



the He Ho Herald

Newsletter of the Friends of the Helmeted Honeyeater Inc.

PO Box 131, Woori Yallock Vic 3139
www.helmetedhoneyeater.org.au

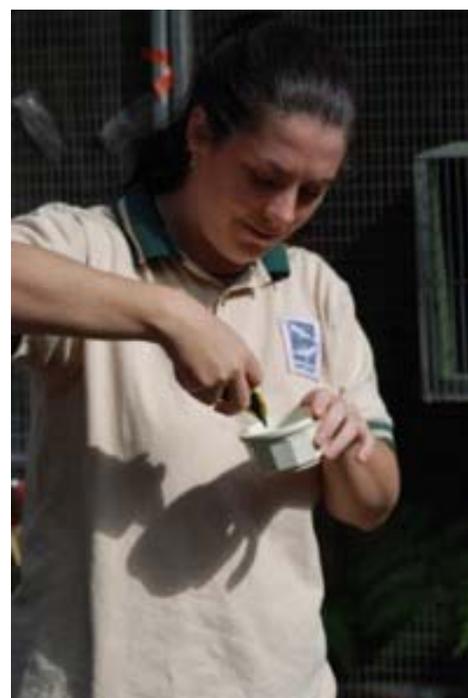
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Image © Krystii Melainii

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The next generation –

Friday, 11th April, what an exciting time. Six captive-bred Helmeted Honeyeaters were released into the wild at Yellingbo Reserve and days later, nine more were released at Tonimbuk.

Karina and five excited Friends released their birds after each had a final feed to speed them on their way.

Everyone then spread out around Blue site at the feeding stations to see where the birds went. Flying free around the Reserve, they visited our feeding station in a flurry of feathers and calls. This is what it is all about!!! For more, read Bruce Quinn's report on page 7



All release photos: Sandra Turnley

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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:

L & S Brand – Langwarrin, H Tuton - West Bulleen, Jaya family – Toorak, D Clark - Box Hill, J & J Wells - Doonside NSW, R Rowland – Melton, R Schmidt - The Basin, G & A Smith - Tynong North, L Thomson – Emerald, S Casey – Warburton, C Caarels - Cockatoo, J Patykowski - Essendon, S Prile - The Basin, K Schmitter - Croydon, E Bruning - Ringwood, D Spencer - Croydon, A Gordon - Box Hill, J Fisher - Carnegie, J Chesterman - Mt Evelyn, C Yap - Croydon, B Ramage – Gembrook, R Cantillon – Lilydale, L Robinson – Mitcham, C Pond – Gembrook, G Lancashire – Mooroolbark, R Rosser - Croydon South, M Ihle – Lynbrook, B Pho - Box Hill South, L Thomson- Emerald, M Serong - Camberwell, H Jones - Warburton

DONATIONS will support the purchase of the nest camera.

Thank you also to R. Murray, A. Jaya, C Bevin, G Sadlier, G Elliot for their kind donations

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

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Jeff with his precious Helmeted Honeyeater.



A View from the Swamp *editorial comment*

Best wishes to Mick Kealey, our hard working Ranger who broke his leg in 3 places and is having an enforced rest. Hope to see you back on both feet very soon Mick.

So much to read in this edition. And many events coming up –New Members Day, AGM and perhaps you would enjoy a little music. Support a very good cause. FoHH receive a donation for tickets sold where people elect us as the recipient from the listed beneficiaries.

Enjoy
Sandra

What's on - Calendar of events

Music Practice Presents...
DESIGNING AND PERFORMING MUSIC
WITH NUANCE
Charity Concert 1pm – 5pm
Sunday July 27th 2008

Featuring The Students from Music Practice and other Artists



Montsalvat

The Barn Gallery
Montsalvat
Sunday July 27th 2008
7 Hillcrest Ave
Eltham Victoria 3095
Melways Map: 22 A8
Bookings Ph: 9439 7712

Ticket prices
Adult \$20.00
Student \$17.00
Pensioner \$15.00
Children \$10.00 (age 12 and under)
Children - free (age 5 and under)

