



## Malleefowl and friends bite back

**MEDIA RELEASE 7 April 2011**

Recent fox, rabbit and feral cat culling in the Gnowangerup shire area has assisted conservation efforts for the endangered Malleefowl bird and other rare animal species.

The Annual Red Card for the Red Fox program shoot attracted 30 participants, who teamed up to shoot 40 foxes, 17 rabbits and five cats. A 1080 baiting program will continue over the next two weeks.

Yongergnow Australian Malleefowl Centre administrator and biologist, Vicky Bilney, said the centre had joined with the Ongerup Community Resource Centre (CRC) and North Stirlings Pallinup Natural Resources to ensure a blanket approach to controlling feral populations throughout the shire.

“The team approach to the shoot has really helped attract more farmers to the program this year and we hope this enthusiasm continues in the years to come,” Ms Bilney said.

“The Gnowangerup Shire is one of the world’s most biodiverse regions and home to several endangered species including Dibblers, Black-gloved Wallabies, Carnaby’s Cockatoos, Western Whipbirds and Malleefowl. Any help to get rid of predators will make a big difference to these small populations.”

Yongergnow chairman Ken Pech said that while the reduction of rabbits, cats and foxes had a positive effect on the native flora and fauna, it also assisted the farming community.

“Foxes cost farmers tens of thousands of dollars each year as lambs are the prime pick on a fox’s dinner menu. Rabbits compete for food and contribute to soil erosion so the reduction of feral animal numbers is a win-win situation for everyone,” he said.

Prizes for the shoot were sponsored by Ray’s Sportspower (Albany), Trailblazers (Albany), Sadlers Butcher’s (Gnowangerup), North Stirlings Pallinup Natural Resources (Borden) and the Ongerup CRC. Further sponsorship was provided by Stockbrands and the Royal Flying Doctor Service.

**ENDS**

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Photo captions:

- Cleaning up after the tally at Yongergnow - 40 foxes, 5 feral cats and 17 rabbits
- Feral animal control means a brighter future for our Malleefowl and other endangered species