

# JUNIOR RANGERS

BORN TO  
EXPLORE



## Helmeted Honeyeater

**These striking sweet seekers are our State bird emblem because they're only found in Victoria. They were made an emblem in 1971.**

Helmeted Honeyeaters have black cheeks, yellow ear tufts and a bright yellow helmet of feathers. These birds use their long tongue like a paintbrush to slurp up all sorts of sweet treats. They live in swampy forests near creeks and rivers just outside of Melbourne. It's important that we keep these places healthy because the birds are endangered due to habitat loss.

### Where are they found?

Helmeted Honeyeaters live in a tiny patch of Victoria, within Yellingbo Nature Conservation Reserve.



### Sweet treats

What kinds of sugar rich flowers and small insects do you think Helmeted Honeyeaters might snack on? **Draw these sweet treats around the bird.**



*Helmeted Honeyeaters (and ants!) love to slurp the lerp, a sweet liquid left behind by sap-sucking insects.*



Victoria's network of parks and reserves form the core of Aboriginal cultural landscapes. Parks Victoria respects the deep and continuing connection that Traditional Owners have to these landscapes and recognises their ongoing role in caring for Country.

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Birds like our Honeyeaters have specially adapted tongues to suck up all those sugary liquids. These brush-tipped tongues function in the same way as a paintbrush, soaking up fluids and moving it up through the bristles.

## Brush tipped painting

Let's make some art using this same idea.

### Equipment you need:

- 3 different leaves, petals or grasses you find on the ground
- 3 short twigs around 10 – 20cm long
- Some string for tying

### What to do:

- Get some paint, food colouring or squash a few summer berries in water and make some dye.
- Use your paint brushes to carefully colour in your picture of the honeyeater.
- Which plant was the best paint brush?
- Send in your painting and a photo of your paintbrushes to [juniorrangers@parks.vic.gov.au](mailto:juniorrangers@parks.vic.gov.au)

## Rewild your garden

If you have room at home why not rewild your garden and plant a range of natives to encourage more wildlife into your garden. Maybe you will get a visit from a honeyeater! Remember to include some water, logs and rocks to make sure all your backyard buddies have a cozy place to live.



If you don't have a garden maybe you could help to rewild your school instead. You could plant something for every season, to ensure that native wildlife have something to eat throughout the year.