

yarra4life

2018-19 SNAPSHOT



Building connections for the environment and people through collaboration

Yarra4Life is a major environmental program in the Yarra Valley that aims to protect, improve, increase and connect habitat for native animals including the Helmeted Honeyeater and the Leadbeater's Possum.



Photograph by: Kylie Fidler

Yarra4Life focused its work in 2018-19 on achieving its strategic goals - connecting ecosystems in the Yarra4Life area, connecting people with the natural environment and connecting Yarra4Life's partners. This work has largely been achieved through the delivery of The Great HeHo Escape Project.

In 2018-19 the Yarra4Life Coordination Committee entered into a partnership with DELWP to provide advice and opportunities for collaboration to support the implementation of the Yellingbo Conservation Area's Draft 10 Year Plan.

The Yarra4Life Environmental Working Group also partnered with Yarra Ranges Council on their Birds to Butterfields project, which seeks to improve the quality of habitat for Helmeted Honeyeater and lowland Leadbeater's Possum.



The Great HeHo Escape

This project aims to help move the critically endangered Helmeted Honeyeater and lowland Leadbeater's Possum from survival to expansion. In 2018-19 two habitat restoration plans were developed, which provide a detailed road map for the species' recovery.

New habitat has been created through continuing revegetation works at Burrungma Biik. A landholder incentives program supported habitat restoration works on adjacent private land.

Additional habitat within Yellingbo Nature Conservation Reserve has also been protected through a partnership with Parks Victoria to continue and expand their deer control and monitoring program.

A Helmeted Honeyeater schools education tool kit was developed in partnership with Birdlife Australia and Friends of the Helmeted Honeyeater. The kit supports teaching and learning within schools about Victoria's bird emblem and was launched at a teacher professional development event.



2018-19 Highlights



2 habitat restoration plans

developed to support the recovery of the Helmeted Honeyeater and lowland Leadbeater's Possum.

20 landholders

supported to improve habitat through The Great HeHo Escape incentives program.



535 hectares

of habitat improvement and protection undertaken, including pest animal and weed control.

1 education kit

developed to support teaching and learning about the Helmeted Honeyeater in schools.



\$331,000

invested in Yarra4Life projects in 2018-19.

Looking forward

Yarra4Life's long-term goal is to Establish habitat links from the Yellingbo Nature Conservation Reserve north to the Yarra Ranges National Park, southeast to Kurth Kiln Regional Park and west to the Dandenong Ranges National Park.

2019-20 will see the final elements of The Great HeHo Escape Project completed, including a hydrology restoration plan for Burrungma Biik, some revegetation works and a community engagement event. Yarra4Life will continue to drive the implementation of the habitat restoration plans and seek funding to deliver recommended works.

Yarra4Life will also focus on improving and developing new communications materials and seeking new funding opportunities and projects.

For more information on Yarra4Life:

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yarra4life

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

