



# Heho Herald

Friends of the Helmeted Honeyeater Newsletter

**Patron: Her Excellency Professor the Honourable  
Margaret Gardner AC, Governor of Victoria**

Winter 2025 Edition 143 Volume 37 Number 2

## President's Report

Sue Bendel



### *wild Helmeted Honeyeaters*

Helmeted Honeyeaters are now to be found at three locations in the wild- O'Shannassy, Yellingbo and

Cardinia- with about 230 HeHos in the wild. This is an excellent result considering "*The total known population in May 1989 was 39 adults and 19 immatures in the wild, and 13 immatures held in captivity at Healesville Sanctuary.*" (Menkhorst, P.W., 1991). Congratulations to the early founders of the Friends group and all the people who have been involved working in conjunction with our partners for having the vision and putting in the hard work to be on the way to meeting the objectives of the Recovery Plan.

**Objective 1-** *Increase the number and size of wild populations.*

**Performance Criterion:** *Attain a wild population of at least 200 mature individuals spread between at least two self-sustaining sub-populations, at least one of which is in a separate water catchment to the Cockatoo-Woori Yallock Creek system.* (Menkhorst, 2008)

I had the privilege to observe the release of 21 HeHos at Cardinia on Friday 2 May, 2025. It was a wonderful and historical event. The birds slowly flew out of their aviaries to begin a new wild population. Thanks to Zoos Victoria for making this historic release possible.

*'It takes a village to raise a child'.* It also takes a community to protect a critically endangered bird, the Helmeted Honeyeater. The community of FOHH have rallied together over the years to protect, enhance and expand habitat for the HeHo. One such planting took place ten years ago at the bottom

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of Shield Road to remember the life of bird lover, protector and previous president of FOHH. The plaque reads “*In Memory Ken Simpson, Passionate Naturalist, 1938 – 2014.*” The plants have grown tall and strong despite being planted in rocky soil. The Beyond Yellingbo participants will have the opportunity to observe this planting when they gather together to celebrate their achievements in the protection of habitat and revegetation on private property they own or manage.

I had the privilege to address some young conservationists on May 20, 2025. These young grade four students from Berwick Lodge Primary School assembled to learn about the HeHo. Four of these students will have the opportunity to become ambassadors for the HeHo and represent their school. These amazing young people are the future for our precious HeHos and other wildlife and their habitat. Thank you to Berwick Lodge for inviting me to present.



Ken Simpson revegetation plot ten years on and commemorative plaque.

Image: S Bendel

### *Our nursery, our hub*

Thank you to our awesome nursery staff and volunteers. They are the key to the ability of members and friends of HeHos to be able to revegetate the Reserve for the HeHo. Without their amazing efforts we would not have the plants to return to the Reserve, to rehabilitate farmland and areas of senescing plants. The nursery grows over 250 plant species, many of which make attractive garden plants. I have now had a few opportunities to have morning tea with these wonderful volunteers and staff. They all seem to enjoy friendship while having a great deal of fun producing the plants for our indigenous nursery.

The nursery has recently added four new plant benches to one of the igloos. There are already well over one thousand plants in tube stock on these tables. Thank you to the Field Naturalist Club of Victoria Environment Fund for providing us with a grant to purchase these benches. Thankyou to Marita and Stephanie for assembling the tables.

I am looking forward to spending time with members, volunteers and friends of the Helmeted Honeyeater in the not-too-distant future.

Fly safely little birds-Sue



#### Reference

Menkhorst, P.W. (1991) *Helmeted Honeyeater recovery plan: 1989–1993.*

Peter Menkhorst (2008) *National Recovery Plan for the Helmeted Honeyeater Lichenostomus melanops cassidix*

**Friends of the Helmeted  
Honeyeater**  
Members and Friends' Day



**REMINDER**

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup>  
June at 8am

See FoHH website for more details

# Out in the Field

By Bruce Quin



@ Yellingbo Nature Conservation Reserve

## Helmeted Honeyeater Population at Yellingbo

Approximately 180 Helmeted Honeyeaters including genetic rescue birds occur at Yellingbo Nature Conservation Area (NCA). Most of the population uses supplementary food ("Wombaroo") provided by Volunteers and DEECA staff four times a week. Swamp Gum blossom is present during late autumn to early spring, but other food resources used by the birds (insects and sugary secretions from Myrtaceae trees and shrubs) are less abundant during the "depths of winter" and so the Helmeted Honeyeaters are usually more reliant on the supplementary food during this time.

