



the He Ho Herald

Newsletter of the Friends of the Helmeted Honeyeater Inc.

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Image © Krystii Melaine

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I am told that the original idea to decorate the trailer was mine. I do not recall that moment of delusion but I compounded the issue by putting my hand up to organise the concept.

Involving the children from the two local Primary schools was immediately attractive and there was a positive reaction from both schools. Next came estimating the costs involved with initially having the trailer cleaned and painted professionally and the cost of the paints to be used by the children. I arrived at a budget guess of \$1500 and we appealed through the newsletter for contributions that were forthcoming and, together with a sum allocated from the Friends funds, the target was met. Letters requesting help financial help were sent to other local organization, MPs and Shire councilors who had shown interest in the Friends work.



Look at our Trailer now!!!

By Richard Connor

(contd on back page)

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*please note CHANGE OF EMAIL
ADDRESS for newsletter*

New Members

The Friends of the Helmeted Honeyeater would like to welcome to the group our new members:

J. & K. Cameron - Badger Creek, **J.A. Woolley** - Ferntree Gully, **M. Anderson** - Warranwood, **A. & A. Johnson** - Ringwood East

Thank you to the Shire of Yarra Ranges for their assistance with postage.

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Donations Thank you for your support.

R. & G. Elliot, J, Flinn

Donations in support of the purchase of the **nest camera**.

J. & M. Miller, T. Lobato MP, B. Carroll & D. Howell, J. & K. Cameron, R. Walkley, J. Garcia, J.A. Woolley

Used stamp and cork donations

R. Walkley, many anonymous donations - thank you



The trailer was on display at Emerald PS fair, attracting visitors.



A View from the Swamp *editorial comment*

It has been an extremely busy year with some exciting activities happening. Volunteers have achieved great things in the Nursery and in the Reserve, we have some happy HeHos at Yellingbo and Bunyip State Park and very happy school children who enjoy planting and creating beautiful artworks for the Friends. We sincerely thank you all for your efforts. We wish you all a happy and safe Christmas and look forward to a very Happy New Year.

Enjoy
Sandra

What's on - Calendar of events

December			January			February			March		
Date	Activity		Date	Activity		Date	Activity		Date	Activity	
Tues 2 nd	Nursery		Tues 6 th	Nursery		Sun 1 st	Reveg		Sun 1 st	Reveg	
Thurs 4 th	Nursery		Thurs 8 th	Nursery		Tues 3 rd	Nursery		Tues 3 rd	Nursery	
Sat 6 th	Nursery		Sun 11 th	Reveg		Thurs 5 th	Nursery		Thurs 5 th	Nursery	
Tues 9 th	Nursery Volunteers Christmas party		Tues 13 th	Nursery		Tues 10 th	Nursery		Tues 10 th	Nursery	
Thurs 11 th	Nursery		Thurs 15 th	Nursery		Thurs 12 th	Nursery		Thurs 12 th	Nursery	
Sun 14 th	Reveg					Tues 17 th	Nursery		Tues 17 th	Nursery	
Tues 16 th	Nursery		Tues 20 th	Nursery		Wed 18 th	Newsletter deadline		Thurs 19 th	Nursery	
Thurs 18 th	Nursery		Thurs 22 nd	Nursery		Thurs 19 th	Nursery		Sun 22 nd	Members' Day	
Tues 23 rd	Nursery		Mon 26 th	Open day at Government House		Tues 24 th	Nursery		Tues 24 th	Nursery	
			Tues 27 th	Nursery		Wed 25 th	Committee		Wed 25 th	Committee	
			Wed 28 th	Committee		Thurs 26 th	Nursery		Thurs 26 th	Nursery	
									Tues 31 st	Nursery	

Revegetation activities are held at differing locations around the Yellingbo Reserve and area. Activities may include tree planting, seed collecting or works around the nursery or reserve. Meet at the **Yellingbo Ranger's House, 1217 Macclesfield Road, Yellingbo** (Melways Map 305 Ref. G11) at 10am. BYO Lunch. Most equipment is supplied. **For further information call Richard Case on 9720 4062.**

Nursery activities days are held at the Rangers House (see above). They run between 10am and 12pm, followed by (BYO) lunch. Work mainly involves the potting up of young seedlings. **For further information contact our Nursery Manager, Michelle Faram on 5964 8341**

Nursery hours are the same throughout Summer on Tuesday and Thursday. There will be no Saturday sales from January until April. The Nursery is closed on all public holidays.



