

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

News in Brief

National Threatened Species Day

Platypus Research Seminar

Melbourne Water's Urban Platypus Program has monitored platypus populations in local waterways for 20 years. Wildlife ecologist Josh Griffiths will present survey findings and discuss this unique animal's biology, ecology and conservation status.

> **Wednesday 7 September 7.20 pm to 9.00 pm Grand Hotel, Warrandyte**

Kalatha Giant

The National Trust has announced the inaugural winner of the Victorian Tree of the Year - the 'Kalatha Giant' Mountain Ash in the Toolangi State Forest. This icon of old growth forests was nominated by Steve Meacher - you may have seen the article in 'Mountain Views' recently.

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.au/news/mountain-ash-named-inaugural-victorian-tree-of-the-year/>

Forest Tour

Healesville Greens branch is offering an opportunity to experience our majestic forest and to witness firsthand the threat that logging poses to a fragile ecosystem. Meet at Toolangi Community Centre for morning tea and presentation, then walks and lunch in the forest.

\$20 conc, \$30 single, \$60 family group, RSVP bob@bobswriting.com by Oct 1.

> **Saturday October 8 10.00am - 4.30pm Toolangi**

HEWI Annual General Meeting

Please note that our 2016 AGM will be an informal meeting over a catered dinner in a private home. We welcome all members and friends to hear our annual reports and enjoy a presentation on environmental living in British Columbia, Canada. The venue will depend on the numbers attending, so please reply to Maureen.

> **Thursday October 20, 6.30pm - 9.00pm venue tba**

Welcome to our life restoring Spring and the early wattles that have been brilliant enough to swoon over this year. Unfortunately, maintaining the distribution of these beautiful, life sustaining trees, is under threat from forestry and possible new changes to protection controls within the Yarra Ranges. Join us to help save our native vegetation!

SPRING TRAINING WEEK

These sessions will provide an opportunity to gain insight into plants and animals within the Yarra Ranges. Each day will have a focus topic and you can come along for one day or all four. \$20 per day.

Monday: Introduction to Weeds and Plants (including native and indigenous)

Tuesday: Advanced Weeds and Plants (including broad scale land management)

Wednesday: Threatened and Pest Animals

Thursday: Ecological Surveying, Land Management and Contractor Management. (including field work - site to be confirmed). [Click here](#) to see more and register.

> **19 - 22 September 9am - 4pm Box Hill TAFE campus, Lillydale Lake, Jarlo Drive**

CLEARFELLING THE FUTURE.... VICTORIA'S ENDANGERED FORESTS

You may be aware that the Victorian government has instigated a process to decide the fate of our remaining areas of tall forest, both in the Central Highland and East Gippsland regions. By the end of the year it will make a decision either to allow clear-fell logging to continue until the remaining forest resources are completely logged out within 10 years, or to protect the forest that is left by declaring new reserves and National Parks, with exit packages for affected workers and companies.

The Environmental Media Foundation is producing a series of four short documentaries called, [Clear-felling The Future](#). These will expose the environmental damage being done to Victoria's native forests by clear-fell logging, and the social and economic cost to our community. These films will be produced quickly and help to educate the public about logging issues and help bring about a better conservation outcome for our forests.

We hope to be able to bring these films to Healesville soon.

GRACE BURN PROJECT REPORT

Our first annual review noted that we had exceeded our target and were under-budget, a very pleasing position for the start of Year 2 of our 3 years' program. We are deeply indebted to our facilitator, Karen Garth for her successful contacts with residents along the Grace Burn, many of whom have joined Melbourne Water's Streamside Management Plans. Amongst these is the Healesville R.S.L., and their extensive frontage was planted by contractors last week. R.S.L. members are to be congratulated on their decision to double the number of plants initially provided through the grant which will ensure that the Healesville township.

FUEL REDUCTION BURNING

HEWI members have long been involved in this controversial process through many forums and discussions with DELWP and consequent submissions. We continue to follow the latest research and proposals and met with regional DELWP staff last week.

DELWP and Parks Victoria are hosting a series of information sessions to help answer questions about strategic fuel management planning and to seek feedback on the proposed changes to the Fire Management Zones in your area.