The 2025/2026 breeding season for the Helmeted Honeyeaters *Lichenostomus melanops cassidix* and birds adding genetic diversity to the "HeHo" population will commence late-July, with the first eggs appearing in early/mid-August. Meanwhile, final figures for the 2024/2025 breeding season for Helmeted Honeyeaters and genetic rescue birds are given here - 34 confirmed breeding territories and 46 confirmed fledglings. 16 of the 34 breeding territories contained at least one genetic rescue bird; half the total number of fledglings of that breeding season came from these territories.

34 of the 2024/2025 fledglings have been banded and 31 of these DNA-sampled. Two adults have been banded, and DNA-sampled and four already banded adults have been DNA-sampled post breeding season. This work will continue because it is aimed to have the entire population banded and genetically sampled.

## 2025 Yellingbo release of captive birds

The annual release of birds from captivity into Yellingbo NCA occurred on 28 May at the confluence of two major creek systems and the group of seven birds included genetic rescue birds. The release group will be transitioned gradually from daily feeding down to four days a week of feeding over a seven-week period.

## Health issues

In the Autumn 2025 Edition of HeHo Herald I reported on relatively dry weather conditions apparently contributing to health issues (including respiratory and mouth infections) in both adult and young Helmeted Honeyeaters during) the 2024/2025 breeding season (and post-breeding season too). Most birds presented to the Healesville Sanctuary Vet Centre (Australian Wildlife Health Centre) have been returned to Yellingbo NCA.

## ***VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!***

We would love you to join the flock...

If you would like to join the supplementary feeding team.

Please email [heho@deeca.vic.gov.au](mailto:heho@deeca.vic.gov.au)





However, three will remain in captivity because their illness or injury would have compromised their survivorship if returned to the wild. Two of these birds will be incorporated into the captive breeding group at Healesville Sanctuary, while the third bird is said to be “apparently enjoying his life as a display bird, singing frequently”.

### Yellow-tufted Honeyeater collection

Murrindindi Scenic Reserve will be visited in mid-June 2025 (as it was in May 2024) to collect two male and one female Yellow-tufted Honeyeater for the genetic rescue breeding in captivity. Genetic analysis has determined that the *Lichenostomus melanops gippslandicus* population at Murrindindi appears to be genetically diverse and not inbred (Sasha Pavlova pers. comm.). I will provide an update on the release of Helmeted Honeyeaters and genetic rescue birds in the spring 2025 HeHo Herald. As always, a big thank you for your wonderful assistance to the program!



Male Heho returning to YNCA in May after successful treatment for a respiratory tract infection.  
Image: April Timmis

## Translocation News

By Nick Bradsworth

### @ Cardinia Creek

The majority of my time over the past few months has been organising, releasing and monitoring the 2025 cohort of zoo-bred Helmeted Honeyeaters at Healesville Sanctuary into the wild. The site, on Bunurong Country, is where birds would have occurred up until Ash Wednesday in 1983. There were weeks of hard yakka preparing the site for releases. Eighty aviary panels were carried 560m into the site, installed, fitted with kunzea browse and complete wire floors. Ten supplementary feeding stations were also carried in and installed for the birds to use. Many thanks again to my dedicated and hard-working team of helpers in preparing the site! Not to mention the incredible work undertaken by our partners spanning decades that have actively improved the habitat along the Cardinia Creek for HeHos to return. Thanks again to Cardinia Shire, Cardinia Environment Coalition, Friends of the Helmeted Honeyeater, Melbourne Water and DEECA... to name a few. We released 21 HeHos over the course of two days in May and were instantly rewarded with birds naturally foraging around the release site, in the Eucalypts and Melaleucas. This also means we now have three distinct locations of Helmeted Honeyeaters, an important risk-spreading measure against bushfire, disease and genetic management. Now, one month on since release, we are recording at least 12 birds on site



A new released Helmeted Honeyeater at the Cardinia Creek translocation site

Image: N Bradsworth



most days which we are generally pleased with. Working with Ross and Jethro from Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation (BLCAC), we have found the birds have started to explore further south and have found a few more supplementary feeding stations but still observing lots of natural foraging as well. They are incredibly entertaining to watch, squabbling, and darting through the thick vegetation.