The President's report *by Robert Anderson*

Annual General Meeting 2008

It was a lovely day for a barbecue in the Healesville Sanctuary, which was followed by a meeting that I had planned to be as short as possible.

I asked our Secretary, Richard Connor, to time the reports and keep the presentations to 4 minutes per person. I was the only transgressor and spoke for 12 minutes.

Sorry folks!

The last Treasurer's report for Margot Craddock was presented. Her smile was wide and we thank her for lots of hard work. The new treasurer, Ray Turnley was welcomed.

The report by our Coordinators, Sue and Bruce Tardif, was excellent. It was not only a report that detailed the multitude of activities, but it was a wonderful record with many photographic images. Our guest speaker, Natalie Holland, employed as Coordinator of the Threatened Species Network until recently, was not to be outdone. Her presentation matched the standard set by Sue and Bruce, and enlightened the meeting about the extinctions that have occurred since 26th January, 1788. However there is hope, for Natalie spoke of the efforts of many conservation volunteers who assist to improve the natural habitat for our great flora and fauna. Take a bow He Ho volunteers!

Wildlife Art Exhibition at Karwarra

On Saturday, 18th October a number of Friends attended the opening. Rodger Elliot from the Karwarra Advisory Committee invited the Yellingbo students to celebrate the opening, which they did by singing the He Ho song and a Gould league song. Once again Yellingbo PS performed well. Thank you to teacher Sandra Turnley and the Yellingbo students.

The Friends planting trailer, Matilda was on display. Matilda has been transformed from a dusty, rusty working trailer to a high standard, beautiful piece of art.

The responsible people for this change to Matilda were Secretary Richard Connor who arranged Matilda's clean up, David Williams who painted the background scenery and Andrea Cornwall who coordinated the children's art work. A great team effort! At the opening I spoke about the trailer project and thanked Richard and David, but omitted to mention Andrea. Sorry, Andrea!

Thanks also to Rick Scott Yellingbo Principal, Natalie and Murray Stewart Friends volunteers, Dean Ingwersen of Birds Australia and Sue and Bruce Tardif Friends Coordinators who all helped.

The adult artwork was complemented by a display of art from Macclesfield, Mt Dandenong, The Patch and Yellingbo Primary Schools, which gained much interest.

At the exhibition was a work by Janet Flinn with the title: 'Victoria's Treasure'.

It is a lovely piece of art that depicts Helmeted Honeyeaters in pencil and water colour. Donations have made it possible for the Friends to purchase this work. It will be used for public relations and it is planned that it will be on loan to be displayed in offices of significant people.

End of the Year

After another busy year may I thank you for your help, and wish that the forthcoming festive season is all that you wish it to be.

(Editor: Click on Janet's website. <http://www.users.bigpond.com/jpflinn/newwork.htm> & take a look!)

Government House Open Day on Australia Day

Professor David de Kretser AC, Governor of Victoria and Mrs. Jan de Kretser invite you to an Open Day at Government House. Free admission. Tour the House and picnic in the grounds.

Refreshments are available to purchase. Children's entertainment and musical performances.

When: Monday 26 January 2009: 10.00am until 3.00pm

Where: Government House Drive Melways ref 2G, A11

Parking in Birdwood Av. & St. Kilda Rd

Wildlife Art @ Karwarra Exhibition

By Rodger Elliot Coordinator
Wildlife Art @ Karwarra Exhibition



Rodger

11 am on Saturday 18 October 2008 was the time that many people had been waiting for over a period of more than 9 months.

After much planning the First Wildlife Art @ Karwarra Exhibition was opened on this day by Nicholas Day, the renowned wildlife artist who at the somewhat tender age of 28 had illustrated all of the birds included in the highly respected *The Birds of Australia* with text by Ken Simpson.