June			July			August		
Date		Activity	Date		Activity	Date		Activity
Sun	1 st	Reveg	Tues	1 st	Nursery	Sat	2 nd	Nursery
Tues	3 rd	Nursery	Thurs	3 rd	Nursery	Sun	3 rd	Reveg
Thurs	5 th	Nursery	Sat	5 th	Nursery	Tues	5 th	Nursery
Sat	7 th	Nursery	Tues	8 th	Nursery	Thurs	8 th	Nursery
Tues	10 th	Nursery	Thurs	10 th	Nursery	Sun	10 th	HeHo Survey at Tonimbuk
Thurs	12 th	Nursery	Sun	13 th	Reveg	Tues	12 th	Nursery
Tues	17 th	Nursery	Tues	15 th	Nursery	Thurs	14 th	Nursery
Thurs	19 th	Nursery	Thurs	17 th	Nursery	Tues	19 th	Nursery
Sun	22 nd	New Members Day	Tues	22 nd	Nursery	Wed	20 th	Newsletter deadline
Tues	24 th	Nursery	Wed	23 rd	Committee	Thurs	21 st	Nursery
Wed	25 th	Committee	Thurs	24 th	Nursery	Tues	26 th	Nursery
Thurs	26 th	Nursery	Tues	29 th	Nursery	Wed	27 th	Committee
			Thurs	31 st	Nursery	Thurs	28 th	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 5964 8341.**

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**

The President's report by Robert Anderson

Friends Volunteers

Since the beginning of the Friends 19 years ago, volunteers have developed the practice of doing whatever can be done to assist the Helmeted Honeyeater and its habitat.

The practice has become so well developed that much more has been achieved than could be expected. Over the years Coordinators and Nursery Managers, employees of the Friends, have also been considerable volunteers.

It is time to express a “**big thankyou**” to many special friends.

Treasurer

Margot Craddock as Treasurer/Membership Officer and Merchandise Officer, has filled these roles for 14 years.

It is time for Margot to take a lesser role. A “**big thankyou**” to Margot for her service as a long term volunteer. A new Treasurer/Membership Officer is required. Margot is prepared to continue as Merchandise Officer.

Anyone willing to take on the financial records of the Friends will be received with appreciation. Speak to Margot to find out what is required.

Visit to Tonimbuk

Sunday, 20th April proved to be a beautiful day for about 40 Friends to visit Tonimbuk. The Button-grass Walk in the morning was special. Although there has not been much rain, the natural bush looked in good condition.

After lunch at the Tonimbuk Hall, Bruce Quin told us that with some patience he was 100% sure we would see Helmeted Honeyeaters. He was correct. All 3 groups saw a number of birds at different supplementary feeders.

With 4 new members, a carload of Friends from Phillip Island and great weather we all had a good day. We thank the Friends of Bunyip State Park for looking after us so well.

Video Camera

Video cameras at Tonimbuk have assisted Bruce Quin to discover the predators that keep Helmeted Honeyeaters from breeding successfully.

Yellingbo is to have a camera supplied by DSE. The Friends have promised to provide a second camera for Yellingbo.

At more than \$8,000 we were not sure we would have a camera by August, the start of the 2008/2009 breeding season.

With some wonderful donations and funds we have saved, another camera could be purchased sooner than we thought.

Membership Subscriptions

It is more than 10 years since the membership was raised to \$10.

From the new financial year, July 1st, the membership will be \$20, with concession for students and seniors at \$10.

May 23rd 2009

Keep this date free. A twenty year celebration will take place in the Yellingbo Reserve. As it is a Saturday, the Friends Committee hope that there will lots of Friends present. More details will be provided in the next newsletter.

For your diary

22nd June: New Members day – If you are a new member of the Friends, you will receive your invitation in the mail closer to the date.

14th September: AGM and Members' Day at Healesville Sanctuary

Coordinator's Column *by Sue and Bruce Tardif*

We hate to state the obvious but the lack of rain has left the ground as hard as a rock with Hamilton planter's having little impact in some areas. With the autumn rains only just making it through the soils upper crust, we were happy to add our voices to a Helmeted Honeyeater habitat and rain rap that some Belgrave South PS students erupted into during their recent revegetation day.