We have detected both a cat and fox around the release area. Unfortunately, coinciding with this, we have found the remains of several HeHos. Working with BLCAC and Gotcha Pest Control, we've now deployed some targeted traps for the cat and fox throughout the reserve which are being checked daily (and we've erected signage throughout the reserve to notify the public that trapping is underway). Many camera traps have also been deployed to monitor predator activity. The last cat detection was on 20 May, however the fox is captured on camera almost every night.

You can read more in the ABC and Guardian articles and there is also some excellent footage available on Zoos Victoria YouTube channel. We've been thrilled with the response about the release, everyone is very excited!

## Media Release

### ABC Online

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2025-05-09/helmeted-honeyeater-endangered-bird-released-cardinia-shire/105003424>

### The Guardian

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2025/may/09/helmeted-honeyeater-release-healesville-sanctuary-cardinia-south-east-victoria-breed-wild-population>

### Zoos Victoria YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KJE69zrlsoQ>

@O'Shannassy Catchment Translocation Site, Yarra Ranges National Park

The population of Helmeted Honeyeaters at the O'Shannassy Catchment are doing well, albeit most of my time has been spent establishing Cardinia! On the 18<sup>th</sup> of March, I had a productive leg-banding and DNA sampling day at O'Shannassy with Bruce Quin and several Zoos Victoria field staff, targeting the unbanded fledgling HeHos from the 2024-25 breeding season. We were able to capture and process eight honeyeaters, plus a ninth bird which required only a DNA sample taken. This was the busiest banding day to date at O'Shannassy! There is only one unbanded HeHo left to capture at O'Shannassy, confirmed as a female as she nested in the 2024-25 season. Recently, I have recorded some movement between Site A and Site B which is normal for this time of year when females disperse and find their own territories. At last count, we have a population of about 43 birds at O'Shannassy, which is an excellent position for the site to be in, after establishment in 2021.

## Citizen Science Matters

By Sue Tardif



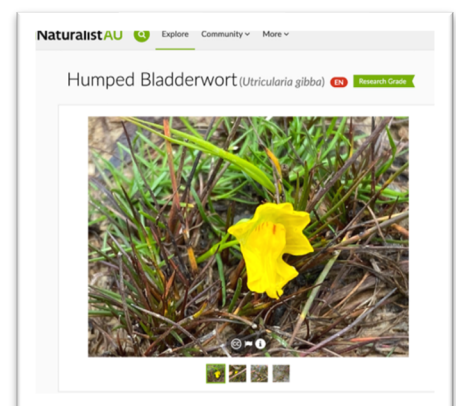
As I write, National Volunteer Week (NVW) is concluding, and aptly, the Friends turned 36 during that celebratory week (23 May). NVW and the Friends anniversary are timely reminders of how volunteering brings people together, who may not otherwise have met, to pursue a common

cause. As an organiser of citizen science events, I get a lot of joy in seeing how volunteering enriches lives and enriches communities. Gayl, one of our newest volunteers, summed it up well, "...thank you for a wonderful morning yesterday! It was a great experience! I was so impressed by all of the hard work and dedication of the members that goes into protecting the birds; and in awe of the bird-identifying skills of the group. I'll look forward to taking part in more activities and learning from everyone so I can improve my skills in identifying the birds spotted on the walks."

If other new, and not so new, citizen science volunteers are anything to go by, I know that Gayl's bird ID skills will benefit from the group's knowledge, whilst we will also learn from Gayl.

We continue to have dry conditions at Yellingbo Nature Conservation Area (YNCA), as it is many parts of southern Australia. Although it has been really enjoyable to head out on our iNaturalist Nature Walks with the sun shining, no wind and clear blue skies, I can't recall another autumn like it in my nineteen years involvement with FoHH. We come away from our three hour walks with just a handful of observations of flora and fungi species flowering and fruiting. We certainly enjoy the warmth of the sun on our backs, but we can't help but wonder how the native wildlife is faring. Foraging for enough food must be tough at times. We come away wishing for good rainfall and that almost forgotten joy of peering into puddles on our walks!