There were 74 artworks by very accomplished adults depicting Australian wildlife in the main Exhibition but also an important aspect of the Exhibition was the marvellous artworks by students of four local primary schools. These were Macclesfield, Mount Dandenong, The Patch and Yellingbo Primary Schools. Their work was admired by many of the opening day crowd, especially Mums, Dads, Grandmas and Granddads and other family members who came to the Opening.

At the opening Robert Anderson, President of the Friends of the Helmeted Honeyeater stressed the important role of the 'HeHos' in helping to conserve Victoria's endangered bird emblem. He also mentioned the fantastic support over many years in this work by students and staff of the Macclesfield and Yellingbo Primary Schools.



It was indeed a great privilege for people at the Opening to have 14 pupils from Yellingbo Primary under the tutelage of teacher Sandra Turnley sing the 'Helmeted Honeyeater Song' and 'Leave that Tree Alone'. This was a very happy occasion and there were smiles all-round on faces of the audience during the singing. Dr Philip Moors Director and Chief Executive of Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne (also a very keen and experienced 'Birdo') presented each of the students with a poster of Victorian Wildflowers and a plant from the Karwarra Gardens Nursery.

Now we could enjoy the tasty and tantalising morning tea and cool drinks provided by Karwarra Garden and the Exhibition Artists.

We were also hoping that many people would visit the exhibition until it closed on November 9 to enjoy the marvellous art by people young and old!

(Editor: Congratulations. It was a fantastic event – the artworks were superb, covering many facets of Wildlife Art)



Nursery News *by Michelle Faram*

What an exciting year it has been at the HeHo nursery, there have been a great number of projects undertaken this year by Parks Victoria, new access ramps have been installed to the nursery office and the house, improvements have been made to the car parking areas and a larger tank has been connected to the house with the small tank being shifted to the office. Changes to the office included new blinds and ventilation added to the seed storage area.

While we will benefit from the new changes it is worth noting that changes we made in the nursery last year have certainly paid off this year. The increased covered work area means we are now able to better utilize our igloos for growing plants, while the large water storage tank and new pump system despite a few teething problems is now working well and has alleviated many of the past difficulties, especially the mud clogged filters.

Our nursery gardens have expanded again this year and with some excellent rainfall and some tender loving care the plants have really begun to establish themselves and we have already started to produce a new generation from them.

Plant production has increased this year due to an increase in demand for plants, and by the end of October our nursery team had produced 74,000 tubestock. At the same time last year we had produced approximately 31,000.

Improved sales this year can be attributed to an increase in orders particularly through the Shire of Yarra Ranges and their Carbon offset planting program, Melbourne Water programs, Yarra4life projects, the Cockatoo Creek Floodplain restoration and lots of school planting days.

From January thru to the end of October approximately 42,000 plants had left the nursery for planting projects.

The past few months have seen the nursery team very busy trying to complete all outstanding orders and preparing for next year's Autumn/Winter planting season which is looking like being extremely busy, with tentative orders being placed for around 90,000 plants. Here's hoping weather conditions will be favorable at that time, so all projects go ahead.

As the end of another year draws closer it is time once again to thank everybody who has been involved with the nursery this year for their hard work and support. It is fantastic to be involved with such a dedicated group of people. Thank you all.

Helmeted Honeyeater Christmas Campaign

HeHo! HeHo! Merry Christmas!

Dear Friends of the Helmeted Honeyeater

Purchase a *HeHo* Christmas card to plant seeds of hope for Helmeted Honeyeaters! The purchase of 1 *HeHo* Christmas card will restore 1m² of habitat for the Helmeted Honeyeater and give a gift of hope for a future filled with wildlife and wild places.

Healesville Sanctuary shares a concern with your group for the future of our endangered Victorian bird emblem. Through the *HeHo* Christmas card campaign we hope to raise awareness about the plight of the Helmeted Honeyeater, provide a convenient method to contribute to the conservation of the species and raise enough money to restore two revegetation plots within Yellingbo Nature Conservation Reserve. 100% of the funds raised go directly to this project.

We need your help to sell these cards!

