



*yarra4life*

# 2019-20 SNAPSHOT

[www.yarra4life.com.au](http://www.yarra4life.com.au)



# Building connections for the environment and people through collaboration

Yarra4Life is a major environmental program in the Yarra Valley that improves, increases and protects habitat for native animals including the Helmeted Honeyeater and the Leadbeater's Possum.

Its long-term goal is to have habitat links from the Yellingbo Nature Conservation Reserve north to the Yarra Ranges National Park, south east to Kurth Kiln Regional Park, and west to the Dandenong Ranges National Park.

## 2019-20 progress

Yarra4Life focused its work in 2019-20 around achieving the goals of its strategic plan - connecting ecosystems in the Yarra4Life area, connecting people with the natural environment and connecting Yarra4Life coordination partners.

The Yarra4Life hosted two major stakeholder and community events in 2019-20. In September 2019, Yarra4Life partnered with DELWP, Melbourne Water and Parks Victoria to run an information event on the Yellingbo Conservation Area for environmental community groups.

In February 2020, Yarra4Life hosted the second Habitat Restoration Forum for Helmeted Honeyeater and lowland Leadbeater's Possum this event brought together the many organisations, agencies and community groups that are working towards restoring habitat for these two critically endangered species.



# The Great HeHo Escape

## Helping threatened Helmeted Honeyeater and Leadbeaters Possum populations expand their range and increase their resilience

In 2019-20, the final outputs for Yarra4Life's *The Great HeHo Escape* project were delivered. Funded through the Australian Government's Regional Land Partnerships Program this project sought to help two of Victoria's most critically endangered species the Helmeted Honeyeater and the lowland Leadbeater's Possum.

Over two years the project developed two detailed management plans for future release sites to establish new satellite populations, as well as undertaking on-ground works such as weed control, pest animal control and revegetation within and adjacent to both species current population within Yellingbo Nature Conservation Reserve.

In 2019-20, major achievements for this project included developing a hydrological restoration plan and revegetation of 0.47ha at Burrungma Biik in Yellingbo Nature Conservation Reserve. An information video was created to support landholders in undertaking habitat restoration works that will improve outcomes for both the Helmeted Honeyeater and lowland Leadbeater's Possum.

To further support the Coranderrk to Yarra Habitat Restoration Plan, developed in year one of the Great He Ho Escape project, an investigation of the digital elevation modelling for the broader Yarra corridor was funded by Zoos Victoria and completed this year. This study further refined priority locations for habitat restoration and identified some new priority locations.

This project has achieved great on-ground environmental outcomes through a collaborative multi-stakeholder approach. By working together, both private and public land managers have had a positive and lasting impact on the habitat for these species. This project was delivered in partnership with PPWCMA, Parks Victoria, Yarra Ranges Council, Zoos Victoria and Friends of the Helmeted Honeyeater.

## Project outputs

- ✓ **2 habitat restoration plans**
- ✓ **420ha pest animal control (deer)**
- ✓ **50ha weed control**
- ✓ **0.8ha revegetation**
- ✓ **20 landowners participated in habitat restoration**





# Looking forward

In 2020-21, the Yarra4Life Committee will focus on securing new funding to support the implementation of the Habitat Restoration Plans developed as part of the Great HeHo Escape project and other initiatives.



## For more information on Yarra4Life:

Kacie Melfi  
Yarra4Life Program Coordinator

Phone: 0439 566 108  
Email: [kacie.melfi@ppwcma.vic.gov.au](mailto:kacie.melfi@ppwcma.vic.gov.au)

[www.yarra4life.com.au](http://www.yarra4life.com.au)

# yarra4life

- Connecting ecosystems in the Yarra Ranges
- Connecting people with the natural environment
- Connecting organisations to work together