A group of tiny yellow flowers caught our attention in April, in a place we visit regularly but where we hadn't seen them before. With the help of a botanist specialising in carnivorous plants who is a user of iNaturalist, we were able to identify it as a species that isn't on the historical flora species list for YNCA. The Humped or Floating Bladderwort is listed as an Endangered species in Victoria under the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988. Bladderworts are curious aquatic plants, with tiny egg-shaped, bladder-like traps to 2.5mm on their leaves which open to catch tiny organisms. This is what they feed on. Since its inception in the 1960s, YNCA has been a well surveyed reserve, however, with a mix of curiosity, carefully recorded information and the power of iNaturalist, anyone from our citizen science events can add to the species knowledge of YNCA. A big reason why we run these events is the belief that we can only look after it if we know it's there. You can see our observation of the Humped Bladderwort here: <https://inaturalist.ala.org.au/observations/273553998>



Our Bird & Frog surveys have also been different in recent months to what we'd normally expect. We are hearing very few frogs. The dry conditions seem to be impacting on their abundance, with often just a solitary call, or none, where we'd normally hear many. Bring on the rain!

My thanks to our regular volunteers for ensuring the Bird surveys could continue whilst I've been out of action. The power of a team. Thank you. Three species that we haven't observed in more than four years have been recorded again, White-plumed Honeyeater, White-throated Needletails and Cattle

Egret, whilst a variety of honeyeaters and the ever present, and stunning, Superb Fairy Wrens have been out in force.



Bird surveys at YNCA in April and May 2025 and the Citizen Science Team enjoying a break.

Image: B Tardif



We've been doing something a little different at our Bird & Frog surveys this year. We've introduced late afternoon surveys where we go to the same site as the early morning surveys, but a few days apart, to see whether there's any difference in what species are observed. Once we've collected more data, we'll let you know what we've observed. I can say that we are recording less species in the afternoons and the species lists can be quite different. Everyone agrees, the afternoon surveys have been a great addition to our citizen science program this year. Besides the data collected, the shorter, late afternoon sessions are making it possible for a group of people to attend who can't make it otherwise due to work, study or health restraints. It's been a win-win. For various reasons, we'll have a winter break for the 2025 afternoon surveys and start these back again in spring.

Now that the summer visiting birds have left, we're all looking forward to some crisp winter mornings out in the bush. Well, maybe not all of us enjoy the crisp start, but everyone agrees they wouldn't miss it 😊

### *A special invitation*

We are offering you a unique opportunity to gain insight from Viviana Halley (Waterways and Land Officer for Melbourne

Water and Helmeted Honeyeater Recovery Team member) into how large-scale conservation initiatives are implemented. Three in-stream rock chute structures are planned, returning the creek to a more natural stream flow and aiming to halt habitat decline in YNCA caused by historical alterations to Cockatoo Creek. If you've ever wondered how engineering and ecological restoration meet, this site visit promises to be both educational and inspiring. Be sure to register, as spaces are limited: <https://www.helmetedhoneyeater.org.au/get-involved/come-to-an-event-2/>

Thank you for staying connected with the Friends, your ongoing support is valued - Sue





# Seeds and Weeds

By Richard Case



Autumn saw us collecting seed, weeding, and doing planting maintenance in a drying landscape.

Our March day started with fair weather, no wind and cool. We went to Cockatoo Ck and used long loppers and low-tech hooks to bring branches of Swamp Gum and Mountain Swamp Gum within reach, collecting a medium amount of seed from each. After that, we went downstream to Maccy Ck Bridge where we collected a good amount of Woolly Tea-tree, both from the partly dry swamp and from the edge. It's great to see how the vegetation is recovering on the other side of the track, inside the deer-proof fence. Moving on, we collected a good amount of seed from a decent patch of Scented Paperbark near the water point. Lots of animal tracks through here make it easy to move around. We continued looking for fallen seed branches but didn't find any and exited for lunch. In the afternoon we examined a new patch of Montbretia (weed). Parts of it are growing through rock and look fairly intractable but there are other areas we can do something about it to limit its spread through nearby wetlands. So maybe next November...