Cards are \$15.00 each. To purchase, please contact Margaret Harwood at Melbourne Zoo on 9285 9462 or Andrea Burgess at Healesville Sanctuary on 5957 2850.

Cards may also be purchased in person at The Friends nursery on Tuesdays & Thursdays from 9am-3pm.

Warm regards, Zoos Victoria staff

The Friends thank Zoos Victoria for their initiative in organising this campaign and for providing the seeding funds to get it (and additional habitat!) off the ground.



Coordinators' Column *by Sue and Bruce Tardif*

What a busy year!! We visited 15 school and community groups and hosted 37 at Yellingbo Nature Conservation Reserve. In all 1,495 school children and 605 adults have been involved in our education/revegetation program this year. We have planted 8,024 plants, creating precious habitat for Helmeted Honeyeaters and other special faunal species. A big thank you to all our volunteers and partner groups who helped make this year such a success.

Some highlights for the year were:

- Best rap song whilst planting – Belgrave PS students.
- Longest tube tower – Chum Creek PS (with apologies to nursery volunteers).
- Best reply: “That was my waders, not my bottom.” Trish Grant from Waterwatch replying to a query from a young student about the noise he heard when she entered Woori Yallock Creek.
- Best overheard observation: “My dude was cooler than your dude.” Lilydale HS student making an observation to another student after being paired up with visiting Vanderbilt University students from Tennessee to do some planting.
- Most tree guards removed – Lilydale HS Duke of Edinburgh students (Yeahh!!).
- ...and the gold star goes to.... everyone who put a plant in. Thank you.

We continued our wonderful relationship with Yellingbo PS visiting the Prep–Grade 2 class in August to talk about Helmeted Honeyeaters, habitat and to show them nests kindly given to us by Karina Cartwright, Senior Keeper at Healesville Sanctuary. We used the nests as inspiration for the students to use materials from the natural environment to create a habitat artwork and build their own Helmeted Honeyeater nests. We made a real mess of the room but luckily the Principal, Rick Scott, was on hand to clean up after us. These artworks were displayed along with some beautiful artwork from Grade 3–6 students and the HeHo Ambassadors from Macclesfield PS at Karwarra Australian Plant Gardens' wildlife art exhibition in October/November. Yellingbo PS students sang two songs to open the exhibition and our freshly painted trailer was on display during the exhibition. Thanks to Sandra Turnley, Andrea Cornwall and Rick Scott from Yellingbo PS and Tony Fullarton and Cheryl Grambau from Macclesfield PS for their assistance.



Hot on the heels of its debut at Karwarra, the trailer was the centre piece of our display at Emerald PS fair and helped attract visitors to us. There was a lot of interest in our quality plants and lots of sales to happy customers.

In September Video Education Australia (VEA) contacted us wishing to do a good news story as part of their Biodiversity DVD series aimed at year 9 secondary school students. VEA, who produce a lot of school educational material, had filmed a lot of bad news stories about global warming and loss of habitat and native species and wanted to end on a positive note – how community effort is making a difference. We took them in to film the supplementary feeding program and a revegetation session with Sherbrooke Community School on Woori Yallock Creek. They also took some footage of



the captive breeding program at Healesville Sanctuary. We will receive a copy of the DVD for use in our education program.

In September The Friends won an award under the category “Community Group Caring for Public Land” as part of the recognition awards given by the Port Phillip and Westernport Catchment Management Authority. It is deserved recognition to all our volunteers and staff who passionately work for the conservation of the Helmeted Honeyeater. The \$400 prize money The Friends received has been added to our fund raising for a nest surveillance camera. Also of note was Steve Mitchell’s (from our neighbouring Macclesfield Landcare Group) nomination under “Caring for Nature” for his excellent work on the Local Area Plan, an important landholder engagement project that The Friends are also partner to.