It's hard to be certain, but perhaps less fun although with more results was the strategy of preparing plots with an auger prior to school visits. Enthusiastically agreeing to take up this challenge were Lilydale High Duke of Edinburgh students, Emerald Secondary College's Environment Group along with Ben Page and Samantha Cadman from Swinburne TAFE. Small mountains of mulch were wheelbarrowed to plots by staff from Australian Unity and the Duke of Ed. students. Our enormous thanks go to each and every one of them for their assistance. To combat the dry conditions, we have also started using water crystals during plantings to try and retain some moisture and give each plant the best opportunity to establish – the children are either fascinated by this or give us amazing scientific detail on their worth!

The preparation of plots has enabled over 2,600 plants to be planted along Woori Yallock Creek to date. Australian Unity, Lilydale High, Emerald Secondary College, Woori Yallock Farm School and Belgrave South, Yellingbo, Lilydale West and Launching Place Primary Schools did the honours. We would like to thank 3 of our regular nursery volunteers, Beryl Hubschmann, Richard Connor and Debbie Mitchell, along with April Wilkins, Samantha Cadman, Sarah Boumam, Verity Van Hoof and Heather Jones from Swinburne TAFE for their invaluable assistance with school plantings. We're not sure what part of the day was the clincher, but as a teacher from Launching Place PS was boarding the bus back to school he told us he'd be back next year as a Friends volunteer – after he retires. Fantastic!

The offer of incorporating a Waterwatch session in the school revegetation days has been taken up by 4 schools to date. The schools have really enjoyed the experience of working with Trish Grant from Melbourne Water and have come away with some key learnings on the health of our waterways. We have a further 12 schools, a Probus club and 1 corporate group (another group from Australian Unity) booked in for revegetation days in the coming months. We can always fit more in! If you're still thinking about bringing your community group or staff team out for revegetation – we'd love to talk to you. Phone 5964 8341 or email heho1@optusnet.com.au

As part of the community engagement component of their Duke of Ed. program 19 year 9 students from Lilydale High School will visit the reserve on 5 occasions to do revegetation work and preparation of plots for primary schools. On 28/5 they will work alongside 8 tertiary students from Tennessee in the US who are on an educational visit to Australia for 1 month. It should be an interesting day for all of us.



Reserve photos: Sue & Bruce Tardif



Australian Unity staff and the Duke of Ed. students planted out a trial revegetation plot with us. This plot has not been fenced like our other plots but half the plants have been treated with a browsing deterrent product called Sentree, which is extensively used in the forestry industry in Tasmania, whilst the other half of the plants have been left untreated. The day after the planting we found 17% of the untreated plants had been browsed with Swamp Wallaby scats evident within the marked out plot. The treated plants appeared to be untouched. We will continue to monitor and report our findings.

As reported in our autumn edition we are working on a very exciting project with Melbourne Water to revegetate a 3 hectare plot along Woori Yallock Creek. The fence around the plot has been extended in height and reinforced to keep browsing animals out and is now ready for planting. Melbourne Water has engaged a contractor to start planting 15,000 plants in early June. These plants have been sourced from our own nursery. Melbourne Water is a strong partner and have also engaged a contractor to complete a hydrological survey of a swamp area, a favoured frog habitat, beside Woori Yallock Creek to develop a management plan to rehabilitate this area. We'll keep you up to date on both of these restoration projects.

We are also looking at ways to make better use of the space at and around the depot, the Friends base on Woori Yallock Creek for school visits, but this is a story for another issue... and, with this in mind planning ahead and patience are the name of the game.



More release highlights

Irene asks Bruce's advice before her bird release.



Out in the Field by Bruce Quin

Yellingbo Nature Conservation Reserve

Final 2007/2008 Breeding Season Figures

Twelve breeding pairs and 18 fledglings were confirmed for the 2007/2008 breeding season at Yellingbo Nature Conservation Reserve. These figures represent one more breeding pair but eight less fledglings than for the previous breeding season. For the colonies, number of pairs increased at the two northern-most colonies in Cockatoo Swamp, including at the release area; the same number of pairs were recorded at the southern Cockatoo Swamp colony during both breeding seasons; the number of pairs at Macclesfield Creek during the 2007/2008 breeding season was less than for the 2006/2007 breeding season.