April was our day on the Arum Lilies. In October I had found eight patches of Arum Lily on the wet and muddy back drain at Parslows Bridge. This was now mostly dry with lots of weeds including Canary Grass which someone had sprayed (Thank-you!). We traced all the Arum one by one, fairly heavy going, dug them up with mattocks and removed them from the site. The bush was fairly quiet with Scrubwrens, Grey Fantails and White-naped Honeyeaters who seem to be the emblem of this site in the tall Manna Gums. The car park was a mess, so much rubbish, what's wrong with these people? We cleaned up the non-putrescibles, the most interesting items being a camping gas cylinder and a basketball. In all, we removed three sacks of Arum Lily and four sacks of rubbish. I dropped in a couple of weeks later and there was more rubbish so I picked that up too.

Our May day was a lovely day, blue skies with the valley fog rapidly evaporating and little wind till later in the day.

We had a good turn out today with two new vollies, one visiting vollie from Healesville to Phillip Island Nature Link and three regulars. Thank-you everyone, you are what keeps this little group going and we really do appreciate it. We were working today at the bottom of Shield Road and surrounds. Our first job was to check to see that a Holly we had killed last year hadn't resprouted. It hadn't, victory!

## Seeds & Weeds Dates

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> June (note- changed from 8th)

Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> July (note- changed from 13th)

Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> August

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> September (not the second Sunday)

Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> October

**We meet at the Nursery at 9.15am,  
1217 Macclesfield Rd**

*Events are automatically cancelled by weather events including wind gusts of 50 kph, thunderstorm, severe, extreme, catastrophic, and total fire ban days. Please check Yarra Glen forecast and Bureau of Meteorology warnings at 5pm the day before.*

Next were the seven sites of Red-hot Poker. The first two hadn't come up but we'll keep checking them because it's been such a dry season. From the next four sites, we dug up and removed two sacks of weeds. And the last site I forgot, whoops! Various creatures enlivened the day. Four species of Honeyeater, Australian Raven (and Little Raven at the Nursery earlier), Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo, Grey Butcherbird, Victorian Smooth Froglet, Brown Tree Frog and a couple of leeches. Next, we pulled out old tree guards that were strangling the plants. I thought it would be a quick job but not so, it kept going and going. Some were particularly difficult with the shrubs growing through them and locking them in place. In the end we pulled out four car loads of guards. This gave us an idea of how successful these plantings had been, the shrub layer looks very natural and the saplings should interconnect nicely in a few short years.

## **Beyond Yellingbo- *Local Landholders Come Together***

*By Dorothy Scott*

Local landholders of properties along the creeks and tributaries flowing into and from the YNCA had a special get-together at the Depot Shed on Saturday May 25. Since 2017 the “Beyond Yellingbo” project has engaged the owners of 121 properties in activities to extend and restore the habitat of HeHos and other endangered and threatened species. This has involved extensive revegetation, feral animal control and weed management. The outcomes of this project have been amazing, creating new environmental corridors to support the dispersal of the bird.



Speakers presenting and sharing knowledge about the important role private land can play in conservation.

Image: G Callaghan

It was wonderful to have with us Gaye Gadsden OAM who was the initial Beyond Yellingbo facilitator (and as some might recall, the very first Environmental Co-ordinator of the Friends of the Helmeted Honeyeater). The afternoon was chaired by Ron Sawyer (President of Macclesfield Landcare Group) who is the convenor of the Beyond Yellingbo Steering Committee, and we heard from three speakers - Bruce Quin, Eliza Lamb and Alan Clayton. They all emphasised the importance of conservation on private land.

After the presentations Sue Bendel and Richard Case led two groups into the bush where everyone was able to see HeHos in the wild – a highlight of the afternoon for many participants who had not seen the bird before. Then it was back to the Depot Shed for a wonderful afternoon tea and an opportunity for people to meet with and connect with one another. As a token of our appreciation everyone was given a complimentary fine bone china mug featuring a pair of Helmeted Honeyeaters, specially produced for the occasion.



An opportunity for local landowners, FoHH members and Landcare team to build connections and chat over afternoon tea.  
Image: G Callaghan

The members of the Beyond Yellingbo Steering Committee, comprising representatives from the Friends of the Helmeted Honeyeater and three Landcare groups (Macclesfield, John's Hill and Monbulk), are most grateful for all the work being done by the Beyond Yellingbo facilitator, Greg Callaghan (Macclesfield Landcare Group).