Have you had a look at the Friends website lately? We’ve had some feedback that the site is often visited by students researching about threatened species. Brad Jarvis is our webmaster and he has made a number of changes in recent months to expand on the information available and allow the Friends to directly input current events. We’d be keen to hear your feedback – visit www.helmetedhoneyeater.org.au

We revisited the *Sentree* trial plot that was planted in April. Half the plants were treated with the browsing deterrent product called *Sentree* and half were left untreated. There is still little evidence of browsing on treated plants with untreated plants having in excess of 75% of plants browsed by wallaby, wombat and/or rabbit. There was no sign of deer scats so we still don’t know if this product will stop deer from browsing. We reapplied the deterrent on the treated plants as the grit wears off and will continue to monitor. It is worth noting that this product is not designed for small scale application and is difficult to apply without using a full back pack spray unit, however we plan to set up an additional trial plot in 2009.

Revegetation work is continuing on the 3 hectare plot (plot 19) along Woori Yallock Creek. Wombat gates have been installed to stop wombats damaging the fence which in turn creates a space under the fence for wallabies and deer to get in. We are monitoring these gates to see if wallabies try and get through them. If so they may need to be weighted to make it more difficult to open. Not a problem for wombats to push through though.

We have commenced preparations for a big year next year including the 20th anniversary of The Friends. Special activities are being planned for members, schools and community. Keep May 23rd free. Stay tuned.

Apologies to Richard Case - the final part of his Reveg report was accidentally omitted from the Spring newsletter.

.....Returning, we spotted a robin on the boundary fence. With leaden back and orange chest up to the throat, it hopped down into the reserve then back to the fence, then into the paddock, using blackberries as perches. It was a male Flame Robin, apparently alone and as it was the first I’ve seen at the Reserve, I was rather pleased.

Back over the creek again and just off the vehicle track a Bassian Thrush was spotted perched in one of the trees the children had planted. It looked rather out of place until it hopped down to the ground where it became invisible as soon as it stopped moving.

At the Office the afternoon was spent seed cleaning. A short break revealed a pair of Jacky Winters balancing on a fence in a paddock blasted by the winds of winter.

Out in the Field *by Bruce Quin*



Yellingbo Nature Conservation Reserve

Exciting developments have occurred at the reintroduction site within Yellingbo Nature Conservation Reserve during the 2008/2009 breeding season. This colony of Helmeted Honeyeaters has grown to include five breeding pairs, two more than for 2007/2008 breeding season. The male of each breeding pair is a captive-bred bird released at this location between February 2006 and April 2008. Two of the breeding females are releasees (one from February 2006 and one from April 2008); three have wild origins. Another (non-breeding) bird of wild origin has been present recently; thus 11 adults recorded at the release area a couple of days prior to the production of this article.

One successful nest has occurred and the two fledglings had their origin as eggs at Bunyip State Park Site 3 (near Tonimbuk); the Yellingbo eggs were swapped with the Tonimbuk eggs for genetic management purposes. A remote video camera installed at the Yellingbo site recorded both the egg swap and fledging processes. Currently, three other nests have nestlings, including that of the pair comprising 2008 release birds.

A third 2008 release bird has been recorded recently; this young female has shifted 500 metres upstream of the release area into a small colony and appears to be pairing off with a male hatched at that site in the 2006/2007 breeding season. Also at this colony exists a wild pair and their 2008/2009 breeding season fledgling.

The third and most upstream colony in Cockatoo Swamp has at least three breeding pairs that have produced six fledglings. However, a fourth pair may occur and the male of this pair is 14 years old!

Breeding is yet to be detected at the Macclesfield Creek site and although further searching should locate nesting birds, this colony has decreased markedly in numbers in recent years. There is major concern about the health of habitat at this site because Macclesfield Creek dries up for weeks on end under current climatic conditions.

Bunyip State Park

Successful nesting by Helmeted Honeyeaters has occurred at each of the three release sites within Bunyip State Park during the 2008/2009 breeding season. At Site 1, three of four breeding pairs, including one with no prior breeding experience, have each produced two fledglings. However, nest camera work during this breeding season at Site 1 has recorded predation of nestlings by Laughing Kookaburra at one nest and predation of chicks by Tiger Snake at another.

Site 2 also has four breeding pairs, three of which have produced five fledglings in total. One pair's nest was subjected to nest supplementation: a captive-bred nestling from Healesville Sanctuary was placed into the Site 2 nest and the wild pair raised both chicks to independence.