Releases of Captive-bred Helmeted Honeyeaters 2008

The release group of six birds, all immatures produced at Healesville Sanctuary during the 2007/2008 breeding season, was held in the on-site aviary for six nights (compared with two nights for 2006 and 2007 releases) in an attempt to increase site fidelity of released birds. The group was placed in the (southern) aviary on 5th April (2008) and released on 11th April at approximately 1100 hours.

Unlike last year's release, the 2008 release group did not show any sign of immediately wandering from the release area. The group of birds quickly moved in an approximately north direction from the aviary, which is located at the south end of the colony. Four of youngsters quickly found their way to the middle feeders and tried their chances at getting some supplementary feed despite aggression from the established birds in the area and the youngsters' persistence meant that they did succeed at times. The two youngest releasees of 2008 showed different behaviour to the other four; although one was seen near the middle feeders soon after the release, both these siblings spent the afternoon near the feeder closest to their release aviary, perching in nearby shrubs, occasionally dropping into the feeder for the supplementary food. They were visited by other Helmeted Honeyeaters at times, especially the wild female, and any aggression toward them resulted in typical submissive behaviour by the youngsters. However, their strategy of staying near that feeder meant that they avoided more frequent and aggressive interactions that were taking place to the north. Three of the older 2008 releasees did find their way to the north end of the colony where the oldest (2006) releasees spend most of their time at about 1235 hours; the two boldest 2008 releasees decided to 'tough it out' there too and there persistence did get rewarded at times. The other youngster went back to the middle feeders area. Close to 1600 hours, another of the oldest four releasees of 2008 ventured to northern feeders, so that three of this year's release group were at the north end of the colony when monitoring finished for the day.

All six of the 2008 releasees were recorded on Saturday (12/4) and Sunday (13/4), mostly near/at the southern and to a lesser degree, middle feed stations. Unfortunately, one of the two youngest releasees of the 2008 group has not been recorded since Sunday 13th April. While I hope that the missing youngster has just gone exploring, a far less positive reason for his disappearance is possible too.

On 23rd May (2008), six weeks post-release, the five youngsters of the 2008 release group that had remained at the release area were found on the east side of another Helmeted Honeyeater colony, fighting New Holland Honeyeaters in flowering Swamp Gums. These birds had moved from their release area on the west side of Cockatoo Swamp approximately 500 metres in a south-easterly direction to the east side of Cockatoo Swamp. However, at least three of the 2008 releasees were back at the release area 90 minutes later.

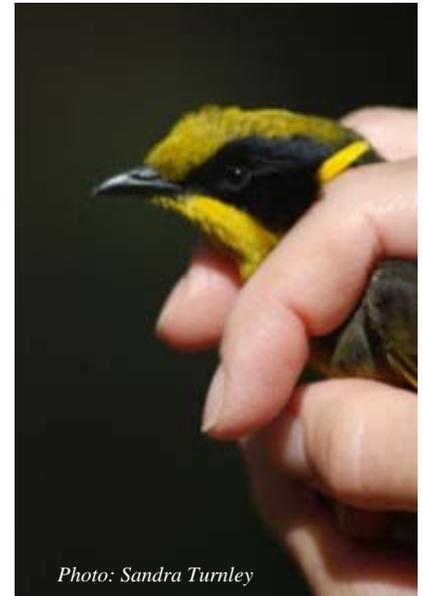


Photo: Sandra Turnley

A total of 12 birds have been recorded at the release area during May (2008). This group comprises five 2008 releasees; five 2006-2007 releasees; one wild female; and one fledgling produced in the wild at the release area during the 2007/2008 breeding season.

Survey

On 17th May (2008), a survey for Helmeted Honeyeaters was conducted in areas of Yellingbo Nature Conservation Reserve that are irregularly searched. Parts of the Woori Yallock and Macclesfield Creeks and Cockatoo Swamp were covered in damp conditions (drizzle to light showers) on an extremely cold day (6 degrees Celsius mid-afternoon!). Unfortunately, birds were not seen away from known colonies. However, the effect of unfavourable weather conditions on the results of the survey cannot be discounted; 10.5 mm of rain fell during the survey time. Other species of birds were not particularly active presumably because of these conditions too. Those who participated in the survey were rewarded with sightings of birds at the release area and the southern colony of Cockatoo Swamp. A big thank you to all who attended, including volunteers from Friends of the Helmeted Honeyeater and Birds Australia, students from Swinburne Tafe and La Trobe University; and Department of Sustainability and Environment staff. Your hard work was much appreciated.