For further information, contact Greg by email at: [beyondyellingbo@fohh.org.au](mailto:beyondyellingbo@fohh.org.au)



# Nursery News

By Marita Hanigan



It will be no surprise to anyone if we say, “hasn’t it been dry!” Normally the orders would be skipping out the gate just after Easter, but we are still waiting for the rush to begin.

A few orders are starting to go out, but the May rains have been more like what we have in February, so the ground is just too dry in most areas to plant. Anticipating this sort of year is the realm of mysticism so we are going with the flow and working with each and every customer to ensure the best outcome for our lovely plants in their new homes.

In the meantime, we have had a few side projects that have come to fruition – a new bigger tank on the side of the nursery office will add another 10,000 litres to our storage capacity and a spiffy new generator means we can more easily cope with power outages and keep the watering going when those events happen. We have always been vulnerable to severe weather events but over the past 3 or so years they have been more frequent, and outages have been longer to restore. This alternative power source means we can now keep the plants watered securing the asset we have all grown. Thanks go to the staff, volunteers and committee members who helped bring these projects to life.



Left, the spiffy new generator – a much-loved addition to the team! Right, the new 10,000 litre water tank

Image: M Hanigan



We have also had quite a range of visitors and helpers to the nursery over the past few months. Back in March Mary, one of the parent helpers at Monbulk Secondary College contacted us to request our support with their entry to the Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show – we didn’t hesitate to say YES! Along with other local nurseries, we loaned a number of our plants to the school for a student led display. This is the first time any school has competed in the Borders competition at the show, and I think you will agree from the photos that the students did an outstanding job at their debut. It was widely praised, narrowly missing out on a prize and got a special mention from Costa and Millie at Gardening Australia.



Left, Monbulk Sec College's entry into the Borders Competition, Melb International Flower and Garden Show. Right, plants made ready to loan to Monbulk Secondary College.

Images: J.Dickinson and M Hanigan



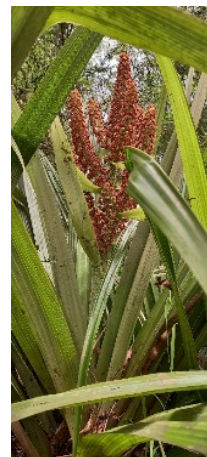
Recently, we had 2 groups of corporate volunteers from NAB come out to the nursery and they did themselves proud with over 1600 plants pricked out, 7 trays of cuttings produced, and more than 500 plants cleaned and repotted. Not a bad effort for 10 people who had never really gardened before. They were also awesome fun to be with – jokes and music and camaraderie all day long. Thanks to NAB for their support in this venture. If your work does corporate volunteering let us know if you would like to come out to the nursery for a day. We'd love to host you!



Left, NAB Volunteers in front of some of their produce. Below, one of the Tall Astelia in flower at the Nursery Oct 2024

Images: M Hanigan

The most recent visitor was Linda Parker, botanist and researcher in Tall Astelia (*Astelia australina*). We have a number of these rare plants in the nursery, where we are part of a project to propagate and replant them in the wild. They are very slow growing and tricky to propagate. Chatting to Sue Bendel one day, I mentioned that they had flowered wonderfully last year, so I was hoping to get good seed set. I've known Sue a long time, so I wasn't too shocked to hear her say she knew Linda who had done her PhD on just this subject. Honestly, the list of folk who Sue doesn't know is very short – so I'm very grateful to her for setting up the meeting which was extremely fruitful and useful – here's to a future with more Tall Astelia in the world. And more to come on this in future issues – it's not likely to be a short project!





# Donor Profile

By Virginia Wallace



We thought it might be worthwhile to profile some regular donors to the Friends Group, to see what motivates them, their background and why choose our amazing State Bird Emblem!



## *Meet Gary Dickson*

### **Tell us a little bit about yourself?**

I'm 36, I live in Abbotsford now but grew up in Mooroolbark. I teach journalism at Monash University and I'm a news researcher at the University Technology Sydney. I grew up with an interest in nature and over the past few years have become an okay birder and photographer. It has probably taken over a bit too much of my life.

### **How did you find out about the Friends Group?**

I couldn't say at this point! I feel like I've been aware of the Friends since I was young, though I only started to get involved last year.