September 07

Platypus day
Healesville Primary School

September 07

C148 meeting
Healesville Memo
7.00pm - 8.30pm

September 19-22

YRC Spring training week
Box Hill TAFE
Lilydale

September 19 – October 3

School holidays

September 20

Asset Protection Zones and Bushfire Management Zones.
Parks Victoria Offices, 6/7-9 Symes Rd, Woori Yallock
5.00 – 8.00pm

October 03

World Habitat Day

October 06

C148 submission due

October 7-8

Living with Bushfire
Box Hill TAFE
Jarlo Drive, Lilydale
9:00am - 4:30pm

October 14

Senior Citizens WW&W
With HEWI members
Maroondah aqueduct track
9.30am - 1.00pm

October 15

Spring Invertebrates
Old Badger Creek School
10 am – 12noon

October 20

**HEWI AGM
Badger Creek**

FUEL REDUCTION BURNING cont..

For further information: [Code of Practice for bushfire management](#) on Public Land

> **Parks Victoria, 6/7-9 Symes Road, Woori Yallock: 5 - 8pm, 20 September.**

LIVING WITH BUSHFIRE Community Conference

This two-day conference includes presentations from emergency industry experts and researchers to provide practical advice on living safely in high bushfire risk areas. Both days give residents the opportunity to ask questions, create a bushfire survival plan and network with people living in similar areas. Register for one or both days: <http://goo.gl/oX3Vun> \$20.00 per day

> **7-8 October 9:00am - 4:30pm Box Hill TAFE Lilydale Lakeside Campus, Jarlo Drive**

MAJOR PLANNING AMENDMENTS

Yarra Ranges Council has undertaken a major strategic revision of the planning policies that were derived from the original Regional Strategy Plan (RSP). Of special note is a new Environmental Significance Overlay and related vegetation controls (with loss of others) and new policy for dwellings in green wedge areas. Whilst these changes are designed to protect our biolinks along waterways, it will be essential to ensure controls over other remnant bushland areas are maintained.

There are two Amendments, C148 and Amendment 122 to cover the changes required in the RSP to ensure consistency with the new Planning Scheme. Obviously this is a complicated process and the HEWI committee has been studying the documents for some time. However, we urge you to attend one of the public meetings just announced and ask your questions and record your comments.

> **Wednesday September 07 The memo Healesville 7-8.30pm**

> **Monday, September 12 Lilydale Council Offices 7-8.30pm**

SCULPTORS in the TOOLANGI FOREST

This November the beautiful Mountain Ash forests of Toolangi will provide the backdrop and inspiration for Toolangi Sculpture Trail 2016, to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the International Sculpture Event UNESCO, 1996. The original trail endures and from 6-20 November it will become a hub of artistic and environmental activity. This residency of 15 Victorian artists will create permanent or ephemeral work that will form a second stage in the creative story of this landscape working with natural materials sourced mostly from the surrounding Toolangi State Forest.

SMALL SCULPTURE EXHIBITION - REGENERATION

Yarra Valley Arts is excited to announce the Small Sculpture Exhibition – Regeneration will be held November 5-27, coinciding with the Toolangi Sculpture Trail 2016. A great opportunity to create environmentally themed sculpture to complement the main event. Criteria include: environmental theme – regeneration; sculpture base max 50x50cm – height variable; artist supply clean stand – some shelves available for smaller work (approx 30x30x30cm taller sculptures can be displayed on the floor); wall sculptures. Application form: [Yarra Valley Arts](#) close: 19 September

Send to info@yarravalleyarts.org.au

Opening: November 12 Toolangi Forest Discovery Centre

Artists notified end Sept: Reggie Clark 0418 851 819

Savaad Felich 0400 894 646

Our warm congratulations to our volunteer graphics designer Adrian Jeffs whose first iPhone film was shortlisted at a recent international short film festival held in Sydney. Adrian has taken hundreds of photos of our activities, designed several letter and gift certificates, compiled and created our very popular banners and posters as well as managing our website.

HEWI has offered an activity for Seniors' month in October and it will appear in the Seniors Festival booklet. Naturally our members and friends are welcome to join us.



ABN: 67 253 515 594 Reg. No. A0018935T

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