



PRESS RELEASE

Bringing Back Red Hill's Birds

Red Hill is one of Australia's most important woodland remnants. It provides important habitat for 10 threatened and 20 regionally uncommon plant, bird, lizard and grasshopper species. Over the last two decades the rare and threatened plants have flourished, in most cases more than doubling their population.

Unfortunately woodland bird numbers and diversity have declined. This is a common story across south-east Australia. Dr Michael Mulvaney of the Red Hill Regenerators says that the good news is that elsewhere the decline has been reversed, through planting shelter and food plants utilised by small woodland birds.

The Red Hill Regenerators in conjunction with Greening Australia and Parks Conservation and Lands, are utilising a Commonwealth *Communities in Landscapes* grant to plant over 350 small tree and shrubs favoured by rare birds found on Red Hill. Greening Australia has selected desirable local plants and a planting design suited to small woodland birds. It is hoped that the plantings will increase the populations of birds like the Scarlet Robin, Southern Whiteface, Speckled Warbler and Double-barred Finch, which currently breed on Red Hill but in low numbers.

Dr Mulvaney said that the plantings also include a smorgasbord of weeping she-oaks, trying to tempt the Glossy Back Cockatoo, back to the Hill, where it was last observed in the early 1990s. This cockatoo is about the size of a Gang-Gang, with some yellow on its head and red on its wings. It is a fussy eater that only eats she-oak seeds and even then will reject the seed produced by most individual she-oak trees. In recent years the Glossy Black Cockatoo has bred on Mt Ainslie and it is hoped that the Red Hill plantings will aid its recovery.

More information on the activities of Red Hill Regenerators and how to join in is available at www.redhillregenerators.org.au.

President
Red hill Regenerators
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