### **What motivated you to become a regular donor to the Friends of the Helmeted Honeyeater Inc?**

I wanted to do more to help the Friends. I attend monthly bird surveys but otherwise live too far away to regularly volunteer for events like planting, and I don't think I have any relevant knowledge or skills for the committee. A regular donation seemed like a way that I could reliably contribute each month and show my appreciation for those who do give their time to such an important organisation and cause.

### **Have you come to any of our community events such as plantings, citizen science, volunteering in the nursery, or seeds and weeds?**

I attend bird surveys each month and have been on a few twilight walks as well. Visiting Yellingbo NCA, meeting up with the citizen science group and recording the bird species in the reserve is always the highlight of my month, and a small contribution as a thank-you for that opportunity also seemed appropriate. I'd happily visit and survey twice a week if I could!



Is there anything in particular you would like to see the Friends Group do that we are not doing already?

I wouldn't presume to have anything to suggest here!

### Anything else you would like to add?

I love seeing the Helmeted Honeyeaters, of course, but the diversity of other species that visit Yellingbo is also very special. I saw my first Bassian Thrush, Shining Bronze-cuckoo and Krefft's Glider there, and I heard my first Pacific Koel late last year. And as exciting as it is to see something new, it is also interesting to observe seasonal migration and learn the species mix in different parts of the reserve, and when we're seeing variations in that. I pester the incredibly patient Sue and Bruce about whether they've recorded particular species every time I'm out there. Related to that, I don't have any particular knowledge about flora, and that is developing very slowly (I know what a manna gum is now!), but I do appreciate the opportunity to learn from others who do.



A sample of Gary's bird photography, from top left, Dusky Woodswallow, Striated Thornbill and Helmeted Honeyeater, from bottom left, White-browed Scrubwren, Tawny Frogmouth and Swift Parrot

Images: G Dickson

*Thanks so much Gary!*

We're very grateful to every one of our regular monthly or quarterly donors. We know it's tough in a cost-of-living crisis and we are so appreciative! If you would like to consider making a monthly donation, every bit counts please sign up here:

<https://www.givenow.com.au/friendsofthehelmetedhoneyeater>

# Winter merch must have!

As the chill of autumn sets in, there's no better time to rug up and show your support for conservation. Our [Friends of the Helmeted Honeyeater polar fleece beanies](#) are the perfect way to keep warm while helping protect one of Victoria's most endangered birds. Soft, snug, and embroidered with love, every beanie purchase supports habitat restoration and species recovery efforts.



## Sustainable conservation

Financial sustainability of FoHH is crucial in maintaining long-term conservation projects, works and roles for the survival of the Heho. Funding is secured through grants, donations, bequests, merchandise and nursery sales.

### Donations

Personal and in-kind donations enhance and support a variety of ongoing and established FoHH conservation projects and events.

Our heartfelt thanks for the generosity of *all* personal donations we receive through various ways. The following are have donated through the GiveNow platform and agreed to be published...

**Jonathan McConchie Gary Dickson, Virginia Wallace, Ayushi Chauhan, Janine Marshall, Natasha Sinclair, Dorothy Scott, Natalie Sanderson, Rochelle Hine, Caitlin Coulson**

### Shop

Purchasing Heho merchandise or indigenous plants from our nursery contributes to FoHH financial sustainability, advocacy and local revegetation.



Scan to shop

*Shop online to find Heho gifts, books and apparel by visiting the FoHH website or scanning the QR code.*



*Visit FoHH Indigenous Plant Nursery in Yellingbo for local plants at great prices. Check the FoHH website for opening hours and days.*

# Contacts

Image: M Serong

## Friends of the Helmeted Honeyeater Office & Nursery

**Address** 1217 Macclesfield Road, Yellingbo 3139

**Post** PO Box 131 Woori Yallock 3139

**p)** 0413 363 909

**e)** [info@fohh.org.au](mailto:info@fohh.org.au)

**www.helmetedhoneyeater.org.au**

## Committee members

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*FoHH respectfully acknowledge the Wurundjeri People as the Traditional Custodians of the lands known as Yellingbo Nature Conservation Reserve. We recognise their continuing connection to land, water and wildlife and pay our respect to Elders past, present and emerging.*



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