Five 2008 releasees occupy Site 3 and a pair bond has formed between a male bred at Taronga Zoo and a female bred at Healesville Sanctuary. It was this pair's eggs that were swapped with the Yellingbo pair's eggs and despite it being the Site 3 pair's first nest, a fledgling was raised (the second egg was infertile). So, it was terrific results with the egg swap and nest supplementation.

Early nesting success characterized the Helmeted Honeyeater 2008/2009 breeding season at Bunyip State Park. However, November has seen only nest failures at this location. Hopefully, nest success will get back on track.

An update on the 2008/2009 breeding season will appear in the next Newsletter.

Launching new photo cards for Christmas all \$2 each, add 10% P&H

Bird: photo by Dean Ingwersen with message no message



Greenhoods: Painted by Margo Heeley

with message no message

Two birds, Bird with chick: Painted by Ronda Steven

with message no message



Message inside

*May the magic of Christmas be with you
And the New Year realise some of your dreams*

Merchandise all below comes with bird emblem add 10% P & H

New with emblem **Polo shirts sizes from M to XXXL \$35 each**

Steele Blue colour UV protection quick dry and breathable

Back again, all with emblem

Green Polar fleece Jackets sizes M-XXXL

\$35 each

Green canvas hat sizes 57, 59, 61

\$18 each

Green Polo fleece beanies

\$15 each

Still available and good value, displaying the bird.

Magnetic book mark - that clips over the page

2 for \$5 or 5 for \$10

Blue Polar fleece vests Sizes M to XXL

\$35 each

Badges - lapel (size of 5cent coin)

\$5 each

Hilton hunts for a home (book)

\$12 each

Yellingbo a special place (book)

\$30 **includes P&H**

Name:.....

Address:.....

.....P/code.....

Sub total: \$.....

Postage and Handling 10%: \$.....

TOTAL enclosed \$.....

Send to : Friends of Helmeted Honeyeater

PO Box 131

Woori Yallock 3139

Give someone the gift to save a species by giving them a Friends of the Helmeted Honeyeater gift membership.

Gift membership opens a door to the wonders of the Helmeted Honeyeater because now it includes a copy of our beautiful book *Yellingbo* a special place. **Send to the Friends postal address.**

FRIENDS OF THE HELMETED HONEYEATER GIFT MEMBERSHIP

Please tick the appropriate box <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Groups/Families/Individuals <input type="checkbox"/> \$40 Concession: Student/Pensioner/Unemployed Giver	Recipient Address Phone Email
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Trailer *(contd from front page)*

Meantime, work was initiated at Yellingbo Primary under the guidance of Andrea Cornwall. The other school was unable to take part and all the effort was at Yellingbo. It quickly became clear that the original thinking to have the children paint directly onto the trailer was not feasible for health and safety reasons. Andrea Cornwall was responsible for the change of direction, including sourcing the services of the company who produced the finished trailer that has proved to be so successful.

This change of direction had major cost implications taking the final figure beyond my original estimate. However, by this stage I had heard from the ex Shire Mayor, Monica Keane, who had canvassed other councilors and raised \$1500 – the original budget figure!! This marvelous contribution enabled David Williams kindly supported the concept and he produced two full sized pieces of background artwork one for each side of the trailer. The children worked tirelessly to produce their artistic work representing their thoughts and reaction to the Nursery and the Reserve. Friend Natalie Murray also assisted with the supervision of the children’s work. The children’s artwork was then stuck onto the backgrounds

Once the completed artwork was ready it was photographed in high-resolution digital images that were sent to the commercial transfer company. They processed them and the trailer was taken to their premises for the installation. In addition to the artwork a superb image of the Helmeted Honeyeater was used for the front and rear of the trailer. Dean Ingerswen who also took the artwork images provided this image.

In the end, seeing the concept become a reality has been very satisfying and the reaction to the trailer has been very positive.

If undelivered please return to:
Friends of the Helmeted
Honeyeater,
PO Box 131,
Woori Yallock
Vic. 3139

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