Bunyip State Park/Tonimbuk

Final 2007/2008 Breeding Season Figures

At the release area in Bunyip State Park, nine breeding pairs/territories and 14 fledglings were confirmed for the 2007/2008 breeding season. The corresponding figures for the 2006/2007 breeding season were six breeding territories (though seven pairs bred in these six territories) and 15 fledglings. Breeding pair/territory gains during the 2007/2008 breeding season (cf. 2006/2007) occurred at the two established release sites within Bunyip State Park; no breeding was recorded at private property north-east of the release sites where one breeding territory existed during the 2006/2007 breeding season.

Predation has occurred at four nest sites that had been under video surveillance during the 2006/2007 and 2007/2008 breeding seasons; in three cases a Tiger Snake was the predator of one or two nestlings, while in the fourth instance a Kookaburra was the predator of three nestlings.

Releases of Captive-bred Helmeted Honeyeaters 2008

A new aviary was established by Parks Victoria between the two existing sites, Sites 1 and 2, for the 2008 release so that this year's group of birds were not being liberated into already established territories. The 2008 release group was placed in the new aviary (Site 3) on 12th April.

The release of nine captive-bred Helmeted Honeyeaters, seven from Healesville Sanctuary and two from Taronga Zoo, happened on 18th April at approximately 1115 hours. The birds took a wander from their release site (Site 3) for a couple of hours but started to return later in the afternoon and four were near the release aviary at about 1640 hours. A search at Site 1 on release day did not detect any of the 2008 release group but two were found at Site 2 between 1500-1530 hours and up to three continued to be seen at Site 2 in the next few days. Up to four of the 2008 releasees were at Site 3 up to 22nd April.

However, on 23rd April at Site 3 much activity by a big group of birds was seen. Seventeen birds were recorded; eight of the nine 2008 releasees; seven Site 2 birds, including a 2007/2008 wild-bred fledgling; two 2007/2008 wild-bred fledglings (nest siblings) from Site 1. They were at the feed stations; some were bathing; some were on the aviary; some were foraging in the canopy. There was much interacting by the birds; this did include corroborees and some aggression from the Site 2 birds but also some aggression amongst the 2008 releasees. Most if not all of the Site 2 birds quickly departed and the 2008 releasees and at least one of the Site 1 wild fledglings continued to forage in the canopy of Mountain Swamp Gums, Peppermints and Silver-leaved Stringybarks and use the supplementary food. Much later in the day, one of the 2008 releasees was found at the east end of Site 1 with one of the wild Site 1 fledglings that had been at Site 3 and the wild fledgling's mother who had

been seen earlier (late morning) at Site 2. Thus, at least some of the 2008 releasees had found Site 2 and at least one of them had found Site 1 and birds from Site 1 and Site 2 had found Site 3! Hopefully, the ninth 2008 releasee will be re-sighted; it has not been positively recorded since the release day.

On 7th May, seven of the nine releasees of 2008 were sighted, all at Site 3. Since then, they have been more difficult to find apparently because they are moving around more frequently. Four were seen on 21st May, but spread across the three sites; two at all three sites and three at Sites 1 and 2. The highest total number of Helmeted Honeyeaters recorded at Tonimbuk in May, 2008 releasees included, has been 34.

Fire

A fire that occurred in Bunyip State Park over the 25th -27th April 2008 is still being investigated. However, the fire got to within 4.5-5.0 kilometres of the release sites before a fortunate weather change brought 16 millimetres of rain and a gentler wind, reducing fire activity and allowing it to be contained and extinguished.

Nursery News by Michelle Faram

While some people may consider autumn/winter to be a quiet time for plants and nursery work, for everyone at the HeHo's nursery it is a very busy time. Many autumn plant orders are still being processed and new orders are now being placed for the spring planting season.

As the cooler weather has arrived plant growth may have slowed but production of plants is still taking place at a great rate to ensure we will have enough

stock for all upcoming projects and for future plant sales.

