

Haberfield Public School students go bush to save Regent Honeyeaters

By Fergus Year 4



Haberfield Public School student Amayah planting native trees and shrubs in the Capertee Valley.
Photograph: Priscilla Mussone

A group of eager Haberfield Public School students gave a helping hand with the annual tree planting in the Capertee Valley, north of Lithgow.

The students from years 2 to 6 gave up their cosy weekends in front of a computer screen to camp it out and plant trees in the name of animal conservation.

Undeterred by the rain, the H.P.S students alongside volunteers from BirdLife Australia and Taronga zoo's Youth at the Zoo program planted a whopping 1, 845 native saplings over 3.4 hectares.

"Although it was raining I couldn't give up because I was planting for a good cause," Sophia from Year 2 said.

The students travelled three hours to join the conservation program which has seen 123,658 trees planted over 206 hectares in the last 22 years.

The program is a crucial element in the long term survival of the Regent Honeyeater and other native fauna.

“There’s also a whole lot of other important woodland bird species that use these areas so we are pretty happy that this is a worthwhile thing to do,” Jen Schabel from the Capertee Tree Planting Committee said.

According to Dean Ingwersen, the National Regent Honeyeater Recovery Coordinator for BirdLife Australia Regent Honeyeaters can be found from Brisbane through to Melbourne.

“There’s lots of opportunities for people to stumble across them even though there’s not many of them left,” Dean Ingwersen said.

This was the students’ first venture into conservation volunteering and all are keen to participate again in 2017.

“I’d like to go back to the region so I can help the Regent Honeyeater and so I can have another exiting camping experience,” Sophia said.