7.00pm

October 04
Walk, Watch and Wonder
The Sex Life of Orchids
Skyline Road
10.30am – 3.00pm

October 10
Grace Burn Project
Community Engagement
Queens Park
10.00am – 12noon

October 15
HEWI meeting
HL&LC
7.00pm

October 30
 Friends of Leadbeater's
 Possum AGM
 Brogla Room
 Healesville Sanctuary

November 05
HEWI AGM
Soil Fungi
Senior Citiz. Hall
Healesville

humour from the responsive audience - whilst managing to also remind us of the stark facts and figures of peak oil and climate change.

We were also grateful for all the dots on the evaluation posters and the sticky notes comments (which will be sent directly to Rod). Two thirds of the audience were members of enviro groups, practically everyone was concerned about climate change and the majority felt that they would want to do something more to alleviate climate change following this performance. Our forest fund has received \$1,847.50 from the final proceeds. *Thanks Rod!*

CLIMATE CHANGE UPDATE

There has been a plethora of articles recently based on deeply concerning research:

Climate Change specialists, Phillip Sutton and David Spratt have each compiled a damning report quoting irrefutable evidence that the projected 2°C temperature increase target IS NOT SAFE. They quote extensive references to current events and their impacts locally and globally.

Only a whole-of-society rescue plan, understood as action at emergency speed outside of the business-as-usual political mode, can provide hope of retaining a liveable planet for ourselves and future generations.

breakthroughonline.org.au

The "Climate Change 2015: Growing Risks, Critical Choices" report outlines in clear, compelling language how the changing climate poses substantial and escalating risks for health, property, infrastructure, agriculture and natural ecosystems in Australia.

<http://www.climatecouncil.org.au/climate-change-2015-growing-risks-critical-choices>

Changes in the climate system are occurring more rapidly than previously expected, with larger and more damaging impacts now observed at lower temperatures.

MICROBIOTIC FUNGI IN OUR FOREST FLOOR

Guest speaker for our AGM in November will be the inimitable Mary Cole who has spent 35 years researching soil health and sustainable farming methods. Mary gives a fascinating insight into the lifestyles of fungi and microbes within a specific soil profile and their vital impact of the vegetation.

Save this date in your diary!

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

FORESTS UPDATE:

The federal government's action plan for emergency intervention to conserve Leadbeater's Possum has been released and, once again, misses the point. There is no call for cessation of logging in montane ash forests, as called for by the Threatened Species Scientific Committee. Instead there is support for tree planting at Yellingbo, captive breeding and further research. The one hopeful inclusion is the call to reconvene the species' Recovery Team, which hasn't had effective meetings in recent years, having been undermined and displaced by the Napthine government's LPAG.

We have also been reminded of the changes made by the Coalition to forest management by the notice in the government gazette of the approval by VicForests' board of its amendment to the Timber Release Plan, listing over 300 new coupes to be logged, 172 of which are in the Central Highlands. The notice was signed by VicForests CEO Robert Green, making it clear this process is internal and there is no longer any pretence of independent oversight.

Meanwhile logging of Skinny Jim coupe in Toolangi has progressed right up to the edge of Sylvia Creek Road, completing the scarring across the slopes of Mount St. Leonard from Monda Road to the Yea River. As habitat continues to fall, the Victorian government's "industry taskforce" is moving at a snail's pace towards convening its first meeting. It seems there is little sense of emergency there either.

We gratefully acknowledge our first grant instalment from Yarra Ranges Council for our Grace Burn Project and look forward to working with Karen Garth who has accepted our invitation to be the facilitator for the waterway rehabilitation section of the project. Karen is secretary of Mt Toolebewong and District Landcare, treasurer of the Yarra Valley Landcare Alliance and is widely regarded for her educational Eco-Adventure Tours.



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