



15 July 2021

## YOUR ART COULD HELP SAVE THE HELMETED HONEYEATER AND LEADBEATER'S POSSUM

Two environmental conservation groups are asking wildlife artists to donate works of art to an upcoming exhibition at Burrinja Gallery, celebrating our State Faunal Emblems.

The proceeds will be used for habitat restoration within the Yellingbo Nature Conservation Reserve, which is a known key habitat for both species, and is at the centre of sustained conservation efforts to improve the chances of survival of the Helmeted Honeyeater and Leadbeater's possum.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of our State Faunal emblems, the critically endangered Helmeted Honeyeater and Leadbeater's Possum.

"Saving the faunal emblems of our State from extinction is a powerful message of hope at a time of increasing despair about the plight of threatened species and the environment," said President of the Friends of the Helmeted Honeyeater, Professor Alan Clayton.

"The Arts have a vital role to play in communicating the message of hope. We are hoping that artists will join us by donating their work to an exhibition at Burrinja Gallery in Upwey, from 16 October 2021.

"There is already an impressive body of art centred around these two species as artists connect us with our natural environment. Works from private collections will be shown however we are keen to tap into further artworks and that is why we are calling on existing and emerging artists to contribute to the exhibition.

"Works can be any medium and size. Prints of originals, framed or unframed works are encouraged, along with sculptures. The aim is to showcase species from the habitat of the Helmeted Honeyeater and Leadbeater's Possum. This includes trees, flowers, insects, frogs, birds, and mammals. The Friends groups have a complete list of species available on their website.

"We are also planning for a multimedia room to showcase art from Schools in the local area that are participating in our School Art Program," added Professor Clayton.

"With the exception of pieces that have been loaned to us from private collections, the art will be available for sale. Artists already represented within the collection include John Gould, Janet Flinn, David Williams, Peter Voice, Lisa Kennedy, Joanne Percy and Elizabeth Cogley. We are thrilled to announce that Burrinja Gallery is pleased to significantly support this exhibition alongside Yarra Ranges Council. Funds raised will be used wholly for habitat restoration within the Yellingbo Nature Conservation Reserve," he added.

Further information on the Art Exhibition is below.

**Exhibition Dates:** 16 October to 14 November 2021  
**Gallery:** Burrinja Gallery, 351 Glenfern Road, Upwey, <https://www.burrinja.org.au/>  
**More info:** <https://www.helmetedhoneyeater.org.au/news/latest-news/>  
**Artist contact:** Marita Hanigan, Friends of the Helmeted Honeyeater, 0487 048 225

**Background Information on species:**

As recently as the 2010 it was estimated there were only 50 Helmeted Honeyeaters in the wild. While numbers can fluctuate, today there are around 250 birds in three separate colonies. Increasing the number of Honeyeaters involves ongoing partnerships with the State Government, Zoos Victoria and many philanthropic trusts, and the participation of hundreds of volunteers.

The Leadbeater's Possum is critically endangered and the small lowland colony at Yellingbo is under especially severe pressure. Unfortunately, efforts to breed the possum in captivity have been unsuccessful and a recent trial translocation has been abandoned due to cat predation.

A full species list is available at <https://www.helmetedhoneyeater.org.au/news/latest-news/>