For some particular plant species this is the time of the year that seed

germination is at its peak. *Pomaderris aspera*, Hazel Pomaderris and *Bursaria spinosa* var. *spinosa*, Sweet Bursaria are two of the species that I have found can be sown at other times of the year with poor results, but sown in autumn they germinate profusely and within a matter of weeks.

While seed produces many of the plants we grow, there are a number of species, which are found to produce very little or no seed including *Acacia mucronata*, Narrow – leaf Wattle and *Banksia marginata*, Silver Banksia. Both very important plants in the vegetation communities of the Yellingbo Conservation Reserve propagation of these two species and many others are undertaken by vegetative means, (small cuttings).

Both of these propagation methods can be slow and it can be over 12 months before a plant is ready for planting out into the ground.



Cuttings of Bidgee Widgee ready for potting up after 4 weeks



Silver Banksia can be grown from seed or cuttings.



Sweet Bursaria, sown in late March.



Cuttings of Yellow Hakea may take months to form roots.

Richard's Reveg Rambles *by Richard Case*

In this issue, I'm happy to present you with the results of a glorious autumn of seed collecting.

On the 2nd of March we began with a walk across Cockatoo Swamp to visit several patches of low hanging Mountain Swamp Gum. We hadn't been here for a while so there was quite a bit of seed to collect. Crossing to the far side we found some Swamp Daisy-bush which we also collected.

Here, the calls of Noisy Miners greeted us from adjacent farmland. Common enough, the Noisy Miner is a bird which seems not to enter the Reserve often, where the habitat is more to the liking of its cousin, the Bell Miner.

Moving on past a pair of Jacky Winters on the fence line, we came to a group of birds calling in agitation at something on the ground over the fence. Willie Wagtails, Yellow Robins and Blue Wrens joined voices against a common enemy. Was it a snake? Try as we might we could not see it. Eventually the birds calmed.

Meanwhile, back in the Reserve, something swam and dived. Water Rat? Platypus? Once again our vigilance went unrewarded. No ripple. No glimpse. No sound.



Returning through the swamp, we moved on to Woori-Yallock Creek where we collected more Swamp Daisy-bush, Spiny-headed Mat-rush and Victorian Christmas Bush.

The day ended with a fine view of a flock of Martins flying high up, given away by their calls and lower down, a small number of Dusky Woodswallows.

The Reveg Day of the 13th of April was our day on the Hakeas. First we headed to a little road in Macclesfield which has been kind to us in the past. Here we collected Bushy Needlewood, Dagger Hakea, Furze Hakea, Silver Banksia and Small Grass

Tree.

We then drove over to the Macclesfield Creek Bushland arm of the Reserve where we sat in the car eating lunch. It was a cold day. A Grey Fantail whirled around energetically. Somewhere to our right there was a peevish, muted "DZZZRR!". Eventually we spotted the Scarlet Robin 30m away. It flew closer, then, forehead spot gleaming like a headlight, flew straight at us as though to fly through the car's open doors. It swooped, then settled on a branch above us. Distantly, we heard the full Robin song; our bird didn't respond.

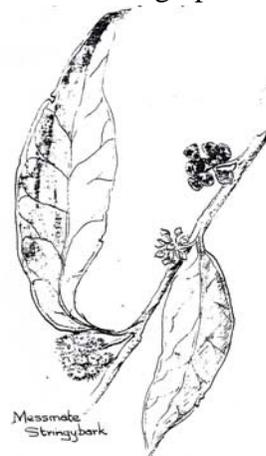
Back to work, we collected Yellow Hakea and Scented Paperbark from the wetter areas. Moving up the slopes we collected Bushy Needlewood and Small Grass Tree.

On the 4th of May we were at another Macclesfield roadside. Here we collected Broad-leafed Peppermint as a Goshawk soared over the flank of the hill, eyeing us suspiciously. Red Stringybark and Messmate were next in the bags. Reaching the top of the hill, we came across a small party of Yellow-rumped Thornbills. A bird of farm land, we don't often see them in the Reserve.

On the opposite slope, we came upon an absolute bonanza of Silver Banksia. These produce many flowers but often do not set seed. Not the case this time!

Down in the valley is a wet area, although Macclesfield Creek is still dry. Here we collected good amounts of Woolly Tea-tree and Scented Paperbark.

Returning to the house, we ended the day with a few maintenance tasks.



MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL 1st July 2008 - 30th June 2009

DUE NOW!!

(Your address label indicates when your subs are due).

Please note this is your ONLY reminder.

To receive the next newsletter please pay by August 20th 2008

Your **donations this year** will go towards a nest camera so activities in the nest can be monitored. One nest camera costs \$8000. We are nearly 1/2 way there. Let's go all the way.

Please indicate by a tick

<input type="checkbox"/>	\$20 Groups/Families/Individuals	Name... ..
<input type="checkbox"/>	\$10 Concession (Students/Pensioners/ Unemployed)	
<input type="checkbox"/>	\$..... Donation towards a nest camera.	need indicate only if details below have changed
	\$..... Total	Address
		Suburb.....
		Post code Phone

I would like to offer my help in the following activities indicated by a tick in the appropriate boxes, (A Committee member will contact you with the dates of the activities and details.)

Nursery days Tuesdays am Thursdays am 1st Sat of the month am (not summer J F M)

Works Team Seed collecting/planting/weeding, once a month on Sundays

Birds allocated one day a week to supplement the birds' feed in the reserve. Survey – bird counting once a year

Newsletter interesting nature topics articles

Community education assist at educational displays

Please e-mail my newsletter

E-mail address for notification of activities dates/newsletters
.....

If you would like the HeHo Herald emailed as a .pdf file, instead of posted, please send an e-mail to hehoherald@bigpond.com to be added to our e-mailing list.

If your preference is to pay your membership renewal by internet banking/ B-Pay please phone and leave a message ~ Treasurer ~ at 5964 8341 who will send you details.

Perhaps you would like your donation to be 1% of your shopping at Ritchies (IGA) stores. Just ask for a card at Ritchies and they will process the funds to us.

Complete and return whole to: (please do not separate the page as the small pieces get lost in the filing.) **Membership Secretary
Friends of the Helmeted Honeyeater
P O 131 Woori Yallock 3139 Vic**

Environment Minister visits Reserve

The Hon Gavin Jennings MLA comes face-to-face with the Helmeted Honeyeater, Leadbeater's Possum and the Friends!

On Wednesday 14 May Gavin Jennings, Minister for the Environment, Climate Change and Innovation, visited the Yellingbo Nature Conservation Reserve (YNCR) to see and hear first hand about this unique environment, the threats it is facing and the practical actions, planning and drive of those working toward good conservation outcomes for this area. He was shown Helmeted Honeyeaters in their natural environment by DSE Field Ornithologist, Bruce Quin, and a Leadbeater's Possum (LBP), by Dr. Dan Harley, who is at YNCR to complete a LBP survey.

After touring the reserve, the Minister was introduced to a number of key Friends' partner organisations and individuals, who spoke on current local issues such as access to funding opportunities and support for landholders undertaking conservation works on private properties and the linking of 'island' reserves and public land to establish conservation bio-links for our native species in this time of increasing pressure from climate change. We also took the opportunity to ask the Minister to help us connect with new audiences by assisting us promote two of our publications, "Yellingbo – a special place" and "Hilton finds a Home", copies of which were presented to him on the day. Profits from these books go directly into the Friends activities in the reserve so with stock still on hand, the Friends would be pleased to hear from any of our members who are able to offer assistance with marketing through their networks.

It was a great opportunity for the Minister to see and hear first hand some of the real conservation issues that we face. With preliminary plans made to follow up this visit with an 'update meeting' later in the year, we hope to see some positive results from the "takeaways" from this meeting.

Sue & Bruce Tardif



Steve Mitchell, Bruce Quin, Gavin Jennings and Brooke Colbert

Tammy Labato, Gavin Jennings, Andy Miller and Bruce Quin



Photos: Richard Connor

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

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Members' Day highlights



Chas with his grandson planting a memorial tree for Doris Bevan

Photos: Margot Craddock



Richard, Lindsay, Chas, Viv, Bob, Sue and Bruce



Gaye sharing her thoughts about Doris

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